

SCOTT GARRETT
5TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3005

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May 30, 2008

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the atrocities the government of Sudan continues to commit against its own citizens. As the Administration prepares to assume the presidency of the UN Security Council this Sunday for the month of June, we call for strong US leadership and action at the UN to protect civilians and hold the government of Sudan accountable for its flagrant defiance of numerous Security Council Resolutions on Darfur. So long as the Government of Sudan continues to target innocent civilians, we have deep reservations about ongoing bilateral US negotiations with Sudan. There should be no discussion regarding a favorable shift in US policy toward Sudan until the regime in Khartoum demonstrates a commitment to change its human rights policies and practices.

In 2004, the United States declared the atrocities in Darfur to be genocide. More than 400,000 have been killed and an estimated 2.5 million people have been displaced, and the crisis continues to escalate. Since January 2008, Khartoum has carried out a series of attacks on civilians, including aerial bombardments of three West Darfur villages on February 8, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians. The bombardments used attack helicopters in violation of the ban on offensive military overflights imposed by the Security Council under Resolution 1591. The aerial bombardments were supported by government-backed Janjaweed militia, underscoring the Government of Sudan's failure to disarm the Janjaweed in continuing violation of Security Council Resolution 1556 of 2004.

The government of Sudan also continues to block the full deployment of UNAMID (the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur) by refusing to formally approve a UN-submitted list of potential troop contributors; by refusing most additional "non-African" troops, thus violating the intent of Resolution 1769; by refusing to lease suitable land for use as UNAMID bases in Darfur; and by unreasonably attempting to impose a nighttime curfew on UNAMID operations. In a recent egregious act, the Government of Sudan's Armed Forces itself attacked a UNAMID convoy on the night of January 7, 2008. While we commend Special Envoy Richard Williamson for making full UNAMID deployment a priority for the Administration's negotiations with the Government of Sudan, we are highly concerned about potential US concessions that could be made in the course of future negotiations to a government that continues to be a dishonest broker in resolving the Darfur crisis.

The Sudanese government also openly flouts international law by committing grave crimes in Darfur with impunity. In January, Musa Hilal, the notorious Janjaweed leader who is subject to both Security Council sanctions under Resolution 1591 and also US sanctions for his role in

Darfur's atrocities, was given a special advisory position by President Omar Bashir. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad rightly criticized this appointment as Khartoum showing "contempt for the rule of law." The Sudanese government's disregard for accountability was again recently demonstrated by the reported promotion of General Awad Ibn Auf, former head of Military Intelligence and Security, to Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff. The Administration placed General Auf on the US sanctions list in May 2007 for his role in the Darfur conflict.

Furthermore, in clear defiance of Resolution 1593 which referred the Darfur situation to the International Criminal Court (ICC), Khartoum refuses to hand over two men accused by the ICC of committing 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. The ICC Chief Prosecutor's scheduled June report to the Security Council will in all likelihood confirm Sudan's noncompliance with Resolution 1593. This report provides the US with a concrete opportunity to lead the Security Council in condemning Sudan's policy of outright obstructionism on Resolution 1593 and other Darfur-related resolutions.

Mr. President, as Republican and Democratic members of Congress, we represent the vast majority of the American people who stand in solidarity with millions of Darfurians and other innocent civilians in Sudan. In the face of ongoing atrocities and violence, all eyes are on the US at the Security Council to act swiftly and decisively on Darfur. We therefore respectfully urge you to impose the following benchmarks through the Security Council:

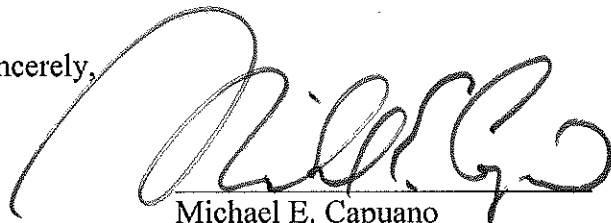
1. The Government of Sudan must immediately cease all deliberate or indiscriminate attacks on civilians.
2. The Government of Sudan must allow the full deployment of UNAMID forces in accordance with Resolution 1769, and ensure that UNAMID forces have freedom of movement throughout Darfur and can carry out their mandate unrestricted.
3. The Government of Sudan must provide humanitarian aid organizations and workers with unhindered access to Darfur.
4. The Government of Sudan must hand over to the ICC all indicted individuals without any delay as required by Resolution 1593.
5. The Government of Sudan must fully implement the targeted sanctions imposed on four individuals under Resolution 1591, in particular Janjaweed leader Musa Hilal.

We look forward to working with you in our continued efforts to end the suffering in Darfur and establishing lasting peace in Sudan.



Scott Garrett
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



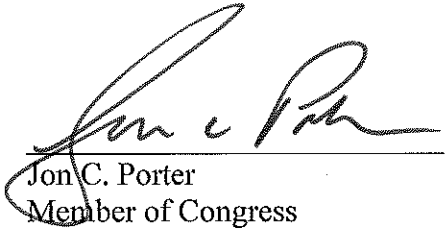
Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



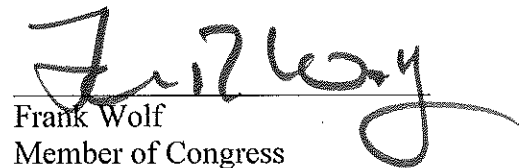
Jon C. Porter
Member of Congress



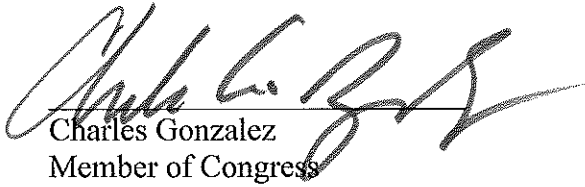
Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress



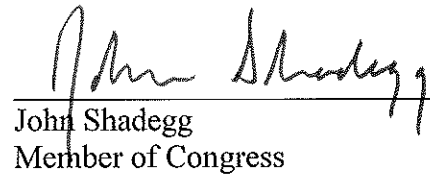
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



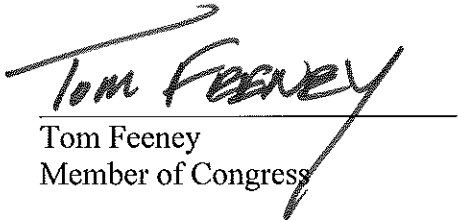
Frank Wolf
Member of Congress



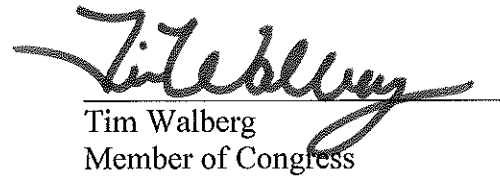
Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress



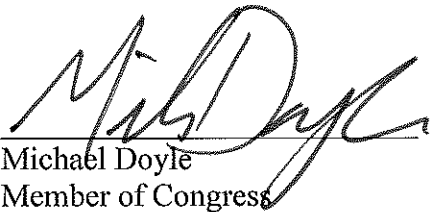
John Shadegg
Member of Congress



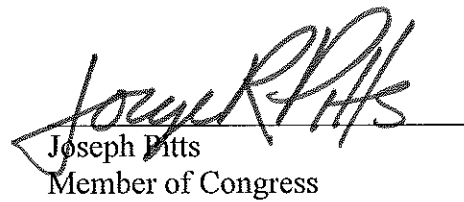
Tom Feeney
Member of Congress



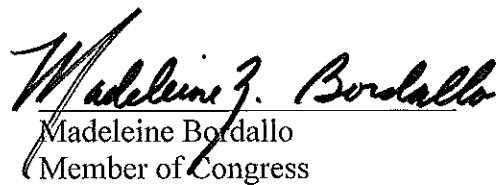
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



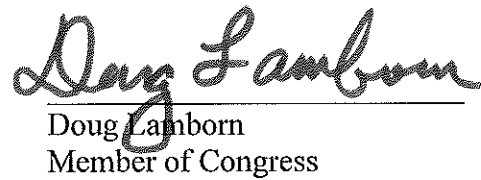
Michael Doyle
Member of Congress



Joseph Pitts
Member of Congress



Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



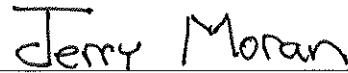
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



Paul Broun
Member of Congress



William Jefferson
Member of Congress



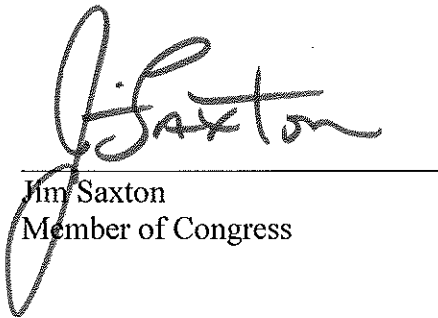
Jerry Moran
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress



Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress



Jim Saxton
Member of Congress



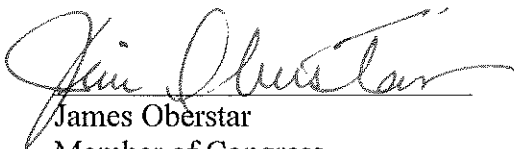
Melvin Watt
Member of Congress



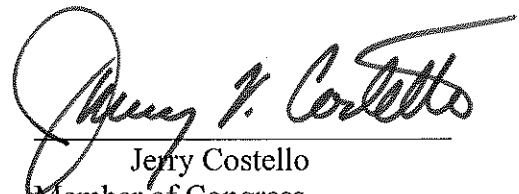
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



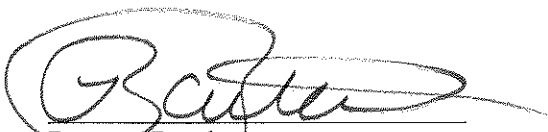
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



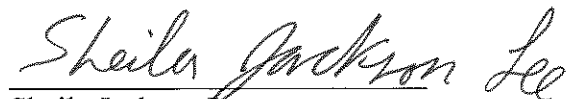
James Oberstar
Member of Congress



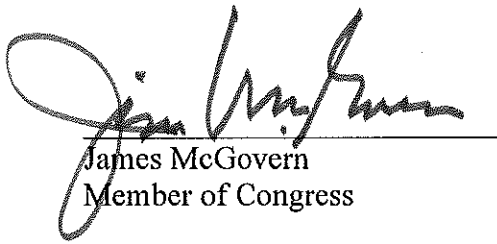
Jerry Costello
Member of Congress

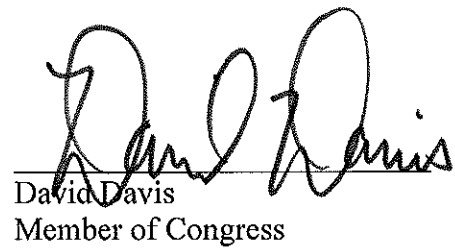


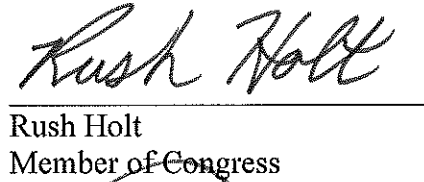
Roscoe Bartlett
Member of Congress

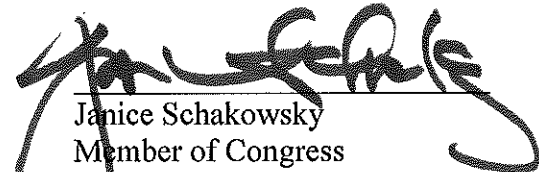


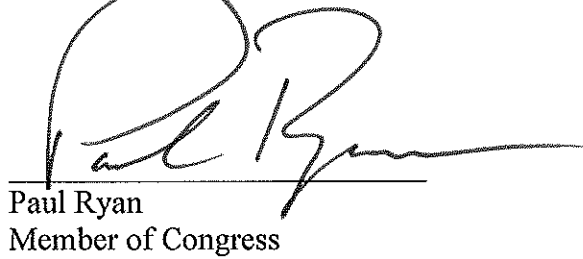
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

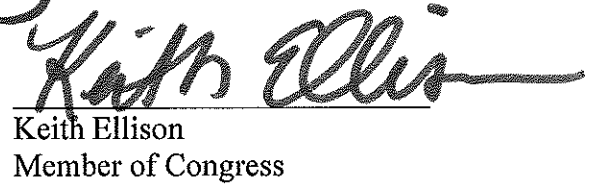

James McGovern
Member of Congress

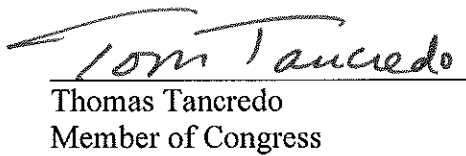

David Davis
Member of Congress

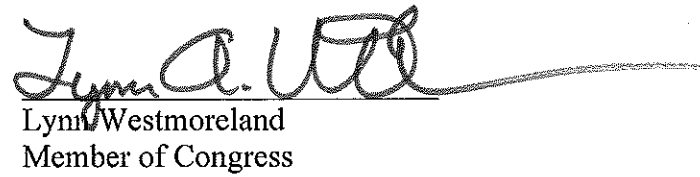

Rush Holt
Member of Congress



Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress

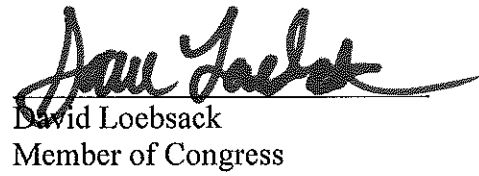

Paul Ryan
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

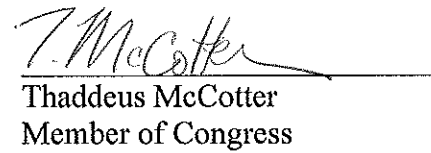

Thomas Tancredo
Member of Congress

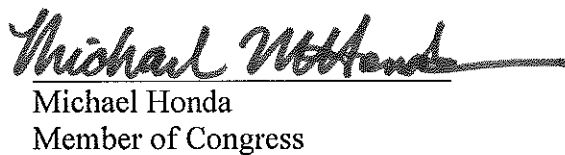

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress


Trent Franks
Member of Congress

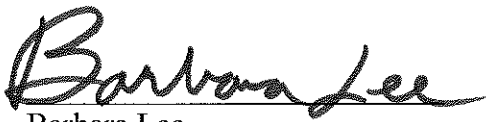

David Loebsack
Member of Congress


David Reichert
Member of Congress

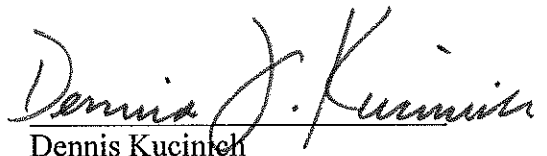

Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress


Michael Honda
Member of Congress


Betty Sutton
Member of Congress



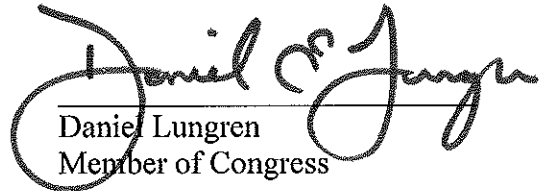
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



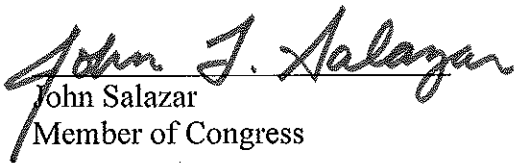
Daniel Lungren
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



John Salazar
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



James Moran
Member of Congress



Mark Kirk
Member of Congress