

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2008

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President, People's Republic of China
c/o His Excellency Zhou Wen Zhong
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to once again express our grave concern regarding the continuing atrocities taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan, and to urge you to use your significant influence with the government of Sudan to ensure that it ends its ongoing obstruction of peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts to protect civilians and restore a basic level of stability to the region. Without a much stronger effort from the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to convince the government of Sudan to end its obstruction, the real though limited progress made during the past year will be undone, and the possibility of an expanded regional crisis beyond Darfur's borders will continue to grow.

The crisis in Darfur, which for nearly five years has been fueled in large part by the government of Sudan's armed forces and its proxy Janjaweed militias, has already displaced over 2.5 million Darfurians, including over 140,000 in 2007, and has cost hundreds of thousands of lives. As the conflict continues and battles between the Sudanese army, its Janjaweed militias, and the ever-growing number of rebel factions intensify, the field of conflict has expanded to include additional areas of Chad, the Central African Republic, and Sudanese states to the east of Darfur such as Kordofan.

Millions of Sudanese civilians living in villages and in camps for the internally displaced suffer the consequences of the ongoing violence, as do local and international aid workers. This also imperils the basic food, medicine, and assistance on which most of these civilians depend for survival. The absolute need for the civilian protection and a basic level of humanitarian operational security has never been clearer.

We welcomed, therefore, the unanimous passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1769 on July 31, 2007, authorizing the United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). We note with gratitude the leading role the PRC played in securing the government of Sudan's commitment to the UNAMID mission, and further note the presence of Chinese military engineers deployed as part of that mission.

Yet, despite that unanimous commitment of the UN Security Council, the UNAMID mission is in danger of failure, according to recent statements by UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Marie Guehenno. This is due in large part to the government of Sudan's efforts to weaken and delay the mission. The government of Sudan continues to block the full deployment of UNAMID by refusing to formally approve a UN-submitted list of potential troop contributors; by refusing all additional "non-African" troops, thus violating the letter and intent of Resolution 1769; by refusing to lease suitable land for use as UNAMID bases in Darfur, by demanding unreasonable and unprecedented terms in the Status of Forces Agreement; and by outrageously attempting to impose a nighttime curfew on UNAMID operations. In the latest egregious act, the government of Sudan's Armed Forces itself attacked a UNAMID convoy on the night of January 7, 2008.

If such actions by the government of Sudan are allowed to continue, the resulting failure of UNAMID to achieve even a fraction of its mandate will call into question both the ability and the intent of the Security Council in general and the PRC in particular to follow through on the terms of Resolution 1769.

As the party which presided over and was instrumental in achieving the unanimous vote on Resolution 1769, the PRC bears a special responsibility to ensure that the UNAMID mission is fully deployed as agreed to by all parties on July 31, 2007. As the government of Sudan's largest trading partner and benefactor, the PRC also enjoys a unique ability to end the government of Sudan's blatant attempts to obstruct and weaken the UNAMID mission.

Unfortunately, the PRC has in recent months shown no willingness to take such action, and has instead reverted to its former role as the government of Sudan's chief protector and apologist at the UN and on the international stage. While the PRC doubled its trade with Sudan and reaffirmed its friendship with the government of Sudan in 2007, it has since August shown no willingness to seriously hold its friend to account. To the contrary, reports from the UN Security Council indicate that the PRC has taken every opportunity to shield the government of Sudan from any attempt to hold it accountable for its willful obstruction of Resolution 1769, and even tried to shield it from the full and rightful condemnation of the Security Council following the January 7 Sudanese Armed Forces' attack on the UNAMID convoy.

We therefore again urge the PRC to impress upon Khartoum the need to honor its commitments to the PRC and to the UN Security Council by ending its obstruction of UNAMID's deployment and operations, ceasing all harassment of humanitarian aid operations in Darfur, and working faithfully towards a political solution by moving ahead with preparations for the legally mandated 2009 national elections.

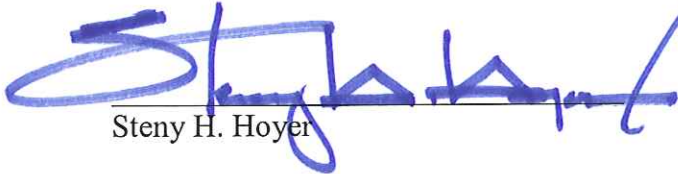
We further urge the PRC to end its protection of the government of Sudan at the UN Security Council, and to support or at least abstain from any resolution put forward to create consequences via targeted sanctions for its continued obstruction of Resolution 1769. We believe your successful effort to strip sanctions language from Resolution


1769 – sanctions that would have provided clear incentives for Sudan’s cooperation with UNAMID -- is a main reason why Sudan has taken its obstructionist approach.


Mr. President, our primary objectives remain to protect civilians in Darfur, end the violence, find a just political solution to the conflict, and begin the long path to reconstruction and reconciliation. We remain committed to achieving these objectives, and will continue to work with any in the international community who truly wish to achieve them. We hope China is willing to responsibly do its part by using the tools unique to its close relationship with Sudan. Both history and contemporary public opinion will judge your government on the efforts that you have pursued to stop the perpetrators of genocide and to make common cause with the international community on behalf of the victims of Khartoum’s policies.


Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.


Sincerely,

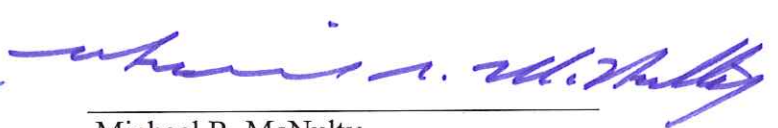

Steny H. Hoyer

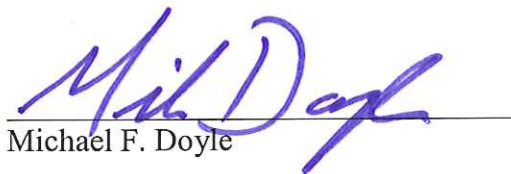

Michael E. Capuano

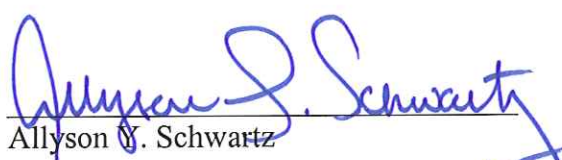

Frank R. Wolf


Donald M. Payne


Barbara Lee

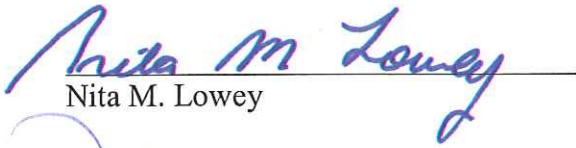

Michael R. McNulty


Michael F. Doyle

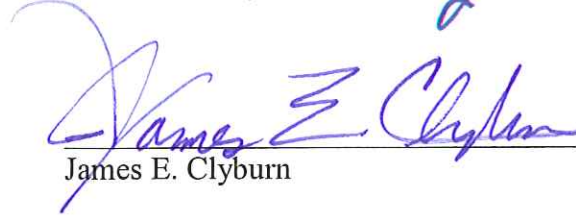

Allyson J. Schwartz


Carolyn B. Maloney

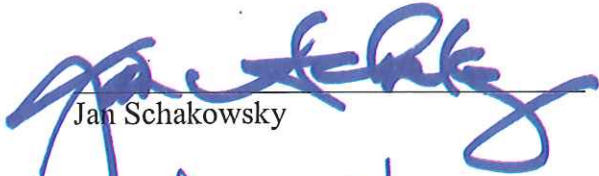

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.


Nita M. Lowey

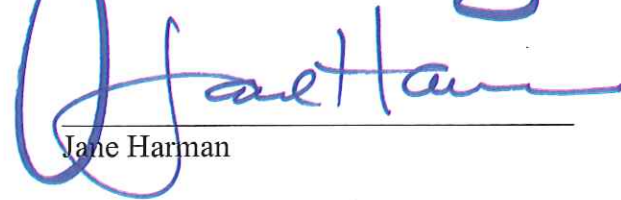

Adam B. Schiff


James E. Clyburn

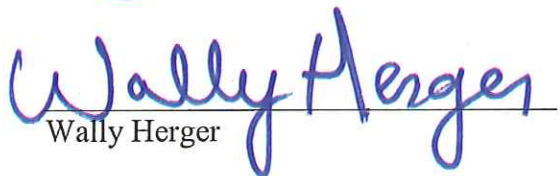

Debbie Wasserman Schultz


Jan Schakowsky


Bobby L. Rush


Jane Harman

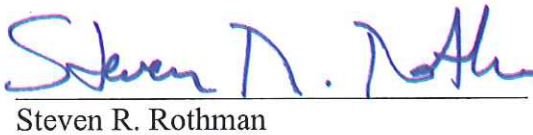

Tim Ryan

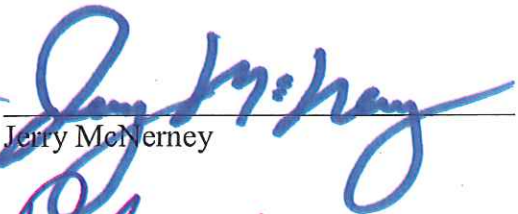

Wally Herger

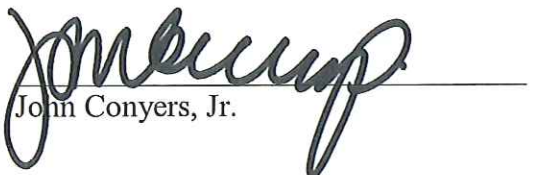

David E. Price

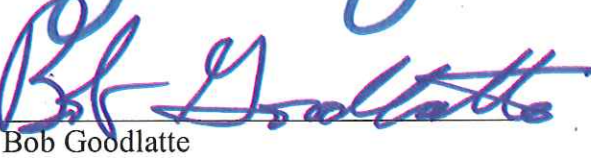

Albio Sires

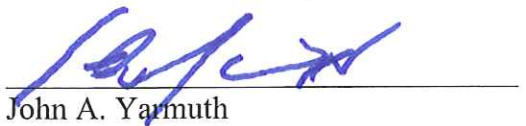

Howard Coble


Steven R. Rothman


Jerry McNerney


John Conyers, Jr.

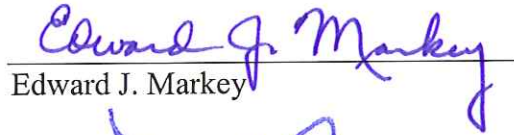

Bob Goodlatte


John A. Yarmuth

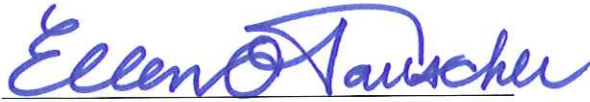

Lynn Woolsey



Steve Chabot



Edward J. Markey



Ellen O. Tauscher



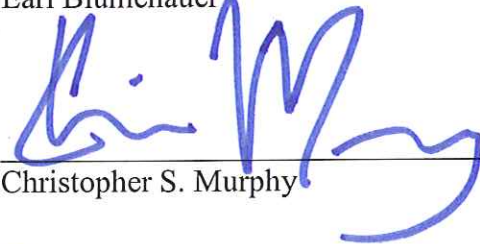
Tammy Baldwin



Earl Blumenauer



Michael H. Michaud



Christopher S. Murphy



Betty Sutton



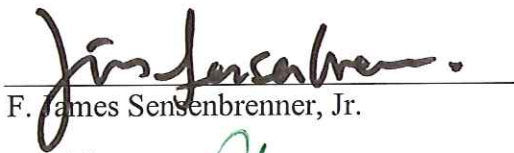
Yvette D. Clarke



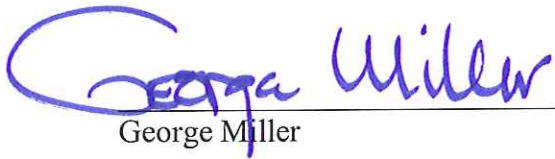
Timothy H. Bishop



Harry E. Mitchell



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.



George Miller



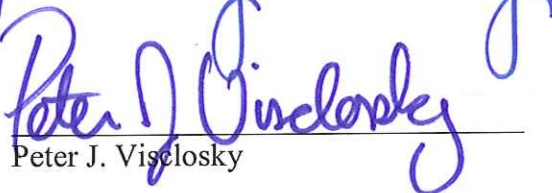
Gene Green



Shelley Berkley



Al Green



Peter J. Visclosky



Rush D. Holt

Ed Pastor

Ed Pastor

James P. McGovern

James P. McGovern

Ray LaHood

Ray LaHood

Rosa L. DeLauro

Rosa L. DeLauro

Gary L. Ackerman

Gary L. Ackerman

Thaddeus G. McCotter

Thaddeus G. McCotter

Scott Garrett

Scott Garrett

Phil Hare

Phil Hare

Brad Miller

Brad Miller

Kendrick B. Meek

Kendrick B. Meek

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Michael M. Honda

Michael M. Honda

Wm. Lacy Clay

Wm. Lacy Clay

Bob Filner

Bob Filner

Charles A. Gonzales

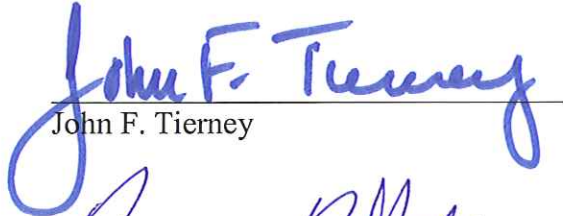
Charles A. Gonzales

Paul W. Hodes

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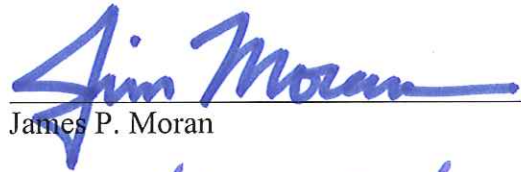

Heath Shuler


Christopher Shays


John F. Tierney

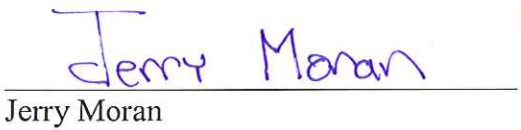

Barney Frank

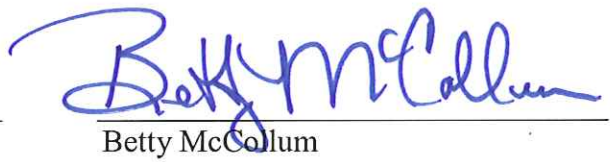

Diana DeGette


James P. Moran


Zoe Lofgren


Steve Cohen

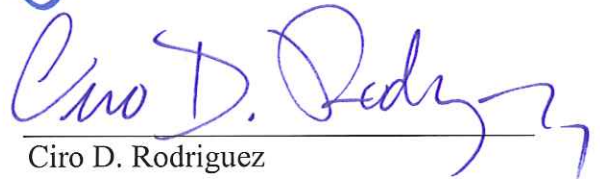

Jerry Moran

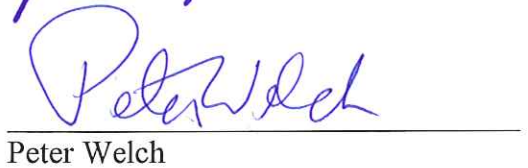

Betty McCollum

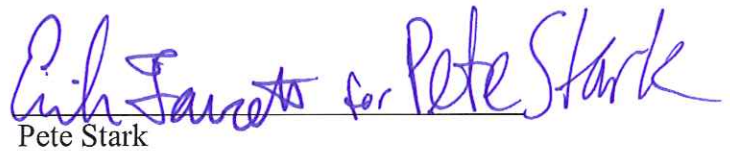

Chris Van Hollen


Lloyd Doggett

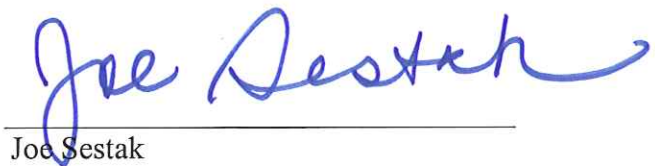

Trent Franks


Ciro D. Rodriguez


Peter Welch

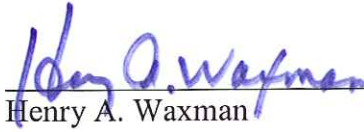

Pete Stark


Bob Inglis


Joe Sestak


Darlene Hooley


Alcee L. Hastings


Henry A. Waxman


Robert A. Brady

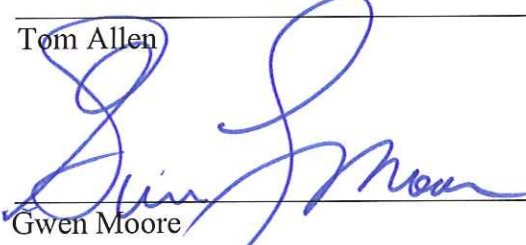

James R. Langevin

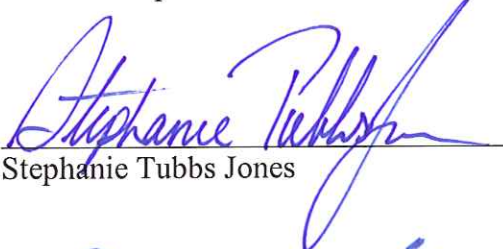

Frank A. LoBiondo

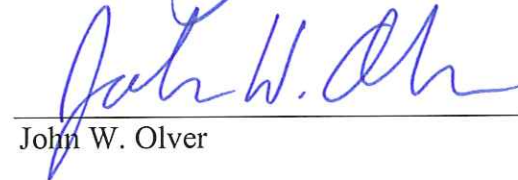

Keith Ellison

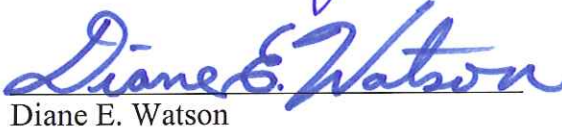

Tom Allen


Mike Thompson

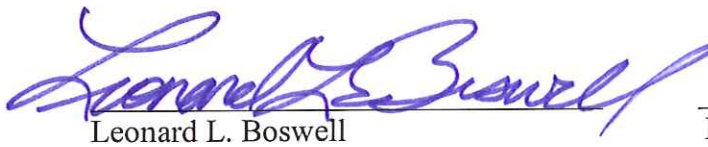

Gwen Moore

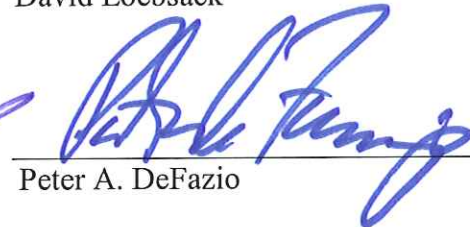

Stephanie Tubbs Jones


John W. Olver


Diane E. Watson



David Loebsock


Leonard L. Boswell

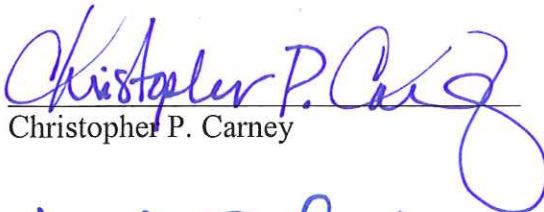

Peter A. DeFazio


Albert R. Wynn


Patrick J. Kennedy


James L. Oberstar



Maxine Waters


Christopher P. Carney


Doris O. Matsui

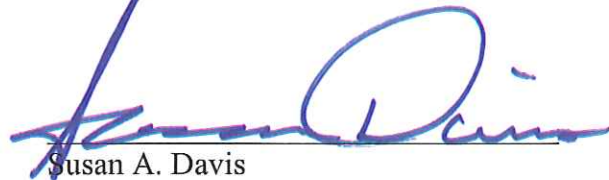

Stephen F. Lynch


Dennis J. Kucinich

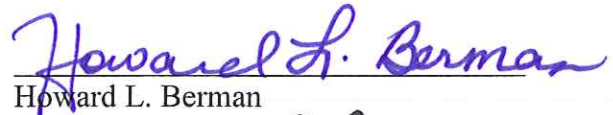

Collin C. Peterson


Virginia Foxx


Melvin L. Watt



Susan A. Davis

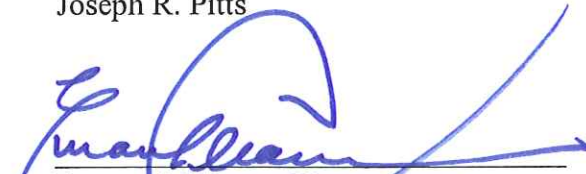

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

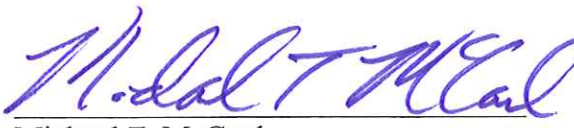

Howard L. Berman

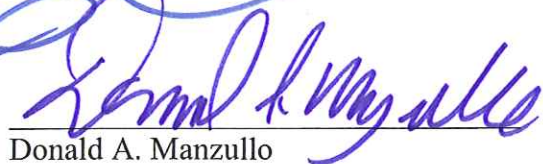

Elijah E. Cummings


Joseph R. Pitts

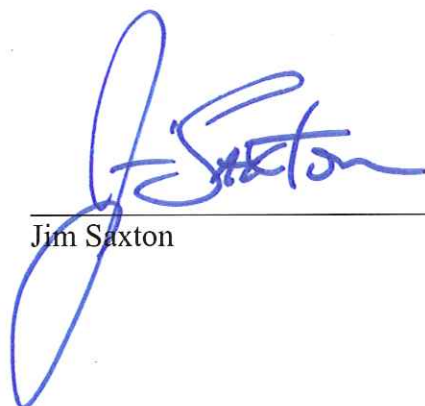

Sander M. Levin


Emanuel Cleaver, II


Michael T. McCaul


Donald A. Manzullo


Dave Reichert


Jim Saxton

cc: The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State

The Honorable Clark T. Randt, Jr.
U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China