

**R043-0708**

**10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE 2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS**

20 **WHEREAS:** China has offered Sudan support threatening to use its veto  
30 on the U.N. Security Council to protect Khartoum from sanctions and  
40 has been able to water down every resolution on Darfur in order to  
50 protect its interests in Sudan.

60 **WHEREAS:** Sarah Wykes, a senior campaigner at Global Witness, an NGO  
70 that campaigns for better natural resource governance, publicly stated:  
80 "Sudan has purchased about \$100 million in arms from China and has  
90 used these weapons against civilians in Darfur."

100 **WHEREAS:** Calls for sustained pressure and possible boycotts of the Olympics  
110 have come from French presidential candidate François Bayrou,[46] actor  
120 and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow, Genocide Intervention  
130 Network Representative Ronan Farrow,[47] author and Sudan scholar Eric Reeves,  
140 and Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of the late Mohandas Gandhi.

150 **WHEREAS:** An estimated 300,000 Sudan citizens have been killed in the conflict; also, nearly  
160 2,000,000 Sudan citizens are 120 internally displaced.

170 **WHEREAS:** China is Sudan's largest trading partner and the main foreign investor in  
180 Sudan's oil industry. China National Petroleum Corp. has a 40 percent  
190 share in the international consortium extracting oil in Sudan, and it is building  
200 refineries and pipelines, enabling Sudan to benefit from oil export  
210 revenue since 1999. Some allege these "oil interests" to be responsible  
220 for China's lack of action towards the conflict in Darfur.  
230

240 **WHEREAS:** Many people from all around the world are calling the 2008 Olympics, "The  
250 Genocide Olympics."

260 **WHEREAS:** If the United States, boycotted the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the result will  
270 pressure China to alter policy with Sudan, hopefully allowing proper intervention and  
280 sanctions to end, or help to mitigate, the conflict.

290 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges  
300 the United States federal government to boycott the 2008 Beijing  
310 Olympics.

320 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush  
330 Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense  
340 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House  
350 Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader  
360 Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader  
370 Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader  
380 John Boehner, House Minority Leader

**Sponsor,**  
Justin Ritter  
Lieutenant Governor