Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2006

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing out of continued concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Darfur and the recently signed Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and to again call on you to immediately appoint a Special Envoy. Despite the signing of the DPA between the government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), prospects for lasting peace remain uncertain and precarious. Civilians in Darfur remain extremely vulnerable to attacks by Janjaweed and other pro-government militias.

Continued active engagement by the U.S government remains critical at this juncture. We must continue to work to build support for a just peace in Darfur. Protection of civilians and implementation of the DPA will require the active engagement of the international community. With the recent announcement of Deputy Secretary Zoellick's planned departure from the Administration, we urge you once again to move forward in appointing a Presidential Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan. As you know, this month you signed into law the Emergency Supplemental Act, which included $250,000 to assign this Special Envoy. We encourage you and your staff to move expeditiously in order to help resolve this conflict in Darfur as soon as possible. The immediate appointment of a Special Envoy would demonstrate clearly to all parties—and the international community—that the United States will remain engaged and committed at the highest level to bringing peace to Darfur.

According to the United Nations Secretary General's report of May 19, 2006, "Civilians in Darfur continue to suffer the consequences of persistent violence and insecurity, with new displacement of populations, high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, and consistent denial of access to humanitarian assistance. As the conflict has become increasingly erratic and fragmented, civilians have become more exposed to attacks and abuse, and the population's need for protection more acute."

The signing of the DPA presents an opportunity for peace in Darfur, however the challenges ahead are enormous. Many in Darfur and in the Darfuri expatriate community, including two rebel groups, are opposed to this agreement. Much work remains to be done in convincing Darfuris that the agreement will bring an end to the violence and bring those responsible for the atrocities to justice.

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As you know, following the signing of the DPA on May 5th, violence intensified in Darfur. Civilians were the targets of attacks by the government-sanctioned Janjaweed militias The need for security in Darfur is great and civilian protection must remain our first priority. Without the presence of a strong peacekeeping force, civilians will continue to suffer and the fragile DPA may break. The United Nations Security Council must move rapidly to deploy a UN peacekeeping force to Darfur with a mandate to protect civilians.

On July 30, 2004, the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 1556 calling on the government of Sudan to disarm the Janjaweed militia. Instead of complying with this resolution, the government of Sudan began integrating the Janjaweed into its armed forces and paramilitary. The U.S. and the African Union must urgently pressure the government to agree to a real disarmament plan and create a mechanism for verification.

Millions are still living in camps in horrible conditions. These Darfuris hope to return home to rebuild their lives. However the terror they have experienced and the continued instability in the region hinders their ability to return to their villages. It is essential that a peacekeeping force be deployed in order to help facilitate the return of those who have suffered unspeakable horrors.

The protection of civilians means not only ending the bloodshed, but bringing those responsible to justice. Nearly two years ago the Congress and the Administration declared that genocide was occurring in Darfur and a year and a half ago the UN Commission of Inquiry determined that crimes against humanity "no less serious than genocide" have been committed against Darfuri civilians at the hands of the government and its Janjaweed. However, not one person directly responsible for the atrocities has been held accountable. t is essential for the international community to punish the orchestrators of mass atrocities and hold these criminals accountable.

The people of Darfur have suffered for too many years. We must do all that we can to alleviate their pain and bring peace to their homeland.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Payne	Frank R. Wolf	Michael E. Capuano	Tom Tancredo
Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress	Member of Congress

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Jim Marshall

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