"Without knowledge of genocide and what drives it, we are powerless in stopping it."

Background Information:

- The ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of western Sudan began in 2003, when the government of Sudan began sponsoring attacks against the people of Darfur.

- The genocide has claimed 400,000 lives and displaced over 2,500,000 people. More than one hundred people continue to die each day.

- The conflict began in February 2003 when poverty and neglect from the Sudanese government led two Darfurian rebel groups to launch an uprising against the Khartoum Government.

- The Sudanese government responded with a scorched-earth campaign against the innocent civilians of Darfur, enlisting the Janjaweed, a militia drawn from members of Arab tribes in the region, to perpetrate the attacks.

- The government-sponsored Janjaweed have used rape, displacement, organized starvation, threats against aid workers, and mass murder to kill more than 400,000 and displace 2.5 million people. Violence, disease, and displacement continue to kill thousands of innocent Darfurians every month.

What can you do to help?

There are many ways to help: legislative advocacy, fundraising for humanitarian organization at work in Darfur, and raising awareness about the genocide. However, one of the most influential ways to make a difference is to compel elected officials to support Darfur-related legislation and take other key actions. Currently, Congress needs to pass Sudan Divestment Authorization Act (SDAA), Senate Bill 831, which authorizes states to divestment from companies helping to fund genocide in Darfur, Sudan. Divestment means that the government will take money away from any company or institution that has investments to Darfur.

The purpose of this email is to encourage you to complete this letter and mail three copies of the letter back to the address indicated in the email you received.

To protect civilians in Darfur and bring this genocide to a halt, we must hold our elected officials accountable for their action – **and** ***inaction.***

Resource: www.standnow.org