

DARFUR A ENOCIDE BY ATTRITION, COTLER SAYS

By Paul Lungen
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TORONTO - There wasnt a lot of good news at a recent event to mobilize a public campaign to support an end to the violence in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Some important steps were noted the agreement by the government of Sudan to allow for an expanded African Union/United Nations protection force; a Sudanese official and janjaweed militiaman have been charged in connection with atrocities but Darfuris continue to be murdered, raped and dispossessed.

() Cotler, who acknowledged that the Liberal government in which he served should have done more for Darfur, said events in the western region of Sudan are repudiation of the **responsibility to protect** doctrine which allows outside states the right to intervene in the internal affairs of countries that are not protecting their own people as well as a betrayal of the people of Darfur.

() Among his points:

put a hybrid AU/UN protection force on the ground to stop the killing. Dont allow the genocidaires in Khartoum to determine how and when that force is deployed.

Enhance the existing AU force with more troops and support until the new force can be put in place. Canada should take the lead in that effort.

Urge the UN Security Council to impose tough sanctions on Sudan as well as impose a no-fly zone to end the indiscriminate bombing of Darfur refugees by government forces.

Bring senior Sudanese officials before the ICC.

Pressure China, a UN Security Council member. China is Sudans aymaster thanks to its interests in Sudanese oil fields. Shame the Chinese by referring to the upcoming Olympics as the enocide Olympics.

Press the International Monetary Fund make debt relief conditional on action to stop the genocide in Darfur.

Begin a divestment campaign from companies that do business in Sudan. Canada should use its influence in international forums to take action against Sudan, Cotler stated. If we dont, by our inaction we are being complicit.

Full text available at:

<http://www.cjnews.com/viewarticle.asp?id=11734>