



**Unitarian Universalist
Service Committee**

To: Mr. Jacques Rogge, President,
International Olympic Committee Executive Board
Château de Vidy
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

Mr. Hein Verbruggen, Chairman,
IOC Coordination Commission for the Beijing Games
Comité Internat. Olympique (CIO)
Case postale 356
Château de Vidy
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

cc: President Hu Jintao
c/oAmbassador Zhou Wenzhong
Embassy of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20008

Dear Messrs. Rogge and Verbruggen,

In the spirit of all that the Olympics represent, I am writing to urge you to use your seat on the Olympic Committee to ensure that the vision of "One World/One Dream" for the 2008 Games in Beijing is not diminished by China's role in enabling and funding the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

As I am sure you know, for more than four years, the government of Sudan has been committing unimaginable acts of violence against the people of Darfur. More than 300,000 people have been killed and another 2.5 million have been forced to flee. An estimated 3.5 million people live at the edge of survival, dependent upon international aid.

China, the host country of the 2008 Olympic Games, has helped perpetuate this genocide. While defending the Sudanese government within the UN Security Council, China continues its oil business with Sudan, providing the government with nearly half of its \$2 billion in oil export revenues. The Sudanese government uses 70-80% of this revenue to purchase weapons; ironically, many of these weapons are sold by China, in violation of a UN arms embargo.

The idea of "One World/One Dream" will seem perversely ironic if images of the dead and the dying in Darfur are juxtaposed with images of athletic triumph and glory from the

Olympic Games, hosted by a country facilitating unfathomable suffering and destruction. Such a rendering can only serve to tarnish the Olympics, and all it represents.

In the months leading up the 2008 games, concerned individuals and organizations from the around the world will be demanding an "Olympic Dream for Darfur." They will generate a constant, unrelenting drumbeat to send the message to China that the global community wants to see the Beijing Games live up to the Olympic symbols of peace and international friendship. For this to happen, China must stop defending the "sovereignty" of Sudan, whose government came to power through a coup and is committing genocide against its people. China must use its relationship with Sudan to persuade Khartoum to accept an international peacekeeping force in line with UN Resolution 1706, with a mandate to protect civilians and humanitarian aid workers. It must also convince Sudan to work for a genuine peace agreement addressing the root causes of this genocide.

In this vein, I am asking you to please urge the Chinese government to immediately persuade Khartoum to consent to an international peacekeeping force. Because this force will take several months to implement, and because innocent people – in Darfur and increasingly in the neighboring countries of Chad and the Central African Republic – continue to be targeted for rape and murder, I am asking you to use your influence to press China *far in advance* of the 2008 Olympics.

The global movement to end the horror in Darfur is the first large-scale mobilization in history to take hold *while a genocide is still happening*. With your authority, you have the unique ability to use your influence to help end this genocide. I hope you will help bring the Olympic dream to Darfur.

Sincerely,

Name

City, State, Country

Email

Personal comments:
