

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 5, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-218 the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Kolbe  
Chairman  
Foreign Operations, Export Financing  
and Related Programs Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
Room HB-26, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Foreign Operations, Export Financing  
and Related Programs Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis, Ranking Member Obey, Chairman Kolbe and Ranking Member Lowey,

As you begin the conference process for H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery of 2006, we urge you to maintain the funding level for Sudan that was approved by both houses of Congress.

As you know, on May 5, 2006, a peace agreement was signed between the Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). While the signing of this agreement offers a chance for peace, much more remains to be done to ensure that peace takes hold. The United States and the African Union played a role in securing this agreement and we urge both parties, as well as the international community to remain steadfast in their commitment to peace in Darfur.

Today Darfur is in a state of chaos and the humanitarian situation is even more dire than it was a year ago. Over half of the population of Darfur has been affected by the genocide. New estimates suggest that 450,000 innocent civilians have died and several million have been displaced from their homes. Over 3.5 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance.

Every day there are reports of more violence in Darfur: bombings of villages, riots in internally-displaced persons camps, rapes and murders of civilians. Preparations are being made to transition the African Union force on the ground to a more robust United Nations peacekeeping mission, however this could take as long as a year. In the meantime, the 4900 African Union military personnel are the only security in Darfur. These forces are hampered by a lack of numbers as well as a lack of logistical capacity and communications and transportation equipment. The funding included in H.R. 4939

for the African Union Mission in Sudan will allow them to strengthen their forces on the ground and more effectively protect civilians. If the Darfur Peace Agreement is to take hold, security must be brought to Darfur. We ask for your support for the African Union Mission in Sudan at this critical time and for the transition to a UN force in the future.

The U.S. has been a generous and consistent donor to this humanitarian disaster, however more assistance is needed immediately. The rising insecurity and funding shortfalls coupled with increased restrictions placed on humanitarian workers by the Government of Sudan threaten the ability to bring much-needed aid to Darfur. Additionally last month, the World Food Program cut rations to Darfur in half—bringing the daily caloric intake down from 2100 to 1050 calories per day. As you know, there are significant funds for food aid in this bill and the need for this increased assistance is both immediate and compelling.

We recognize that there are strong budgetary pressures and competing domestic and international priorities. However, for the last three years the people of Darfur have suffered through unspeakable horrors that the world has failed to stop. At this pivotal moment, Congress must continue to demonstrate U.S. leadership and commitment, we cannot fail the people of Darfur now.

Sincerely,

Nicholas E. Caputo

Tom Tanenbaum

Donald Payne

Madhu M. Chhabra

Lantos



LELON BISH

Barbara Lee

Bud Hill

~~Gregory W. Muto~~

Ernest C. ...

R. L. ...

Eddie B. ...

Cal Pomeroy

Tom ...

A. ...

J. B. ...

Billy ...

Jan ...

Jimmy Baldwin

Mr. J. Ferguson

Pety Doffy

Henry A. Wapman

George Miller

Michael R. Nichols

Mat Mack

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_