

**THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR
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June 30, 2004

Ambassador Mihnea Ioan Motec
Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations
573-577 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Re: Darfur Crisis

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, I write concerning the grave situation in the Darfur region in the Sudan. The Darfur crisis not only involves immediate threat of horrific humanitarian catastrophe, but also poses an actual threat to international peace and security in the region because of the involvement of, or impact on, Sudan's neighbors.

We respectfully urge the Security Council to place this situation at the top of its agenda immediately and consider dispatching a peacekeeping force with adequate resources and a mandate to protect civilians. The Council has a legal and moral responsibility to protect the residents of Darfur and to deal with this threat to international peace and security in the region. We therefore urge you to use your role as a member of the Council to ensure swift and appropriate action to stop what Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned was a "risk of genocide" in the Darfur region and the wider international conflict.

On the humanitarian side, the ongoing conflict in Darfur has increasingly taken the form of ethnic cleansing with numerous credible reports of the direct targeting of civilian populations. The Acting United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR), Bertrand Ramcharan, reported to the Security Council this month that there were "repeated crimes against humanity" occurring in the region and that the Sudanese government was conducting a "reign of terror" against the black African communities of Darfur. Human Rights Watch has released reports revealing the extent of these atrocities and concluded there is "no doubt about the Sudanese government's culpability in crimes against humanity."

The Council should use its power under Chapter VII if necessary to take action to protect the people of Darfur and thus to maintain international peace and security in the region, rather than

relying on vague assurances by the Sudanese government. Although the Sudanese government has recently facilitated humanitarian access to the region, widespread abuses against civilians continue. The cease fire that was to go into effect on April 11 was broken and failed to alleviate the suffering of Darfur residents. The Council should send a peacekeeping force to Darfur, and authorize the use of force necessary to protect civilians and to prevent further killing and displacement of the population.

Throughout the commemoration of the Rwandan genocide, which occurred ten years ago, the United Nations and the world pledged to never again permit another genocide in Africa. However, ethnic cleansing continues and the refugees and displaced persons of Darfur remain in extremely precarious conditions. The Security Council must act. Your government should use its leadership to ensure that the Council fulfils this crucial responsibility.

We respectfully request that you support sending UN peacekeepers to the region that are empowered to stop the ongoing disaster and crimes against humanity, as well as maintain international peace and security.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Stoelting". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent and the last name "Stoelting" written in a more connected, flowing style.

David Stoelting
Chair, Committee on African Affairs
Association of the Bar of the City of New York