



**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Heather Johnson
Chair

Carol Rinehart
Vice Chair

Johanna Rincon
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**Wendy Berg
Syed Z. Iqbal
Mia Kim
L'Tanya Robinson
Linda Stone**

August 27, 2007

Dear City Councilors,

A number of cities, towns and legislative bodies have spoken out against the violence, injustice and genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. In September, the Massachusetts House will be voting on a measure to urge divestment of funds by State agencies from any companies doing business with the Sudanese government. There is hope that a groundswell of public concern will encourage the United States and the United Nations to continue pressing for effective action that will end the atrocities and human suffering in Darfur. For these reasons, we are presenting the attached resolution on Darfur to the Northampton City Council. We feel it is important at this time for the City of Northampton to join with others in speaking out and taking action to help end this urgent human rights crisis.

The Human Rights Commission has drafted this resolution with members of the Congregation B'nai Israel Darfur Action Group, who have used reports from many authoritative sources, including the research and writing of Professor Eric Reeves of Smith College (www.sudanreeves.org), SaveDarfur.org, and the Western Massachusetts Darfur Coalition to compile information on the critical situation in the Sudan and the compelling need for citizens to respond. On behalf of citizens in Northampton, we hope you will respond by supporting this resolution.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call or email Human Rights Commission members Heather Johnson at 413-586-8140 and heatherjj@aol.com or Mia Kim Sullivan at 413-559-5420 and msullivan@hampshire.edu. Members of the Congregation B'nai Israel Darfur Action Group have indicated they will be in contact by phone with you as well.

Sincerely,

Heather J. Johnson

Heather J. Johnson, Chair

Carol Rinehart

Carol Rinehart, Vice-Chair

for the Northampton Human Rights Commission