



September 24, 2004



INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Your Excellency,

As representatives of a number of major human rights organizations, we urge you to take further immediate steps to address the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan. Resolution 1564, adopted on September 18, 2004, does not contain adequate measures to bring security to civilian populations in Darfur and to end the ongoing violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. It is essential that the Security Council quickly establish an effective force to protect civilian populations by passing a resolution extending and strengthening the mandate of the existing African Union monitoring force. Without such a protective force, civilians in Darfur will continue to be subject to violent attacks and atrocities at the hands of the Janjaweed militias who have continued to brazenly disregard the existing ceasefire. The Sudanese government cannot be relied on to protect civilians as it has failed to live up to its commitment to rein in the Janjaweed militias and has in fact continued to direct and support their activities, according to reports from officers participating in the AU monitoring mission. Also, unless an effective protective force is created the 1.2 million internally displaced persons and refugees currently in Sudan and Chad will not have the necessary confidence in their security to begin to return to their homes.



Jacob Blaustein Institute
for the Advancement of Human Rights



While Resolution 1564 supports an augmented and proactive AU monitoring mission it leaves AU forces powerless to protect civilians. The Security Council should act immediately under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to pass a resolution endorsing a significantly increased presence of AU personnel on the ground and providing them with a mandate to protect civilians. If Sudanese government leaders refuse to allow a protective force, even as they remain unable to control the situation, they can and should be held criminally accountable for the violence that results. The Security Council should make clear to the Sudanese government that individual members of the government may be charged with criminal responsibility for the atrocities committed. The call in Resolution 1564 for an international commission of inquiry to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in Darfur to ensure that those responsible are held accountable is an important step in conveying this message to the Government of Sudan.



RFK Memorial
Center for
Human Rights

According to the World Health Organization, a humanitarian emergency continues to exist in Darfur, with extraordinarily high death rates from

disease and violence resulting from the continued impact of the Janjaweed militias. As we mark the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, we urge you to act without further delay to prevent the crisis in Darfur from resulting in a loss of life on that tragic scale. If the Government of Sudan continues to refuse to accept a protective force the Security Council should take all necessary actions to compel compliance. We look forward to your swift action to address this crisis.

Sincerely,



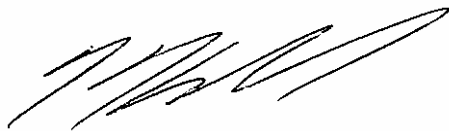
William Schulz
Amnesty International USA



Louise Kantrow
International League for Human Rights



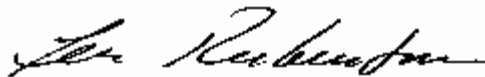
Michael Posner
Human Rights First



Todd Howland
RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights



Ken Roth
Human Rights Watch

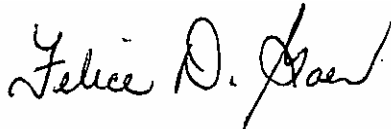


Len Rubenstein

Physicians for Human Rights USA



Gay McDougall
Global Rights



Felice D. Gaer
Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights



Robin Phillips
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights



Jennifer Windsor
Freedom House