



**Members of
the Commission:**

Jean Pierre Biagui
Milwaukee

Dr. Carol Edler Baumann
Cascade

Robert Chase
Madison

Samuel E.C. Dunlop
De Pere

Dr. Joseph Elder
Madison

Tamerin Hayward
Racine

Jennifer K. Laborde
Fond du Lac

Kate Marrs
Milwaukee

Susan McGovern
Milwaukee

Thao Nuon
Stoughton

Jason R. Rae
Rice Lake

Dr. W.A. Schmidt, Chair
Whitefish Bay

Dr. Gary Shellman
Glendale

John Smart
Park Falls

Dr. Joseph Tullbane
Green Bay

Secretariat c/o
Institute of World Affairs
University of Wisconsin—
Milwaukee
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201
414 229 3220



Disc. Org "C"

RO (w/ach.)

July 16, 2008

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
United Nations, NY 10017



Dear Secretary-General Ban:

*Same letter as 27-14918
but different attachments*

Attached please find a synopsis of the latest series of letters we wrote to the members of the Security Council about Darfur. As you can tell we are very concerned by the lack of action - a fact that you, couched in more diplomatic language, have expressed as well.

Our group, the Governor's Commission on the United Nations of the State of Wisconsin, is dedicated to the idea for which the United Nations stands. One way of showing our dedication is the official celebration of the founding of the United Nations that we organize each year to commemorate this seminal event of human history.

We are chagrined whenever the UN falls short in living up to its grand promises, particularly when it is unwilling to provide even a modicum of protection during violations of the most basic of human rights.

We go to great lengths to explain the challenges and workings of the United Nations to an often skeptical public but are hard pressed when trying to answer with any sense of logic or decency why the UN Security Council is so ineffective at times.

We know, of course, that depending on the question at hand one or the other of the Permanent Five is usually on the obstructing side. What is frequently harder to explain is why others do not speak out against this abusive instrumentalization of the Security Council that runs counter to the intentions of the founders of the UN and the needs of humankind at large.

We thank you for your relentless efforts, and your commitment to human rights. We encourage you strongly to continue to make the case for those who cannot, and to use the moral power of your pulpit to bring about the long overdue solution to the tragedy in Darfur. Nothing will impact your legacy more than the United Nation's track record of protecting human rights during your tenure.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang A. Schmidt, Chair
Governor's Commission on the United Nations, State of Wisconsin

SEP 12 2008



Synopsis
Darfur Mailing
to the members of the UN Security Council
July 16, 2008

**Members of
the Commission:**

Jean Pierre Biagui
Milwaukee

Dr. Carol Edler Baumann
Cascade

Robert Chase
Madison

Samuel E.C. Dunlop
De Pere

Dr. Joseph Elder
Madison

Tamerin Hayward
Racine

Jennifer K. Laborde
Fond du Lac

Kate Marrs
Milwaukee

Susan McGovern
Milwaukee

Thao Nuon
Stoughton

Jason R. Rae
Rice Lake

Dr. W.A. Schmidt, Chair
Whitefish Bay

Dr. Gary Shellman
Glendale

John Smart
Park Falls

Dr. Joseph Tullbane
Green Bay

Secretariat c/o
Institute of World Affairs
University of Wisconsin—
Milwaukee
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201
414 229 3220

Dear Ambassador...

Looking at the continuing tragedy that is being allowed to unfold virtually unabated in Darfur, we find it mind-boggling and distressing to observe the continuing impotence of the supposed guardian of international peace and security, the United Nations Security Council.

If your government could possibly have had any doubts that the world here is facing a ruthless regime that is bent on implementing genocidal policies, the latest indictment by the International Criminal Court, and Sudan's subsequent belligerent and threatening reaction - which is telling in itself - should remove them.

Permitting the Sudanese regime to pursue these policies with impunity for years tarnishes the reputation of the UN Security Council, and [country] as a [present member/one of the five permanent and most influential members].

That the government of Sudan has failed in its *Responsibility to Protect* since it unleashed its policy of destruction on the people of Darfur has been as evident as the abysmal failure of the international community, [country] included, to speak out and live up to its inherent obligation to respond.

We have written to the members of the UN Security Council on previous occasions, to express our moral indignation at its indifference and apathy in the face of such profound human suffering. We are dismayed that none of our previous letters making the case for Darfur in the last few years has lost any of its relevance, thanks to the enduring ineffectiveness of the UN Security Council.

The same holds true for the attached article, which was published in our state's leading newspaper in May of last year. Thanks to the lack of progress, it could as well have been written now, rather than over a year ago.





MEMBERS OF THE ICC:

Belgium, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Italy, Panama, South Africa, United Kingdom:

[France: We appreciate France's recent leadership in trying to stabilize the region and alleviate the suffering.] We [France: also] welcome the fact that the UN Security Council asked the International Criminal Court to investigate the case of Darfur and that [country] is a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Court, and commend you for your support of the ICC.

Ambassador [name], we appeal to your government to seize the opportunity created by the ICC's indictment, by drastically increasing the pressure on the Sudanese regime to finally end the suffering that has already, by the United Nations' own account, cost over 300,000 lives.

NON-MEMBERS OF THE ICC:

China, Indonesia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Russian Federation, United States, Viet Nam:

We welcome the fact that the UN Security Council asked the International Criminal Court to investigate the case of Darfur but regret the fact that [country] is still not a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, one of the most promising instruments the international community has ever devised to end the culture of impunity for the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Ambassador [name], notwithstanding your country's reservations about joining the ICC - which we hope [country] will reconsider in due course - we strongly appeal to your government to seize the opportunity created by the ICC's indictment, by drastically increasing the pressure on the Sudanese regime to finally end the suffering that has already, by the United Nations' own account, cost over 300,000 lives.

[China/Russia: We also urge your government once more to stop its ongoing support of Sudan's genocidal policies].

Sincerely,

Wolfgang A. Schmidt, Chair
Governor's Commission on the United Nations, State of Wisconsin



US version:

Dear President Bush:

Looking at the continuing tragedy that is being allowed to unfold virtually unabated in Darfur, we find it mind-boggling and distressing to observe the continuing impotence of the supposed guardian of international peace and security, the United Nations Security Council.

If anybody could possibly have had any doubts that the world here is facing a ruthless regime that is bent on implementing genocidal policies, the latest indictment by the International Criminal Court, and Sudan's subsequent belligerent and threatening reaction - which is telling in itself - should remove them.

Permitting the Sudanese regime to pursue these policies with impunity for years tarnishes the reputation of the UN Security Council, and our country as one of the five permanent and most influential members.

That the government of Sudan has failed in its *Responsibility to Protect* since it unleashed its policy of destruction on the people of Darfur has been as evident as the abysmal failure of the international community, our country included, to speak out and live up to its inherent obligation to respond.

We have written to the members of the UN Security Council on previous occasions, to express our moral indignation at its indifference and apathy in the face of such profound human suffering. We are dismayed that none of our previous letters making the case for Darfur in the last few years has lost any of its relevance, thanks to the enduring ineffectiveness of the UN Security Council.

The same holds true for the attached article, which was published in our state's leading newspaper in May of last year. Thanks to the lack of progress, it could as well have been written now, rather than over a year ago.

We deeply regret the fact that our country is still not a State Party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, one of the most promising instruments the international community has ever devised to end the culture of impunity for the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.



We deplore the fact that your Administration, in rejecting the ICC, is siding with the world's worst offenders against human rights, including Sudan.

However, regardless of your decision not to join the ICC, we strongly appeal to you, Mr. President, to seize the opportunity created by the ICC's indictment, by drastically increasing the pressure on the Sudanese regime to finally end the suffering that has already, by the United Nations' own account, cost over 300,000 lives, and was rightly labeled a genocide by your Administration four long years ago.

We also urge you to continue your Administration's commendable humanitarian efforts.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang A. Schmidt, Chair
Governor's Commission on the United Nations, State of Wisconsin



Attachment:

Conscience requires action on Darfur

By W.A. SCHMIDT

Posted: May 12, 2007

Last month, I had the rare opportunity to get a briefing at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in the city of Arusha, Tanzania.

This institution was created by the international community through a U.N. Security Council resolution in response to the genocide that took place in Rwanda in 1994. Its purpose is the prosecution of those most responsible for the atrocities committed.

Its twin ad hoc institution, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, is situated in The Hague, Netherlands, and is charged with dealing with similar crimes committed during the bloody breakup of Yugoslavia.

Both institutions also have in common that their creation was, in a way, an expression of collective shame.

The international community, by sitting on the sidelines rather than preventing the killings or at least intervening in time to bring them to a halt, had let the mass murders unfold unencumbered.

Only after the butchery had run its course was some reckoning finally deemed necessary. That the institutions came into being at all points to a certain degree of belatedly shared humanity.

(And is historically significant since the last time war criminals were held accountable was at the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials in the aftermath of World War II).

However, it would have been much more appropriate and humane if this compassion had been applied from the onset, not over a million deaths later.

While in Tanzania, my path crossed with an adventurous Dutch student who had toured a museum created commemorate the Rwandan genocide. He was still visibly shaken by the exhibits, particularly the ones depicting the unspeakable brutality visited upon infants and other young children.

Whoever has visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington understands the depth of emotions such an experience can trigger even though the true horror remains unfathomable.



Humankind excels in showing empathy, if that is what it is, once the cruelty has been documented and safely confined to the antiseptic realm of public museums.

My visit to the International Criminal Tribunal almost coincided with April 7, the day that has been designated as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide.

The international community is obviously quite adept at commemorating events but unfortunately less willing to muster the appropriate level of outrage and courage to save lives while there are still lives to be saved.

This lack of reaction does not have to be a recurring theme of the human condition. We can do much better than that, as the engaged citizens and organizations that make up the broad coalition in favor of intervention in Darfur, Sudan, are demonstrating.

What better case than Darfur to prove that our conscience is still intact, both at an individual and a collective level? What better way to show that we have learned something from the dismal failures of the past?

None of us can claim that we do not know of the hell that is Darfur today.

If we do nothing, we become morally complicit, no better in a way than the cynical powers that have been and are obstructing collective action by the United Nations.

In the case of Darfur, this power is first and foremost the People's Republic of China. Its refusal to bring its enormous influence to bear on the genocidal regime of Sudan is morally repugnant.

But other governments, including our own, could be exerting much more pressure and leadership, as well.

Thanks to the dedicated individuals and organizations that have coalesced around the Darfur cause, we have the option of making our voices heard this time, as concerned citizens and fellow human beings.

A first step would be to go to <http://www.savedarfur.org/>, and <http://www.darfuractioncoalition.org/> and sign on to these remarkable campaigns.

W.A. Schmidt of Madison chairs the Governor's Commission on the United Nations.

From the May 13, 2007 editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel