

## **DARFUR—NEVER AGAIN WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

### *What can we do?*

**Will anything help?** When asked why the United States didn't step in to stop the massacre of Tutsis in Rwanda, Bill Clinton's National Security Advisor, Tony Lake, answered, "Because the phones didn't ring." Politicians respond to issues that their constituents bring to their attention. If you don't care, your MP won't, either. David Kilgour, a former Liberal MP who left the Martin caucus, and voted against the initial Martin budget as a protest against Canada's inaction on Darfur, told a conference at the University of Western Ontario that an MP will pay attention if (s)he receives 5 letters or gets a visit from 3 voters. And, he said, Ottawa could never ignore a rally of 10,000 people.

Think Canada can't do anything? True, we're not a superpower, but Canada's traditional international role has been one of moral leadership, peacekeeping and persuasion. If Canada doesn't speak out, who will? So, make your voice heard – it really does make a difference!

#### Take these actions:

- Write to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter MacKay, and your MP. Tell them you want Canada to use its international influence to SAVE DARFUR. A sample letter is included at the end of this supplement. You can reach all three at: House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. No stamp is required. To find your MP's name, go to: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/index.asp?Language=E> and scroll down to "Current Parliamentarians." Type in your postal code and click "find."
- While a paper letter carries more weight, e-mail can also be effective. To contact Members of Parliament, follow this pattern: ([surnameDOTfirstinitial@parl.gc.ca](mailto:surnameDOTfirstinitial@parl.gc.ca)). For example, Stephen Harper would be: [Harper.S@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Harper.S@parl.gc.ca)
- Write to the media. Encourage your local papers and TV and radio stations to give Darfur more coverage. Write letters to the editor or submit an opinion piece. Get your friends and family involved. Numbers are important – the more people write, the more the politicians will respond. Send an e-mail to your whole address book, with some background information and the sample letter. Invite some friends over for coffee, a discussion and a letter-writing session.
- Raise the issue of Darfur at your synagogue. Maybe your Social Action Committee will take it on, or you can start an Urgent Action Darfur Committee.
- Sign up for newsletters at the following web sites:  
CASTS (Canadians Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan), [www.geocities.com/castsudan](http://www.geocities.com/castsudan) 416-347-7652  
STAND (Students Taking Action Now – Darfur), [www.standcanada.org](http://www.standcanada.org)  
Save Darfur Coalition, [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org)
- Have a speaker come to your synagogue. Contact the above organizations for help and names of speakers.
- Make a donation to any of the above organizations.

## SAMPLE LETTER

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to urge the government of Canada to use its international influence to save the people of the Darfur region of Sudan, where genocide has been underway since 2003. It is currently estimated that 400,000 people have died, 6,000 more continue to die every month, and 2.5 million have been displaced. The Janjaweed militias burn and bomb villages, systematically rape women and young girls, abduct children and destroy food and water supplies. Since the Khartoum regime is complicit with the militias, it cannot be relied upon to protect the people of Darfur. The crisis is currently spilling over into Chad.

Therefore, Canada must use its international influence towards:

1. Urging the UN Security Council to authorize a transition of the African Union (AU) forces to a UN mission with a clear mandate to protect itself and civilians by force and to disband and disarm Janjaweed forces.
2. Putting sufficient strength into such a mission: at least 20,000 troops, with capabilities that only nations with significant military assets and mobility possess.
3. Empowering this mission to assist the International Criminal Court's investigations and arrest of individuals indicted for crimes against humanity and war crimes.
4. **Canada must act now by Pressuring China and Russia on the UN Security Council to Allow Meaningful International Action Against the Government of Sudan."**
5. Enforcing the Security Council ban on offensive military flights (which Khartoum has employed against civilian targets in Darfur).

These actions are consistent with the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, a Canadian initiative for the UN that mandates the international community to protect innocent civilians from extreme harm when a sovereign nation is unable or unwilling to do so. They are also consistent with Senator Roméo Dallaire's imperative to prevent a repeat of the Rwandan genocide. Most importantly, please ensure that Canada takes leadership to persuade the international community to act without any further delay.

Sincerely,