

they can for us. Tell you what: Let's wear these kids and start doing things for ourselves. This should not be seen as a tragedy but an opportunity to rid ourselves of burdensome parasites who cannot manage the money we give them. Quit buying candy!

As a community we can do things for ourselves that a government would only foul up in bureaucratic non-sense. If we must have one, let it be a "night watchman" rather than a thieving, lying nanny who acts like a little child when things don't go its way. Let's take this opportunity and nourish it.

*Justin Bengtson
Eugene*

CHINA'S ROLE

Thank you to Sens. Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden and Congressman Peter DeFazio for joining their Congressional colleagues in signing on to letters to Chinese President Hu Jintao regarding the situation in Darfur.

China yields a great deal of influence in Sudan. China is Sudan's largest overseas investor, and Sudan is the third largest supplier of oil to China, with annual trade exceeding \$1 billion a year the last three years. China has developed Sudan's oil fields and built more than 900 miles of gas pipeline and a refinery and port. In addition, China has been a major arms dealer to Sudan. The arms China has sold to the Sudanese government have been directly linked to atrocities committed in Darfur, including the sale of helicopter gunships used against Darfuri civilians.

These letters that our Oregon representatives signed on to were written by Sen. Joseph Biden and Rep. Tom Lantos and urged President Hu Jintao to use his influence with the Sudanese government to stop the violence in Darfur and to significantly increase the number of U.N. troops in Darfur to protect civilians.

I encourage my fellow Oregon residents to also express their concerns about Darfur by writing to President Hu Jintao c/o Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong, Embassy of China, 2300 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

*Karen Kennedy
Eugene*



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