

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 30, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

We write to you regarding the deteriorating situation in Darfur and to propose a way to gain greater support for stopping the genocide from a key external player: China. On 4-5 November 2006, China will be hosting the Sino-African cooperation summit in Beijing with top diplomats and heads of state from over 48 African countries (including Sudan) in attendance. We respectfully request that you and our Ambassadors in Africa forcefully encourage those African states attending the summit who want an end to the violence in Darfur to convey their concerns directly to China during the summit.

China has close commercial ties with Sudan, particularly in the energy sector, giving it critical leverage over the Sudanese government that the United States lacks. Yet despite US efforts, China remains unconscionably reluctant to use this leverage and pressure Khartoum to end the atrocities, as reflected by its abstention on UNSC 1706.

The argument for Chinese intervention is simple. Darfur is a transnational problem that is embroiling neighboring states and destabilizing the region. Upholding its responsibilities as a global player requires China to respond during such crises, as does protecting its significant economic stakes in the continent. In 2006, Sino-African trade will reach \$50 billion; 30% of China's oil comes from Africa. Continued regional instability with China standing on the sidelines will only diminish China's political and commercial capital in Africa in the long-run.

Many African countries have expressed their concern regarding the situation in Darfur and some have already sent troops as part of the African Mission in Sudan. Hearing directly from the continent's top officials with whom China is trying to cultivate long-term relationships will have a greater impact than the United States' isolated appeals to Beijing. We must capitalize on the opportunity that this summit presents to have our African friends deliver a collective message to the Chinese leadership at the highest level.

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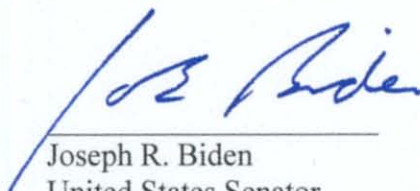
Over 400,000 people have already died in Darfur and another 2.5 million displaced. Time is the essence in preventing thousands more from dying needlessly. We must do all we can to directly and indirectly push China to exert its influence over Khartoum to bring an end to the ongoing genocide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

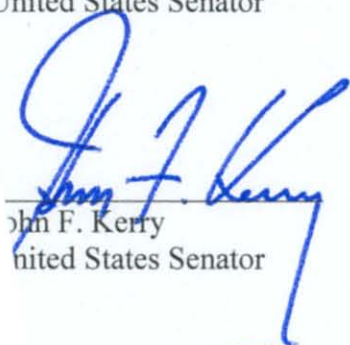
Sincerely,



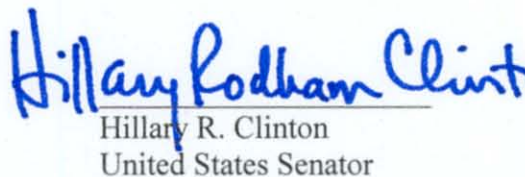
Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senator



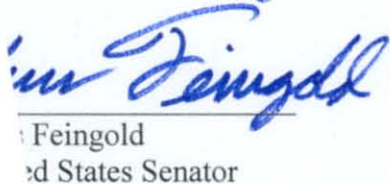
Joseph R. Biden
United States Senator



John F. Kerry
United States Senator



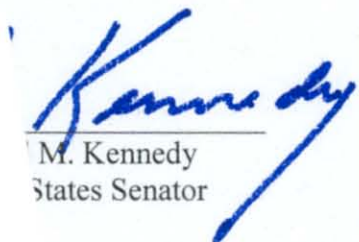
Hillary R. Clinton
United States Senator



Amy Poehler
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator

cc: Honorable Jendayi E. Frazer, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs
cc: Honorable Andrew Natsios, Presidential Special Envoy to Sudan