

February Advocacy Issues

<http://www.peaceactionwest.org/> and click on "Take Action"

Action Alert #1

Cut wasteful war spending to fund human needs, like health care, education, and jobs.

While Congress argues over how they can't possibly find the funds to insure the 45,000 uninsured Americans who die every year, our total cost of wars since 2001 will top a trillion dollars in 2010. Just the recent addition of 30,000 troops to Afghanistan will cost us \$82 million each day!

What else could we be doing with all this money? We could rebuild America, putting people back to work in a green economy, providing health insurance to every American, and rebuilding our broken education system. We could even improve intelligence and security so a man with a bomb in his underwear can't attempt to take down an airliner. We would then be in a position to really help countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Haiti with economic and humanitarian aid that would help them rebuild their countries, free from military occupation.

President Obama has said he wants to curb wasteful military spending. Let's show him we want this to top his agenda.

Dear President Obama:

Thank you for your work to cut wasteful military spending, including your support for the Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act, which became law last year, and your support for the elimination of the F-22. However there is still much work to be done, including holding accountable private contractors operating in Iraq and Afghanistan, eliminating waste in the Pentagon's budget, including the pork that gets added by Congress, and ending the practice of funding wars through the supplemental process. We can't afford to keep wasting billions on military programs that don't work. Please make cutting wasteful military spending one of your top priorities.

Action Alert #2

Tell the White House to use aid, not bombs.

We know there are alternatives to endless war to make Americans safer and create global stability. Now is the time to pressure our government to put development and diplomacy at the forefront of our foreign policy. Sign the petition today.

Dear President Obama:

I strongly support U.S. foreign assistance efforts that alleviate poverty, fight disease, and create opportunity in developing countries.

As General James Jones and Dr. Lawrence Summers prepare recommendations on how to deliver on your promise to ensure that development is "established and endures as a key pillar of U.S. foreign policy," I ask for action on one key issue:

Create a U.S. global development strategy that gives development a strong voice in foreign policy decisions and coordinates our efforts to alleviate global poverty, fight disease, and create economic opportunity.

Action Alert #3

<http://cacatholic.org/> and click on "Support S. Res 404 to Promote Peace in Sudan"

Senate Resolution 404 is a bi-partisan effort that supports full implementation of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement. With the approach of national elections in April 2010, the fragile peace is tenuous and could collapse at any time.

S. Res 404 signals that the United States is committed to preventing increased violence and promoting peace and stability in all of Sudan. It calls on President Obama to strengthen US engagement on the issue and on the international community to coordinate their efforts. It also urges the responsible parties in the Sudan to comply with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Via Catholic Relief Services and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Bishops of Sudan have asked for assistance. S. Res 404 is one way of providing that assistance by promoting the life and dignity of the Sudanese people.

Dear Senator:

As your constituent and supporter of the Catholic Relief Services and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' initiative, Catholics Confront Global Poverty, I am writing to urge you to support the bipartisan Senate Resolution 404 and ensure its swift passage. The volatile situation in Sudan not just in the Darfur region, but also the tenuous peace between the North and South brought about by the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is becoming more serious. The country is bracing for national elections in April 2010 and a referendum on whether the South should secede from the North in January 2011. The potential for increased violence, death, and displacement at the hands of a renewed North-South war is real. Therefore, significant steps must be taken to avert such a disaster. S. Res. 404 supports full implementation of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement and efforts to promote peace and stability in Sudan. It signals the United States' strong commitment to prevent increased violence and promote peace and stability in all of Sudan. The resolution specifically calls on President Obama to strengthen engagement on this issue and on the international community to coordinate their efforts closely. It urges the responsible actors in Sudan to comply with the provisions of the CPA, resolve outstanding issues, and avoid actions that escalate tensions. The situation in Sudan is serious and requires significant action. Please co-sponsor S. Res. 404 today and ensure its swift passage. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.