

## **Message to Save Darfur Rally Participants Senator John McCain**

This month marks the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. Despite our hand wringing, the world waited, deliberated, and watched as 800,000 Africans lost their lives. As we peer into the wasteland that is today the Darfur region of Sudan, we see a hauntingly similar situation. I don't have to tell the participants here about the horrific killing, the rapes, the forced removals, the destruction. You know what has happened, and you know what still goes on. That's why you are here.

You are here to build the political will to end these crimes, and I thank you for your great efforts. I would like to have joined you myself but am in Europe, delivering an address in which I call for transatlantic action. The bottom line is simple: the international community must stop the killing and help over 2 million displaced Darfurians return home. Rest assured I will continue to push for action, just as you are today.

We must act because the situation in Darfur is a strategic threat. We must act because our international credibility is at stake. But above all we must act because Darfur is, at root, a moral issue. The civilized countries of the world – the United States among them – cannot stand idle in the face of genocide. Should we do so, history will judge us harshly, as it should. None of us has the strength to bear that shame again.