

## BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR PEACE IN SUDAN

*Write letters to your US senators urging co-sponsorship of S. Res. 404*

*Charlie Simokaitis, Kevin Goodman and I now know many people in Southern Sudan, people who have become our friends. It is very clear after our visit this January that civil war will resume if the South votes to become it's own democracy with the referendum vote in 2011. We invite you to read the following about how you can support Southern Sudan by writing to our senators to underscore the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We cannot stress enough the importance of raising your voice in helping prevent this potential catastrophe in the making. ~ Constance Wilson*

Sen. Russ Feingold is the sponsor of a pending Senate resolution, S. Res. 404 "Supporting full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and other efforts to promote peace and stability in Sudan." Following is a synopsis of the conflicts surrounding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan and Feingold's proposed resolution.

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, is a time-bomb set to go off next year.

2011 was the date specified under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed five years ago by the warring North and South. On that date, the South can vote to secede from a confederation.

Sudan in its present form goes back only to 1956, when the departing British hurriedly glommed the South onto the North and left the local Arabs in charge. It remains a deeply divided state, in which an Arab Islamist elite holds power over a more pluralistic black African majority.

This "marriage of convenience" between the North and South is being doomed by racist policies of the North's totalitarian government in Khartoum - the capital of Sudan - as well as disputes over the nation's oil.

After five years, the present trajectory is clear: Southerners have received little benefit from the peace, and in all likelihood will vote to secede. And because the bulk of the oil lies in the South, and the North has the pipelines and refineries, the move will almost certainly trigger a return to war.

Feingold's resolution notes the "violent civil conflict between North and South in Sudan (that) raged for 21 years, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 2,000,000 people and displacement of another 4,000,000 people."

The resolution calls on the Senate to acknowledge "the critical importance of preventing a renewed North-South civil war in Sudan, which would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences for all of Sudan," and support "the efforts of President Barack Obama to reinvigorate and strengthen international engagement on implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement."

In referring to the collapsing CPA, some fault surely lies with those nations - the U.S., U.K., and Norway most prominently - who helped shepherd the CPA through three years of extremely challenging negotiations, and who agreed to serve as guarantors, but who afterward turned their backs on it.

Feingold's resolution could be a key component in having the U.S. engage in a region that is surely one of the most afflicted in the world before it experiences another large-scale humanitarian crisis in 2011.

As of Feb. 1, this resolution has been assigned to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Text of S. Res. 404 can be found at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=sr111-404>

TAKE ACTION!! Send letters to Senator Richard Durbin, 309 Hart Senate Bldg., Washington, DC 20510 and Senator Roland Burris, 387 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 urging them to co - sponsor this bill. Emails of your letter can also be sent to:

<http://durbin.senate.gov/contact.cfm> and <http://burris.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Date

Senator Richard Durbin  
309 Hart Senate Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin,

I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor a “Senate Resolution supporting full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and other efforts to promote peace and stability in Sudan, and for other purposes,” S.Res. 404. This resolution, introduced by Senators Feingold, Brownback and Wicker, addresses the failure to date to implement key elements of the CPA and grave threat of renewed war in Sudan because of that failure.

I am a member of All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Chicago, IL. Our church is linked in a companion relationship with St. Peter Parish in N. Geiger, Upper Nile State in Southern Sudan. The Diocese of Chicago in relationship with Renk Diocese in the south, has partnered with friends in the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) in advocating for the full implementation of the CPA. There are four million Episcopalians in Sudan, most of them at risk if war is renewed. I am pressing for vigorous U.S. leadership to implement the CPA as the best means to prevent renewed genocidal war in Sudan. The risks of renewed warfare grow as the secession referendum scheduled for early 2011 approaches. Approximately two million people already perished in north south fighting from 1983 to 2005.

The proposed Senate resolution charts a principled and well-founded approach to preventing resumed warfare. Please co-sponsor this resolution as a way to move our nation and international partners to salvage the CPA and help prevent renewed warfare, war which would be a humanitarian disaster quickly exceeding the Haitian earthquake.

Your co-sponsoring this resolution would tangibly support peace-making in Sudan. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Your name

cc: The Rev. Bonnie Perry, All Saints’ Episcopal Church  
Bishop Jeffrey Lee, Episcopal Bishop of Chicago