

Sample Letter

Date

Name, title and address of recipient

Dear Senator/Representative/etc _____,

The United States has always taken pride in the fact that we're a country founded on lofty principles. Americans have come from a variety of cultural and spiritual backgrounds, but the resulting composite is one that advocates high moral/ethical standards. We believe in certain Creator-derived unalienable rights that apply to all humans everywhere.

However, nations, like individuals, can lose sight of the values that have made us great. The tragic situation in unfolding in Darfur right now provides an opportunity for us to step up to the plate and demonstrate our commitment to the principles on which our nation was founded. To fail to respond calls that commitment into question.

All the great religions of the world call for us to show concern for the oppressed. Through the Hebrew prophet Isaiah, God says that instead of fasting he would prefer that his people "loose the chains of injustice and . . . set the oppressed free . . ." The Qur'an says in equally strident terms: "And what is wrong with you that you fight not in the Cause of Allah, and for those weak, ill-treated and oppressed . . . ?" Jesus declared his mission to be "to preach good news to the poor . . . to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and . . . to release the oppressed . . ." Buddhism's Dalai Lama has said: "Every world religion, no matter what its philosophical view, is founded first and foremost on the precept that we must reduce our selfishness and serve others."

I'm calling upon you as a legislator, as a fellow American and as a person committed to high moral/spiritual/ethical values to ensure that this matter doesn't get pushed onto the back burner of legislative and governmental concern. Just because this tragedy is unfolding far away and to a group of people with whom we have limited interaction doesn't remove our collective responsibility to come to their aid. Moral people can never justifiably ignore genocide.

I thank you for taking this matter seriously. And if there are ways in which I, as an ordinary citizen, might be of help, please share those possibilities with me.

I wish you the best as you play a significant leadership role in these very challenging times.

Yours for a better world,

Your name

Your address

Your phone number

Your email address

(This letter may be downloaded by going to _____)