

June 11, 2007

Dear Member of Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of H. Res. 213, the resolution calling for the establishment of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) capable of intervening in the early stages of a humanitarian crisis. We urge you to co-sponsor and work for passage of the resolution with its champions, Representatives Albert Wynn (D-MD) and James Walsh (R-NY).

In recent years, the international community has been increasingly called upon to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging crises, yet lacks the tools to consistently answer this call. We believe the time has come to a permanent emergency response service, designed to complement the capacity of the United Nations to provide stability, peace, and relief in deadly emergencies.

As envisioned, UNEPS would individually recruit, train and employ 10,000 - 18,000 personnel with a wide range of skills, including civilian police, military, judicial experts and relief professionals. This ensures that missions would not fail due to a lack of skills, equipment, cohesiveness, experience in resolving conflicts, or gender, national or religious imbalance. The Service would have special expertise in peacekeeping, conflict resolution, environmental crisis response and emergency medical relief. Upon Security Council authorization, UNEPS would be *immediately* available to respond to a crisis, with first in – first out capabilities.

By intervening in the early stages of urgent situations, UNEPS could help prevent their escalation into national or regional disasters. It is a tool that the international community desperately needs in order to fulfill its “responsibility to protect.” Recently Chad’s government requested a U.N. deployment of peacekeepers to slow the spillover of violence from Darfur. However, while the U.N. was preparing the mission, Chad’s government backed away from the request.

UNEPS would also help to create a climate of stability so that confidence building measures can take place. For example, it will take months for the U.N. to deploy the 3,000 peacekeepers that Sudan’s government recently agreed to accept as part of a hybrid peacekeeping force. If UNEPS were currently in existence, peacekeepers could be on their way in days rather than months after the agreement, bringing greater stability to the region and perhaps forestalling a change of heart in Khartoum.

The job of building support and raising funds for each new U.N. peacekeeping mission has been compared to that of a volunteer fire chief who is forced to raise funds, find volunteers and secure a fire truck for each new fire. The U.N.’s goals for “rapid deployment” are 30 days for a “traditional” peacekeeping mission (where all parties agree to allow in peacekeepers) and 90 days for “complex” missions (where spoilers attempt to derail a peace agreement). Unfortunately the U.N. usually lacks the resources to meet these modest goals and will to need set the bar much higher to make an appreciable difference to the civilians caught in the crossfire of today’s conflicts.

A United Nations Emergency Peace Service could save millions of lives and billions of dollars, prevent small conflicts from growing into full-scale wars, and keep fragile states from becoming failed states. It will also reduce the need to expend U.S. lives and resources while effectively allowing others to share the burden. More than two-thirds of the American public supports the U.N. having this capacity. We urge your serious consideration of this important proposal and hope you will join us in support of H. Res. 213.

Sincerely,

**3D Security Initiative**

**American Public Health Association**

**Americans for Informed Democracy**

Better World Campaign  
British American Security Information Council (BASIC)  
Center for War/Peace Studies  
Centre for Development of International Law  
Citizens for Global Solutions  
Civtatis International  
CivWorld  
Coalition for American Leadership Abroad (COLEAD)  
Council for a Livable World  
Earth Action  
ENOUGH  
Fund for Peace  
Genocide Intervention Network  
Global Action to Prevent War  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ  
Global Security Institute  
International Crisis Group  
International Relief and Development  
Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy  
National Peace Corps Association  
NETWORK: A Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
Peace Action  
Presbyterian Church, (USA), Washington Office  
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition  
Refugees International  
Trickle Up Program  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United Nations Association of the USA  
Universal Human Rights Network  
Women's Action for New Directions

*For more information contact Don Kraus, Citizens for Global Solutions at [dkraus@globalsolutions.org](mailto:dkraus@globalsolutions.org) or 202-330-4103. Info is also available online at <http://www.globalsolutions.org/node/560>*