

JAMES R. LANGEVIN

2D DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

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PROTECTION AND CYBERSECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3902

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
109 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2735
FAX: (202) 225-5976

DISTRICT OFFICE:
THE SUMMIT SOUTH
300 CENTERVILLE ROAD, SUITE 200
WARWICK, RI 02886
TELEPHONE: (401) 732-9400
FAX: (401) 737-2982

james.langevin@mail.house.gov
www.house.gov/langevin

The Honorable James Langevin
Statement congratulating the RI Human Rights Torch Relay
April 6, 2008

I would first like to thank all of you who are here today to show support for such a worthy cause. I would also like to thank the organizers of this rally for continuing to bring attention to human rights atrocities around the world. Your efforts are tireless and indispensable, and they do not go unnoticed. I am also very proud that my fellow Rhode Islanders have been actively involved in calling attention to this issue, and I urge you to continue to make your voice heard.

With the Olympics taking place in four months, it is my hope that China reevaluates its current relationship with Sudan and begins to play a constructive role in ending the violence in Darfur. With that hope in mind, I joined my fellow colleagues in sending a letter to President Hu Jintao in February urging him to use his influence to end Sudan's ongoing obstruction of peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in order to protect civilians and restore stability to the Darfur region.

But the responsibility does not solely rest with China. The responsibility lies with us all. In the spirit of the Olympics, we must come together as one to end violence by making clear that we all stand with the world against genocide and human rights abuses. It is our duty to end this human suffering, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Washington, D.C. to promote peace throughout the world.