Congressman Arrested at Embassy

The Washington Post

July 21, 2004

A U.S. congressman, his wife and a political activist were arrested yesterday on disorderly conduct charges during a protest at the Sudanese Embassy, authorities said.

Rep. Joseph M. Hoeffel III (D-Pa.), his wife, Francesca, and comedian turned activist Dick Gregory were arrested about 12:15 p.m. by uniformed Secret Service officers and taken to a D.C. police station for processing, officials said.

Hoeffel was the third congressman arrested in a week during a protest at the Sudanese Embassy. Hoeffel and about 30 others yesterday protested what they call government-sponsored genocide in the African nation. Thousands have been killed in Sudan in the last 18 months. About 1 million people have been forced from their homes.

Last week, Reps. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.) and Bobby L. Rush (D-III.) were charged in separate protests.