

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2006

Ambassador Randall L. Tobias
U.S. Director of Foreign Assistance and USAID Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Ronald Reagan Building, Suite 610
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523-6100

Dear Ambassador Tobias:

We are writing regarding recent alarming reports that the United Nation's World Food Program (WFP) may soon cut food rations to the Darfur region by half of the current amount. We urge you to investigate the situation and provide necessary assistance to resolve any shortages in food aid.

As you know, Darfur and the surrounding region is the temporary home for millions of refugees and displaced persons, many escaping the genocide and other violence occurring in Sudan. Report after report shows that these victims have poor access to food and shelter and many risk their lives and safety to simply gather firewood to prepare the little food they have.

The WFP has directly provided crucial food assistance to millions of people in need in the Darfur region and surrounding regions. Unfortunately, recent reports state that the WFP may need to cut food rations in half, as the WFP claims it has only received one third of the money required to meet the needs of millions of refugees and displaced persons in Darfur.

On top of genocide and displacement, Sudanese victims should not face a cut in food rations. While we vigorously work to help end the conflict in Sudan, we must ensure that basic human needs are met in Sudan.

H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, contains provisions for both humanitarian and peacekeeping assistance in Sudan that could significantly ease the financial strain on the WFP's efforts in the Darfur region. If there are immediate food needs, until H.R. 4939 is enacted, and without negatively affecting other pressing food emergencies around the world, we urge you to use your funds to address shortfalls in the WFP to prevent imminent cuts in food rations for Sudanese refugees and displaced persons.

We would further appreciate receiving your assessment of how well food assistance to Sudan and the surrounding region is being managed, and whether WFP and other

international food aid operations would benefit from improvements in management and operations. If improvements are needed, we would appreciate an explanation of proposed recommendations by USAID.

Furthermore, we understand that the U.S. has been the primary source of funds for food aid in Darfur with the U.S. paying for 80% of food aid to Darfur and the surrounding regions last year. It appears that the international community has contributed even less to the Darfur food program this year. We strongly urge you to pressure your counterparts in other nations who have either failed to pledge assistance to the WFP, or have pledged but not provided actual payments, to immediately provide financial assistance to the WFP in Darfur. Furthermore, we would like to be informed of specific efforts by U.S. officials to urge other potential major donors to provide food assistance to refugees and displaced persons in and around Darfur.

Sudanese refugees have suffered long enough from genocide and other violence, displacement, and lack of basic food and shelter. We urge you to do everything you can to ensure that the food situation in Sudan does not deteriorate due to lack of funding to the WFP or management concerns at the WFP and other international food operations.

Sincerely,



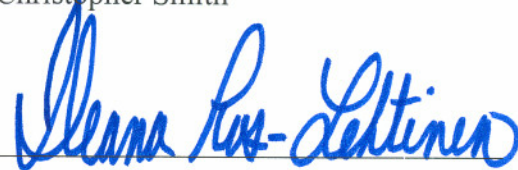
Zoe Lofgren



Christopher Smith



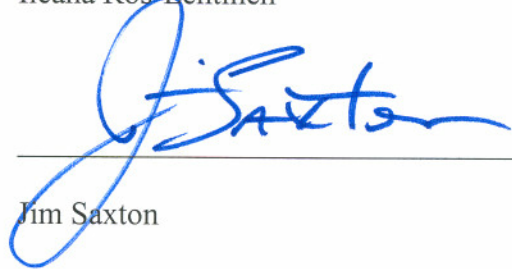
John Conyers



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Howard Berman



Jim Saxton



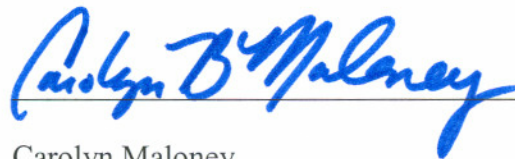
Jane Harman



Thomas G. Tancredo



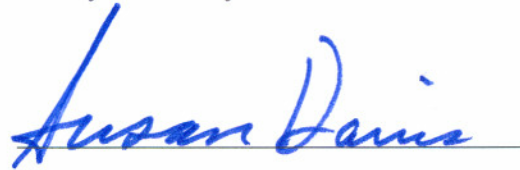
Sherrod Brown



Carolyn Maloney



Donald Payne



Susan Davis



Gary Ackerman



Earl Pomeroy



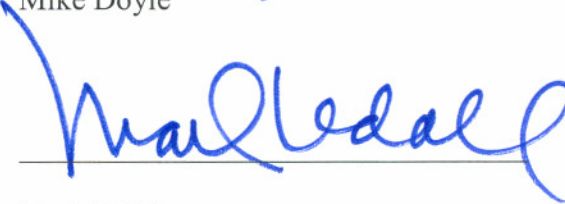
Jerrold Nadler



Mike Doyle



Raul M. Grijalva



Mark Udall



Robert Andrews




Tammy Baldwin



Barney Frank



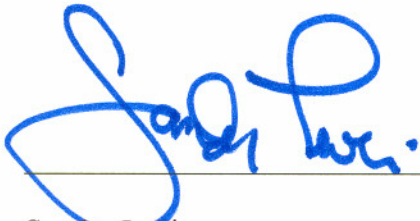
Martin Meehan



Jim Matheson



Linda Sanchez



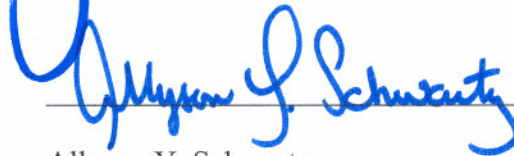
Sander Levin



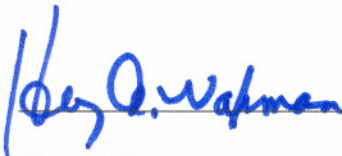
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Maxine Waters



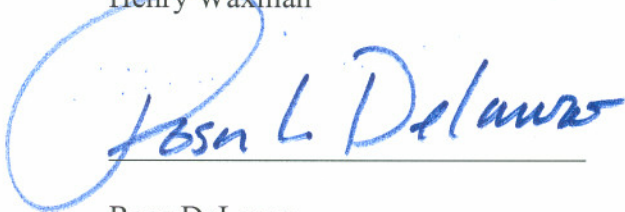
Allyson Y. Schwartz



Henry Waxman



Pete Stark



Rosa DeLauro



Sue Myrick