

## Presenting the genocide-free investing shareholder proposal at the JPMorgan Chase May 21, 2013 shareholder meeting

My name is Eric Cohen, a founder of Investors Against Genocide. I'm here to present the shareholder proposal which asks JPMorgan to avoid investments in companies substantially contributing to genocide.

This year marks ten years of the genocide in Darfur, and it is the third year that JPMorgan has opposed genocide-free investing. Sadly, JPMorgan has now increased its position in the worst company tied to genocide to 7% of the outstanding shares.<sup>1</sup> As a result, people investing with JPMorgan are still inadvertently linked to companies tied to the atrocities in Sudan.

Investors Against Genocide and its many supporters are truly at a loss to understand JPMorgan's opposition to this proposal. The company claims that its "business practices already reflect our support and respect for the protection of fundamental human rights and the prevention of crimes against humanity." Then how can JPMorgan invest in a company connected to genocide?

As a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, JPMorgan has agreed to "incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis" and to "better align investors with broader objectives of society." How can a company that accepts these responsibilities fail to act against genocide 68 years after the end of the Holocaust and 19 years after the genocide in Rwanda?

There is no compelling reason for these investments. No fiduciary responsibility requires them. Avoiding the very small number of problem companies need not affect financial returns.

The company says it holds securities "in many different capacities" implying that others are responsible for its problematic investments. This claim ignores JPMorgan's role in selecting and recommending investments. Furthermore, why does JPMorgan not even act on the shares it directly controls? If T. Rowe Price, TIAA-CREF, American Funds, 30 states, and 61 colleges can all take steps to avoid investments tied to genocide, why can't JPMorgan?

Since 1997, US sanctions have prohibited American companies from doing business with Sudan's oil industry. Therefore, ExxonMobil is precluded from supporting Sudan's oil industry. But JPMorgan has over four billion dollars invested in foreign companies that provide these same services.<sup>2</sup> JPMorgan's investments in companies such as PetroChina clearly conflicts with the spirit, if not the letter, of the law.

Directors, I ask you to live up to your ideals. I ask you to support the values of your customers who do not want their savings tied to genocide, in Sudan today or anywhere else in the future. This proposal is not difficult to implement and it is well within your abilities to do so. Surely, it is not too much to ask that JPMorgan make an effort to "avoid holding or recommending investments in companies that, in management's judgment, substantially contribute to genocide or crimes against humanity, the most egregious violations of human rights." Moreover, in the face of genocide, it is the right choice, right for your customers, and right for your business.

<sup>1</sup> JPMorgan PetroChina holdings on April 26, 2013, from HKEx filing.

<sup>2</sup> Value of JPMorgan holdings of PetroChina on April 26, 2013, and Sinopec on March 28, 2013, from HKEx filings.