

**Assembly Joint Resolution No. 38**

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Adopted in Assembly    January 24, 2000

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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Adopted in Senate    January 20, 2000

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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This resolution was received by the Secretary of  
State this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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*Deputy Secretary of State*

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## RESOLUTION CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 38—Relative to Sudan.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 38, Kaloogian. Human rights: Sudan.

This measure would condemn the National Islamic Front government for its genocidal war in southern Sudan, call for the end of the practice of slavery, urge Congress to adopt the Sudan Peace Act, and commend the Sudanese people who continue to resist that persecution.

WHEREAS, According to the United States Committee for Refugees an estimated 2,000,000 people have died over the past decade due to war and war-related causes and famine, while millions have been displaced from their homes and separated from their families; and

WHEREAS, The National Islamic Front government's war policy in southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and the Ingessena Hills has brought untold suffering to innocent civilians and is threatening the very survival of a whole generation of southern Sudanese; and

WHEREAS, The people of the Nuba Mountains and the Ingessena Hills are at particular risk, because they have been specifically targeted and, as a consequence, they are deliberately prevented from receiving international food aid, resulting in manmade famine, and are the targets of routine bombing of their civilian centers, including schools, hospitals, and areas where religious services are being held; and

WHEREAS, The Convention for the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, defines "genocide" as official acts committed by a government with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, or religious group, and this definition also includes "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to



bring about its physical destruction, in whole or in part”; and

WHEREAS, By that definition, the National Islamic Front government is deliberately and systematically committing genocide in southern Sudan, the Nuba Mountains, and the Ingessena Hills; and

WHEREAS, The National Islamic Front government has systematically and repeatedly obstructed peace efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Principles put forth by the Intergovernmental Authority for Development mediators is the most viable negotiating framework to resolve the problems in Sudan and to bring lasting peace; and

WHEREAS, Humanitarian conditions in southern Sudan, especially in Bahr al-Ghazal and the Nuba Mountains, deteriorated in 1998, largely due to the National Islamic Front government’s decision to ban United Nations’ relief flights from February through the end of April in that year and the government continues to deny access to certain locations; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 2,600,000 southern Sudanese have been at risk of starvation in southern Sudan and the World Food Program currently estimates that 4,000,000 people are in need of emergency assistance; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations-coordinated relief effort, Operation Lifeline Sudan, failed to respond in a timely manner at the height of the humanitarian crisis and has allowed the National Islamic Front government to manipulate and obstruct the relief efforts; and

WHEREAS, The relief work in the affected areas is further complicated by the National Islamic Front’s repeated aerial attacks on feeding centers, clinics, and other civilian targets; and

WHEREAS, Relief efforts are further exacerbated by looting, bombing, and killing of innocent civilians and relief workers by government-sponsored militias in the affected areas; and



WHEREAS, These government-sponsored militias have carried out violent raids in Aweil West, Twic, and Gogrial counties in Bahr el Ghazal/Lakes Region, among others, killing hundreds of civilians and displacing thousands; and

WHEREAS, The National Islamic Front government has perpetrated a prolonged campaign of human rights abuses and discrimination throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, The National Islamic Front government-sponsored militias have been engaged in the enslavement of innocent civilians, including children, women, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, The now common slave raids being carried out by the government's Popular Defense Force militias are undertaken as part of the government's self-declared jihad (holy war) against the predominantly traditional and Christian south; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Anti-Slavery Group of Boston, there are tens of thousands of women and children now living as chattel slaves in Sudan; and

WHEREAS, These women and children were captured in slave raids taking place over a decade by militia armed and controlled by the National Islamic Front regime in Khartoum—they are bought, sold, branded, and bred; and

WHEREAS, The Department of State, in its report on Human Rights Practices for 1997, affirmed that “reports and information from a variety of sources after February 1994 indicate that the number of cases of slavery, servitude, slave trade, and forced labor have increased alarmingly”; and

WHEREAS, The enslavement of people is considered in international law to be a “crime against humanity”; and

WHEREAS, Observers estimate the number of people enslaved by government-sponsored militias to be in the tens of thousands; and

WHEREAS, Former United Nations Special Rapporteur for Sudan, Gaspar Biro, and his successor, Leonardo Franco, reported on a number of occasions the



routine practice of slavery and the complicity of the Government of Sudan; and

WHEREAS, The National Islamic Front government abuses and tortures political opponents and innocent civilians in the north and many northerners have been killed by this regime over the years; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of Muslims in Sudan do not subscribe to the National Islamic Front's extremist and politicized practice of Islam and moderate Muslims have been specifically targeted by the regime; and

WHEREAS, The National Islamic Front government is considered by much of the world community to be a rogue state because of its support for international terrorism and its campaign of terrorism against its own people; and

WHEREAS, According to the Department of State's Patterns of Global Terrorism Report, "Sudan's support to terrorist organizations has included paramilitary training, indoctrination, money, travel documentation, safe passage, and refuge in Sudan"; and

WHEREAS, The National Islamic Front government has been implicated in the assassination attempt of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia in 1995 and the World Trade Center bombing in 1993; and

WHEREAS, The National Islamic Front government has permitted Sudan to be used by well-known terrorist organizations as a refuge and training hub over the years; and

WHEREAS, The Saudi-born financier of extremist groups and the mastermind of the United States embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, Osama bin-Laden, used Sudan as a base of operations for several years and continues to maintain economic interests there; and

WHEREAS, On August 20, 1998, United States Naval forces struck a suspected chemical weapons facility in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, in retaliation for the United States embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam; and

WHEREAS, Relations between the United States and Sudan continue to deteriorate because of human rights



violations, the government's war policy in southern Sudan, and the National Islamic Front's support for international terrorism; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, The United States government placed Sudan on the list of seven states in the world that sponsor terrorism and imposed comprehensive sanctions on the National Islamic Front government in November 1997; and

WHEREAS, The struggle by the people of Sudan and opposition forces is a just struggle for freedom and democracy against the extremist regime in Khartoum; and

WHEREAS, On June 16, 1999, the United States House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 75, introduced by Representative Don Payne (D-NJ), with only one dissenting vote, condemning the Government of Sudan for "deliberately and systematically committing genocide"; and

WHEREAS, In Congress, both the Senate and the House of Representatives have introduced the Sudan Peace Act, a bill to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan that would, among other specific measures, condemn slavery and other human rights abuses by the Government of Sudan; support the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development sponsored peace process; increase pressure on combatants to end slavery and human rights abuses; and protect humanitarian operations, separating civilians from combatants, and reducing food diversion; and

WHEREAS, This act passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on November 19, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Representative Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights has written that, in addition to sponsoring terrorism, mass murder, enslavement, and other grave crimes against its own people, "the regime has also been identified as among the world's most egregious violators of the fundamental right to freedom of religion"; and



WHEREAS, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has stated that the Sudanese regime has an “... appalling human rights record, including torture, religious persecution, and forced imposition of *sharia* (Islamic) law. And it has prolonged a vicious and inhumane war, not hesitating to enslave, starve and bomb civilians in violation of international humanitarian law”; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Times stated on October 23, 1999 that “The Clinton Administration considers the Sudanese government to be a brutal dictator and by far the worst offender in an atrocity-filled regional, religious and ethnic war that has claimed as many as two million lives”; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Religious Freedom of Freedom House, a vigorous proponent of democratic values and a steadfast opponent of dictatorships of the far left and far right founded in 1941 by Eleanor Roosevelt, Wendell Willkie, and others, declares that “the religious and ethnic genocide now occurring in Sudan has destroyed many more lives than Chechnya, Bosnia, Kosovo and Rwanda combined”; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature (1) strongly condemns the National Islamic Front government for its genocidal war in southern Sudan, support for terrorism, and continued human rights violations; (2) strongly deplors the government-sponsored and tolerated slave raids in southern Sudan and calls on the government to immediately end the practice of slavery; (3) urges Congress to support and adopt the Sudan Peace Act; and (4) commends the persecuted Sudanese people for their strength and endurance in continuing resistance to the current regime ruling Sudan, and for risking their lives for their faith; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Majority Leader, the Senate Minority Leader, the House Majority Leader, the House Minority Leader, each Senator and



Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.



Attest:

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*Secretary of State*

