

# **“Do not stand idly by while your neighbor bleeds.” [Lev.19:16].**

## **An Important Message from the Baltimore Board of Rabbis**

Six decades ago, the world stood idly by and we bled rivers of blood. Since that time, the world has failed to prevent additional genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia. Today, yet another genocide is taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan, and we are failing to stop the rampage.

More than three years into the crisis, world leaders, relief organizations, human rights activists, and people of conscience throughout the world agree that the situation in Darfur is a humanitarian crisis and human rights tragedy of the first order. According to reports by the World Food Program, the United Nations, and the Coalition for International Justice, 450,000 people have died, 2.5 million have been displaced due to violence, and 3.5 million people are suffering privation and malnutrition. Yet, the international community is still failing to protect civilians or to compel the Sudanese government to do so. Not since the Rwanda genocide of 1994 has the world seen such a calculated campaign of slaughter, rape, starvation and displacement. The Sudanese government continues to flout international law with impunity.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once said: "In a free society where terrible wrongs exist, some are guilty, all are responsible."

We, members of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis, express our horror at the events in the Darfur region and the world's failure to respond to the needs of those targeted by the janjaweed Arab militia for extinction. The blood-soaked land of Sudan cries out to us. We call upon the Jews of our communities to:

- 1. Contact President Bush and urge him to use all diplomatic channels and means available to pressure Sudan to consent to the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces per U.N. Security Council resolution 1706. The White House address and phone number are:**

President George W. Bush  
The White House • 16 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20500.  
202.456.1111

- 2. Contact United Nations General-Secretary-designate Ban Ki-moon and urge him to use his good office to work out a plan for the deployment of peacekeepers in Sudan (U.N. Security Council Resolution 1706). The address is:**

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General  
The United Nations  
1 United Nations Plaza • New York, NY 10017-3515.

- 3. Contact your senators and representative in Congress by letter or phone and ask them to keep Darfur high on the congressional agenda. Want to know how they're voting? Check out [www.darfurscores.org/](http://www.darfurscores.org/).**

- 4. Learn more about the situation at [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org) and [www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org). Keep Darfur in the news by writing letters to the editors of the newspapers you read and circulating news articles about the situation in Darfur to family and friends.**

- 5. Pray for the people of Darfur.**

- 6. Hang this page on your refrigerator as a reminder of the importance of becoming involved in ameliorating the situation in Darfur.**

George Orwell said, "On the whole human beings want to be good, but not too good, and not quite all the time." We pray he is wrong. If we are silent now and do not speak up for the people in Darfur, who will speak up for them? If not now, when? If we stand idly by, what right have we to say, "Never again?"

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