



**GENOCIDE INTERVENTION**  
— NETWORK —  
Have a hand in stopping genocide®



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## **800+ STUDENTS MARCH ON CAPITOL HILL AND MAKE HISTORY**

***Activists participate in largest lobby day and protest in genocide prevention history, using innovative video advocacy tools***

Washington, D.C. – Today, hundreds of activists will converge on Capitol Hill for the largest lobby day to prevent genocide in history. The lobby day and protest/rally caps off the last day of the Pledge2Protect conference. Convened by STAND, the student-led division of Genocide Intervention Network, and core partners the Save Darfur Coalition and Enough Project, the conference attended by close to 1000 activists featured training and education on the situations in Sudan, Burma and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The central advocacy goals of today's lobby day are support for measures aimed to enhance civilian protection in the focus areas and to push Congress to implement the recommendations of the Genocide Prevention Task Force (GPTF) report. The report is a policy blueprint for United States action to prevent and stop genocide and mass atrocities. The key recommendations include increasing flexible funding for crisis prevention and enhancing early warning capabilities.

"The Pledge2Protect attendees lobbying today demonstrate that a substantial U.S. constituency is willing to hold elected officials accountable, not only for effectively responding to ongoing atrocities, but also for meaningful action to prevent future genocides and mass atrocities," said Sam Bell, Executive Director of Genocide Intervention Network. Bell added: "If the Administration won't act, Congress can play the leading role in ensuring that the United States is doing all it can."

Jerry Fowler, the President of the Save Darfur Coalition said, "Less than a month after the Obama administration unveiled the Sudan policy review, hundreds of activists are coming to Washington to ensure that Sudan is a priority for President Obama. The advocates came from across the United States to tell President Obama that they want him to lead for peace in Sudan."

“The crucial ingredient to moving the Obama administration to greater action is citizen action, usually led by student activists. If we are going to make progress on stopping genocide, rape as a war weapon, or child soldier recruitment, it will be because enough people speak out and face these issues,” said John Norris, the Executive Director of Enough Project. He added, “The lobby day is a crucial ingredient for success.

## **WHITE HOUSE AND SPECIAL ENVOY SCOTT GRATION TAKE NOTICE**

STAND Director, Layla Amjadi and Save Darfur Coalition President Jerry Fowler are invited to the White House for a Q&A session. They will ask questions, posed by anti-genocide activists, to Special Envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, and Samantha Power, NSC Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs. This meeting will be broadcast live via streaming video, November 10 at 3:00 P.M EST.

[http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/entires/engaging\\_on\\_sudan\\_strategy/](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/entires/engaging_on_sudan_strategy/)

## **HISTORIC USE OF VIDEO ADVOCACY**

To support the lobby day message, STAND activists are using a variety of technology tools – from webcams to mobile phones - to amplify voices from their state calling for legislative action to end genocide and mass atrocities.

Activists will screen and hand-deliver 100 personalized videos today on the Hill – one for each U.S. Senator. Through the “Pledge on Camera” project, students have created 500 video messages for their Senators. Student chapters chose the best messages from their state and integrated them into the core video (below) that STAND and video advocacy organization, WITNESS, produced. [To download videos for broadcast use, visit: <http://www.witness.org/standpress>

“With this campaign we are seeing the ‘YouTube generation’ in action – and today, we’re seeing them change how citizens are lobbying Congress,” said Chris Michael, WITNESS Program Coordinator.

“Pledge On Camera is designed to remind Congress of the moral and political imperative to ensure that genocide will not occur on their watch or in the future – to make “never again” a reality once and for all.”

### **For more information:**

Lobby Day Media Advisory: [http://files.darfurgenocide.net/press/media\\_advisory.pdf](http://files.darfurgenocide.net/press/media_advisory.pdf)

View Personalized Videos for Senators: <http://hub.witness.org/STAND-STUDENT-VIDEOS>

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**Genocide Intervention Network** -- Genocide Intervention Network is working to build the first permanent anti-genocide constituency, mobilizing the political will to stop genocide when it occurs. Accessible online at [www.GenocideIntervention.net](http://www.GenocideIntervention.net), Genocide Intervention Network empowers individuals with the tools to stop genocide.

**The Save Darfur Coalition** -- An alliance of more than 180 faith-based, advocacy and human rights organizations - raises public awareness about the ongoing genocide in Darfur and mobilizes a unified response to the atrocities that threaten the lives of people throughout the Darfur region. The coalition's member organizations represent 130 million people of all ages, races, religions and political affiliations united together to help the people of Darfur. For more information on the coalition, please visit [www.SaveDarfur.org](http://www.SaveDarfur.org).

**Enough Project** -- Enough is a project of the Center for American Progress to end genocide and crimes against humanity. Founded in 2007, Enough focuses on crises in Sudan, Chad, eastern Congo, northern Uganda, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. Enough's strategy papers and briefings provide sharp field analysis and targeted policy recommendations based on a "3P" crisis response strategy: promoting durable peace, providing civilian protection, and punishing perpetrators of atrocities. Enough works with concerned

citizens, advocates, and policy makers to prevent, mitigate, and resolve these crises. Visit [www.enoughproject.org](http://www.enoughproject.org).

**WITNESS** – WITNESS ([www.witness.org](http://www.witness.org)) uses video and online technologies to open the eyes of the world to human rights violations. WITNESS empowers people to transform personal stories of abuse into powerful tools for justice, promoting public engagement and policy change.