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Contact: Colleen Beamish  
(916) 319-2040

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER BLUMENFIELD INTRODUCES RESOLUTION TO MAKE APRIL 2010  
THE STATE'S FIRST ANNUAL  
GENOCIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**

Sacramento, CA – Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield (D – San Fernando Valley) introduced a resolution today, ACR 144, proclaiming April 2010 as the first annual Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in California. The resolution is an effort to educate, bring awareness and prevent future genocides and mass atrocities around the globe.

The resolution is co-sponsored by the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California and supported by Jewish World Watch, Redondo Beach-based Stop Genocide Now, the San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition, the Redding-based Genocide No More – Save Darfur, Armenian National Committee of America and Orange County for Darfur. The resolution will go to the California state Senate once it is passed in the Assembly. It is co-authored by Assemblymembers Mike Feuer, Ira Ruskin and Joel Anderson.

In 2008, the Prevention of Genocide Task Force, convened by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and the United States Institute of Peace, issued a report that found that in order to prevent future genocides and mass atrocities, effective prevention methods must be implemented before a crisis has erupted, and that educating the public can help to protect individual rights and promote a culture of lawfulness that will help prevent future genocides.

“It is important to acknowledge and expose the atrocities that have been systematically committed against entire peoples on account of differences such as ethnicity, race, and religion. Awareness and vigilance are needed to prevent future genocides and to stem hate crimes, human rights violations and other known potential precursors of genocide.” Blumenfield said.

“Californians can play an important role in helping to prevent genocide and mass atrocities around the world by raising awareness,” said Tzivia Schwartz Getzug, executive director of Jewish World Watch.

Over the past seven years in Sudan, an estimated 400,000 deaths have occurred and 2.7 million people have been displaced. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, more than 5.4 million people have been murdered during the past 12 years of conflict and countless women and girls have been brutally raped, according to the United Nations.

“Many genocidal acts throughout history have occurred during the month of April,” according to the resolution, which cites the start of the Armenian genocide in April 1915, the Holocaust in April 1933, the Cambodian “killing fields” in April 1975, the siege of Sarajevo in April 1992, and the displacement that

led to hundreds of thousands of deaths in Sudan in April 2003.

“Our thanks to Assemblymembers Blumenfield, Feuer, Ruskin and Anderson for urging the California legislature to establish Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in California,” added Getzug. “This resolution will make genocide more prominent in the minds of Californians so that we, as a State that is connected to and cares deeply about communities under siege around the world, can more adequately work to prevent genocide in the future.”

Added Peter Marcus, chair of the JWW Policy Committee: “With the ongoing genocide in Sudan and mass atrocities in Congo and dozens of other countries currently at high-risk of genocide, it is clear that we cannot only respond when genocide is underway. We need to act to prevent it as well.”

Toward that end, events are planned throughout California on Saturday, April 10, 2010:

- The San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition will participate in the global "Sudan 365: A Beat for Peace" events. For more details, visit [www.darfursf.org](http://www.darfursf.org)
- Orange County for Darfur and the Irvine Chapter of Amnesty International will host a screening of the powerful documentary about Southern Sudan, entitled, *Rebuilding Hope* at 7:00 p.m. A panel discussion with members of the Sudanese community living in San Diego will follow. For more information: [www.livingubuntu.org/events](http://www.livingubuntu.org/events)
- Genocide No More – Save Darfur will also be hosting events, with details available at [www.darfurredding.org](http://www.darfurredding.org)

From April 15-17, Camp Darfur, a project of Stop Genocide Now, will be on display at Duarte High School. USC’s Genocide Awareness Week and UCSD’s Genocide Commemoration Week take place the week of April 19-23. For more information: [www.stopgenocidenow.org](http://www.stopgenocidenow.org). The Armenian National Committee of America is also sponsoring events throughout California during the month of April. For more information: [www.anca.org](http://www.anca.org).

On Sunday, April 18, Jewish World Watch will host the largest anti-genocide of event in America, when thousands of people participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk to End Genocide to raise awareness, support, hope and funds to help the survivors of genocide in Sudan and the victims of mass atrocities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The morning walk begins and ends at Warner Center Park in Woodland Hills, and sister walks are scheduled for Santa Rosa, CA on April 18, and Orange County on Sunday, April 25. Registration for the walks and more information is available at: [WalktoEndGenocide.org](http://WalktoEndGenocide.org)

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Other media contacts:

Beth Laski  
Jewish World Watch  
818-986-1105 or  
818-300-5424  
[beth@bethlaski.com](mailto:beth@bethlaski.com)

Caron Spector  
Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California  
323-761-8163

**ABOUT THE JEWISH PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF CALIFORNIA:** JPAC is the largest single-state coalition of Jewish organizations in the nation, representing Jewish communities and nonprofit organizations across California. Comprised of most of the Jewish Federations from communities throughout California and a myriad of Jewish community advocacy organizations, we advocate on behalf of Jewish social service agencies, traditional community concerns, and broadly shared values that affect the citizens of our State. In short, we make certain California's Jewish community acts with one united voice in Sacramento on a variety of issues of importance to the Jewish community and in order to advocate for all of California's most vulnerable populations. Visit us at [www.jpac-cal.org](http://www.jpac-cal.org) for more information.

**ABOUT JEWISH WORLD WATCH:** Jewish World Watch, a Los Angeles-based human rights organization, is a coalition of 64 synagogues working together to combat genocide and other egregious violations of human rights worldwide. Since its founding five years ago, JWW has achieved significant success within its three mission goals: education, advocacy and humanitarian relief, having allocated almost \$4 million in direct assistance to the people of Darfur. It now begins a campaign to end the atrocities in the Democratic Republic of Congo as well. For more information, see [www.jewishworldwatch.org](http://www.jewishworldwatch.org)

**ABOUT STOP GENOCIDE NOW:** SGN is a global, grassroots community dedicated to changing the way the world responds to genocide through active education, advocacy and policy change, and by putting a face to the numbers of dead, dying and displaced. The organization works to protect people in grave danger of violence, death and displacement resulting from genocide.

**ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA DARFUR COALITION (SFBADC):** The San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition (SFBADC) is an alliance of diverse organizations and individuals working to end genocide in Darfur, helping to facilitate peace in all of Sudan, and furthering anti-genocide strategies. SFBADC's activities emphasize awareness and education about the root causes of the current situation in Sudan and advocacy with the U.S. government.

**ABOUT GENOCIDE NO MORE-SAVE DARFUR:** Genocide No More – Save Darfur is made up of a group of Shasta County residents committed to stopping the genocide in Darfur and raising funds for humanitarian aid to the millions of Darfuri refugees.

**ABOUT THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA:** The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) is the largest and most influential Armenian American grassroots political organization. Working in coordination with a network of offices, chapters and supporters throughout the United States and affiliated organizations around the world, the ANCA actively advances the concerns of the Armenian American community on a broad range of issues, including recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

**ABOUT ORANGE COUNTY FOR DARFUR:** Orange County for Darfur is a Living Ubuntu project and an all-volunteer effort that began in June 2007 to raise awareness among local residents about the suffering in Darfur and persuade elected officials and others in positions of influence to take more action to stop genocide. The group also helps facilitate and increase coordinated efforts related to Darfur among individuals and groups in Orange County.