



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Office of University Communications

CONTACT: Stacie B. Royster
Media Relations Manager
(202) 238-2332
sroyster@howard.edu

**THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTES TO CUT OFF TIES WITH
COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN SUDAN**

Washington, DC-March 29, 2007 – The Howard University Board of Trustees has passed a resolution divesting from Sudan and from any company doing business in the African nation where the government has been engaged in a vicious program of ethnic cleansing since 2003. This makes Howard University the first Historically Black College and University to pass such a resolution.

“Clearly, it is the right thing to do,” said Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert. “The situation in the Sudan is intolerable and has been so for a long time. As an institution that has always opposed such flagrant disrespect for human rights, Howard University has to use whatever options available to pressure the government, and hopefully bring to an end, sooner, rather than later, the suffering and wanton killing of so many people.”

Executed by voice vote at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 27, 2007, the resolution represents the University’s commitment to social justice in its governance policies, relative to the human rights crisis in Sudan, the resolution says. Further, it was executed after serious examination of the crisis fuelled by government-backed militias against Black African Muslims in Darfur for nearly four years. To date, the conflict has resulted in targeted and coordinating killing of as many as 450,000 people, displacement of 2.5 million and looting and destruction of 90 percent of Darfurian villages.

The resolution, which became effective January 27, 2007, states specifically that the University will: (1) bar investments in all companies doing business in the Sudan; (2) advise investment managers and investment consultants of this policy decision and ask them to refrain from any investment in companies in this sector in Sudan; (3) require investment managers and consultants to inform the University by June 30, 2007 of any company in its management portfolio doing business in Sudan.

The Board of Trustees notes that while the United States has imposed sanctions against Sudan, non-U.S. companies continue to conduct business there. This has resulted in concerns from international observers that the revenue from foreign interests is paying for the Khartoum government’s military endeavors. The economy has thrived in the last several years, despite the ongoing genocide.

(more)

THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTES TO CUT OFF TIES WITH COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN SUDAN – Page Two

It notes further that while Howard uses a variety of investment tools, managed by skilled professionals, it has long adhered to a principle of socially responsible investing, and developing such a policy under these circumstances supersedes the consideration of investment return.

Howard University is one of 48 U.S. private, Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities and comprises 12 schools and colleges. Founded in 1867, students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. Since 1998, the University has produced two Rhodes Scholars, a Truman Scholar, 13 Fulbright Scholars and nine Pickering Fellows. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D.s than any other university in the world. For more information on Howard University, call 202-238-2330, or visit the University's Web site at www.Howard.edu.

###