



Leading Bipartisan Group of Statesmen Agree: The Time for Action on Darfur is Now

WASHINGTON, DC – (Oct. 11) The Partnership for a Secure America, a bipartisan group of leading national security experts co-chaired by former Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-IN) and former Sen. Warren Rudman (R-NH), today urged the President and the international community to take decisive action on the Darfur crisis. A bipartisan group of 19 former high ranking foreign policy officials endorsed today's statement.

“The Darfur tragedy transcends the partisanship that has come to typify many foreign policy debates,” said PSA co-chairman Lee Hamilton (D-IN). “If ever there was an issue that should bring together members of both parties, it is that of genocide.”

“Indeed, many Republicans and Democrats have come together to push for an end to this atrocity,” Rudman stated. “However, despite strongly worded statements from both sides of the aisle the killing continues.”

“Sudan must be convinced that a failure to accept a UN peacekeeping force will relegate it to pariah status in the international community,” said Rudman.

Hamilton added, “Eleven years after the genocide in Rwanda and sixty years after the end of the Holocaust our leaders are faced with another humanitarian crisis of immense scale. It is time for today's political leaders to come together across party lines, to take risks, and to push for bold action.”

The Partnership for a Secure America (PSA) is a not-for-profit organization created to foster bipartisan, consensus driven, national solutions to the major national security and foreign policy challenges facing our nation.

The full text of the group's statement is below. More information on the Partnership for a Secure America, along with a list of the advisory board members, can be found at www.psaonline.org.

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**400,000 people killed
2.5 million people displaced
Rape and murder every single day
And the genocide continues.**

Now is the time for our President, our country, and the international community to match strong words with decisive action.

Now is the time for the President to work with Russia, China, and members of the Arab League to compel Sudan to accept a UN peacekeeping force.

Now is the time to impose a NATO-led no-fly zone over the Darfur region, expand sanctions on Sudanese government officials, freeze Sudan's assets abroad, and block its oil exports.

If these measures do not make it possible to quickly deploy a UN force and halt the genocide, a NATO-led intervention must be seriously considered.

Now is the time for leadership and bold action.

The world can no longer stand idly by.

WARREN RUDMAN

US Senator (R-NH) 1980-92

LEE HAMILTON

US Congressman (D-IN) 1965-99

Vice Chair, 9/11 Commission

HOWARD BAKER

US Senator (R-TN) 1967-85

SAMUEL BERGER

National Security Advisor 1997-2000

ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

National Security Advisor 1977-81

WARREN CHRISTOPHER

Secretary of State 1993-97

SLADE GORTON

US Senator (R-WA) 1981-87, 1989-2001

Commissioner, 9/11 Commission

GARY HART

US Senator (D-CO) 1975-87

CARLA HILLS

US Trade Representative 1989-93

NANCY KASSEBAUM BAKER

US Senator (R-KS) 1978-97

THOMAS KEAN

Governor New Jersey 1982-1990

Chairman, 9/11 Commission

ANTHONY LAKE

National Security Advisor 1993-97

JOHN LEHMAN

Secretary of the Navy 1981-87

Commissioner, 9/11 Commission

RICHARD C. LEONE

President, The Century Foundation

1989-present

ROBERT MCFARLANE

National Security Advisor 1983-85

SAM NUNN

US Senator (D-GA) 1972-96

THOMAS PICKERING

Undersecretary of State 1997-2000

JOHN C. WHITEHEAD

Deputy Secretary of State 1985-88

FRANK WISNER

Undersecretary of State 1992-93