



DO NOT STAND IDLY BY

SAVE
DARFUR

To: Editors/Reporters
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**GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATIVE BILLS TO DIVEST FROM THE SUDAN
Jewish World Watch Joins Governor Schwarzenegger, George Clooney, Don Cheadle, &
George Schultz at Bill Signing**

On Monday, September 25, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law two bills, AB 2941 and AB 2179, which will divest the three largest public shareholders from companies that fund the genocide in the Sudan. AB 2941 calls on CalPERS and CalSTRS to divest their funds from the Sudan while AB 2179 completes the University of California's targeted divestment from the Sudan.

Rabbi Harold Schulweis and Janice Kamenir-Reznik, founders of Jewish World Watch, joined Governor Schwarzenegger, activist actors George Clooney and Don Cheadle, former Secretary of State George Schultz, and Adam Sterling, Sudan Divestment Task Force, at the public signing.

"We applaud Governor Schwarzenegger for signing these two bills and sending a message around the world that California will not stand for murder and genocide," said Janice Kamenir-Reznik, President and CEO, Jewish World Watch. *"There are currently 15 states which are set to introduce legislation modeled after AB 2941 at the start of 2007. By signing these bills, Governor Schwarzenegger has taken a leadership position which will likely help to catalyze divestment in numerous other states."*

In the past, economic pressure has proved more successful in impacting the Sudanese government than political pressure and diplomacy. For this reason, the focus of the divestment efforts has been to maximize the impact on the Sudanese government and its policies while minimizing any adverse impact on innocent Sudanese. The divestment campaign targets companies that are complicit in the genocide or that are benefiting from it, companies that have refused to take a stance against the atrocities, and companies that offer only minimal benefits to the country's oppressed and underprivileged.

Kamenir-Reznik, then summarized the position of JWW regarding divestment, *"By and large, the Jewish community abhors divestment campaigns — the reason being, that all too often they are used unfairly and unjustly against Israel. However, we cannot desist from using this very important weapon solely because there are those who misuse or abuse it. JWW believes that relative to Sudan, the divestment tool is not only morally appropriate, but is indeed, a moral*

imperative. The Sudanese regime is engaged in genocide of a large portion of its population. The criminal, genocidal acts of the Sudanese government against its own citizens are so morally egregious that all political and economic means must be used to save lives.”

Rabbi Harold Schulweis, Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue, reiterated the position of JWW on Darfur and the guiding principle on which JWW was founded “*It is a matter of conscience, indeed a moral imperative, that we raise our collective voice against genocide. We must not be silent in the face of profound injustice and inhumanity. Our cities, our states, our nation must raise their voices.”*

Jewish World Watch is a coalition of synagogues working together to mobilize synagogues, their schools, members and the community to combat genocide and other egregious violations of human rights around the world. In response to the 400,000 civilians that have been murdered and the nearly 2 million people who have been displaced in the Sudan, Jewish World Watch chose Darfur as its first advocacy campaign. Since its inception, forty-three Los Angeles synagogues have joined the campaign and have actively mobilized to stop the genocide in Darfur. These synagogues have allocated more than \$450,000 in direct assistance to the people in Darfur. Through donations to International Medical Corps and the International Rescue Committee, water wells and two health clinics in refugee camps have been constructed in Darfur. The group is also currently addressing the issue of rape by introducing solar cookers into the refugee camps, which eliminates the need for women to hunt for firewood outside the camps where they are exposed to the risk of attack.