



Mission permanente d'Israël
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales à Genève

משלחת ישראל
ליד משרד האומות המאוחדות
והארגונים הבינלאומיים בג'נבה

**Statement by
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Ambassador, Permanent Representative**

**On the Situation in Darfur
4th Special Session
Human Rights Council**

12 December 2006

Mr. President,

If there is any encouraging and positive sign the new Human Rights Council is showing since its inception, it is to have today a special session on Darfur and to address what has been termed by Jan Egeland, the UN's chief humanitarian affairs officer, as the (quote) "world's worst humanitarian disaster...[and] an affront to humanity."

Today, the enlightened world should thank those who called for this special session for bringing to the world's conscience the plight of millions of displaced, hundreds of thousands of slaughtered, women raped and children killed. In the words of the High Commissioner (quote) "the truth is that there are extremely severe violations of human rights on a very large scale perpetuated in a climate of virtual total impunity" (end quote).

Yet, Mr. President,

We are witnessing the questionable behavior of certain states of the Council, claiming that the facts and figures are disputed. That we should clarify what is happening before action will be taken. Mr. President, the atrocities are well-documented and there is no need for further testimony. The Government of Sudan preaches the rhetoric of peace, but promotes the reality of obstruction. The Sudanese government operates under a policy of

denial, neglect and the blaming of others, seemingly impervious to the realities on the ground as documented by every other credible observer.

Mr. President,

The tragedy in Darfur is a wake-up call and a reminder as well. A call to mankind saying that by sitting by in silence while your brother is imploring for help, we are paving the way for history to repeat itself. It is also a reminder that too many times in our collective memory such genocidal behavior has happened, and that if not stopped in time, countries can reach the abyss of humanity and the threshold of blasphemy.

In these days, the remembrance of the horrors of the Holocaust is being mocked by disgraceful initiatives such as the Holocaust denial conference currently underway in Iran. Previously, the Holocaust has been ridiculed by Iran through the “Holocaust Caricatures Contest.” The Iranian President, who publicly calls for the destruction of a UN Member State, Israel, by denying and questioning the Holocaust—the most extreme form of genocide to date—is challenging the very essence of human rights which was developed by the international community after and because of the Holocaust.

Tell me, Mr. President,

Will there be a conference 60 years from now denying the fact that hundreds of thousands of innocents perished in Darfur? Will there be a country who will say all this mass murder in Darfur is just a myth?

For the sake of all of us, we cannot allow this to happen.