

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madame Secretary:

We are writing today on a wide range of issues related to Sudan. We are deeply concerned about the upcoming national elections. As you know, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) was designed to create a path towards democracy, equality, and a just system. Sudan is scheduled to hold its first national election in nearly 25 years, but the current circumstances make free and fair elections seem unlikely. The ruling NCP is not providing fair access to the media for opposition candidates and the security services intimidate and harass opposition supporters.

The other critical issue related to the upcoming election is the presidential candidate of the ruling party, President Omar Bashir. On March 4, 2009, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a warrant of arrest for President Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity. This is the first warrant of arrest issued for a sitting head of state. According to the pre-trial judges, President Bashir intentionally directed attacks "against an important part of the civilian population of Darfur." President Bashir has consistently ignored and dismissed the ICC indictment. We are deeply troubled that President Bashir's participation undermines the legitimacy and credibility of the elections. We strongly urge the Administration to make it clear to President Bashir that he must begin cooperating with the ICC.

In October 2009, we were encouraged by the release of the Administration's Comprehensive Sudan Strategy, and we said then that full implementation of the policy objectives was critical. Unfortunately, a number of the provisions outlined in the policy have not been implemented. The new policy focuses on three priorities: an end to the conflict in Darfur; implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA); and ensuring Sudan does not become a safe haven for international terrorist groups. Meanwhile, millions of displaced people in Darfur remain in camps and women and girls continue to suffer from gender based violence. Treatment and support for these victims in Darfur must be a priority, and the U.S. Government must use all diplomatic and technical resources to reduce gender based violence. The new policy pledged support for South Sudan in various sectors in addition to help preparing the country for a

two-state scenario. Since October, we have not seen any serious effort in meeting these priorities.

The Government of South Sudan (GOSS) continues to face many challenges. Since December of 2008 we have seen an escalation of violent ethnic clashes across Southern Sudan and humanitarian conditions have significantly worsened. According to the World Food Program (WFP) "the number of people in southern Sudan in need of food assistance has more than quadrupled from 1 million in 2009 to 4.3 million in 2010." We must take specific measures to build the capacity of the Government of South Sudan in order to be prepared for the possible secession after the 2011 referendum and provide targeted support in the security, education, and health care sectors.

We are also concerned about the February 2010 framework agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The parties agreed in principle to a cease-fire, the release of prisoners of war, the participation of JEM in government, and compensation to Darfur refugees and displaced people. Although a final agreement is expected soon, a number of other Darfur factions have rejected the agreement saying that it does not protect the most vulnerable groups in Darfur. We are concerned the splintering of the rebel groups makes it difficult to reach any substantive agreement that would have a positive outcome for people on the ground.

This is a critical moment in Sudan's history. We strongly urge you to fully implement the strategic objectives outlined in the new Sudan policy, and we hope to work more closely with you to achieve a more peaceful and democratic Sudan in the future.

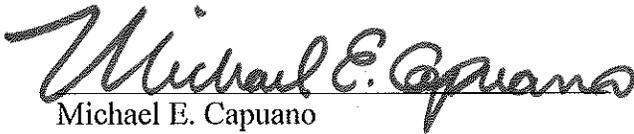
Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne
Co-Chairman
Sudan Caucus



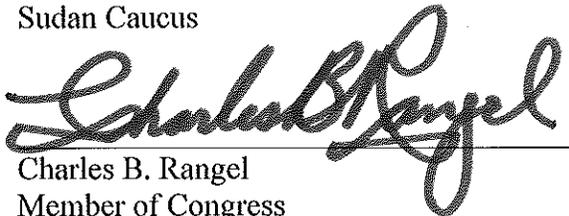
Frank R. Wolf
Co-Chairman
Sudan Caucus



Michael E. Capuano
Co-Chairman
Sudan Caucus



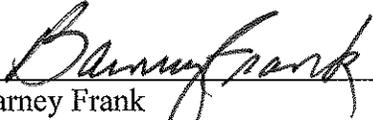
Michael T. McCaul
Co-Chairman
Sudan Caucus

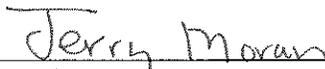


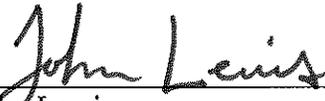
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



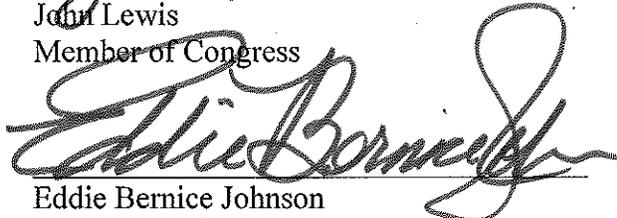
Christopher Smith
Member of Congress


Barney Frank
Member of Congress

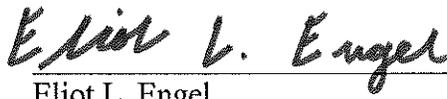

Jerry Moran
Member of Congress

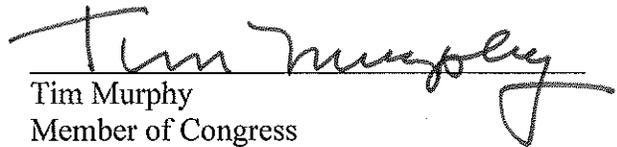

John Lewis
Member of Congress

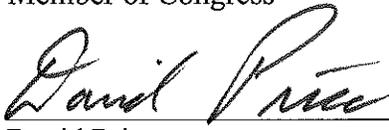

John Boozman
Member of Congress

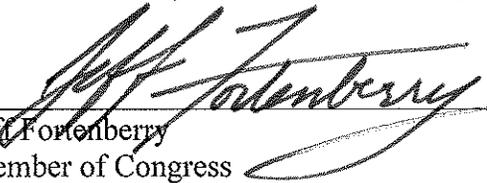

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Trent Franks
Member of Congress

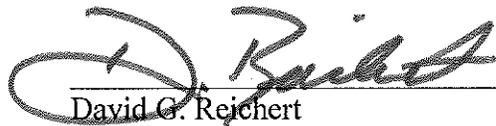

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

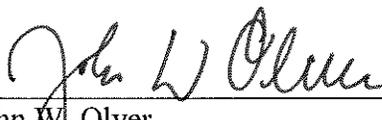

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

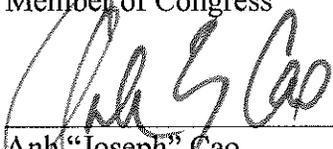

David Price
Member of Congress

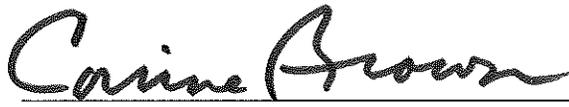

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress


James P. Moran
Member of Congress


David G. Reichert
Member of Congress


John W. Olver
Member of Congress


Anh "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



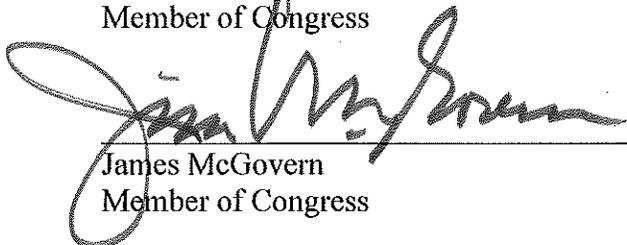
Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



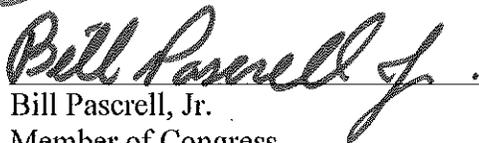
Michael Doyle
Member of Congress



Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress



James McGovern
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



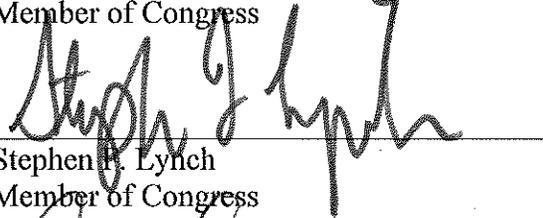
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



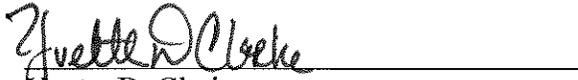
James Langevin
Member of Congress



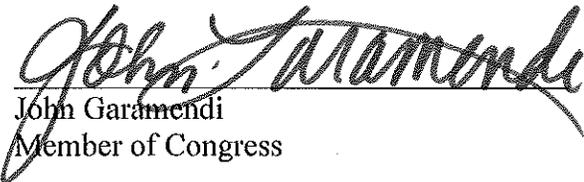
Stephen R. Lynch
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress

cc: Major General Scott Graton, USAF, Retired
United States Special Envoy to Sudan