

## No U.S. Tax Dollars Should Support Genocide in Darfur

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Rothman: No U.S. Tax Dollars Should Support Genocide in Darfur

Pictured: Rep. Rothman with Reps. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Jim McDermott (D-WA), and Mel Watt (D-NC).

(Washington, DC)&mdash; Last week, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) joined Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Mel Watt (D-NC) to announce the introduction of the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act. This new legislation will stop millions in federal contracts from going to companies whose business in Sudan directly or indirectly supports the genocide in Darfur. It will also protect the right of states to divest their own public pension funds from these companies.

"Any support for the government of Sudan is morally reprehensible, wrong, and anti-American. I am proud that my state of New Jersey has already passed its own version of this bill. But that is not enough. None of our tax dollars - local, state or federal - should go to companies supporting the genocide," said Rothman.

Currently, American tax dollars pay for contracts totaling more than \$600 million, which have been awarded to companies doing business in Sudan, according to Congresswoman Lee. That number could be even higher, but available information is incomplete. To address this problem, the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act would also create a list of companies whose business in Sudan is deemed to support the genocide based on criteria outlined in the bill. Identifying these companies will prevent additional U.S. tax dollars from going to companies that support a genocidal regime.

Last year, New Jersey became the second state in the nation to pass Sudan divestment legislation, after Illinois. Oregon and Maine have also passed similar legislation and more than a dozen other states are considering whether to follow suit.

Read a fact sheet prepared by Rep. Lee's office for more information about the legislation.

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