

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker J. Dennis Hastert
H-232 Capitol Building

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi
H-204 Capitol Building

Majority Leader Tom DeLay
H-107 Capitol Building

January 7, 2005

Dear Speaker Hastert, Leader DeLay, and Leader Pelosi:

As the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan continues to intensify, members of both parties have come together to declare the situation to be genocide and to demand action to save lives and protect human rights. One of the simplest steps for Congress to continue playing a positive role would be for Members to experience the tragedy of Darfur firsthand.

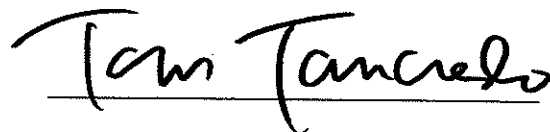
We understand from those on the ground in Sudan that high-profile visits by many Members of Congress would go a long way towards saving lives and bringing the genocide to an end. A series of visits would educate and motivate Members to action, as well as attract the attention of news media, not just in the United States, but around the world. Most importantly, it would give a sign of hope to the hundreds of thousands of people whose families are at risk. These visits will place pressure on the Government of Sudan and give notice to Khartoum that they cannot ignore the pressure of the international community nor evade responsibility for the crimes in Darfur.

For these reasons, we are requesting that the leadership of the House of Representatives make it a priority to create, over the next session of Congress, a series of Congressional delegations to the Sudan and provide the opportunity to go to Sudan for any Member who wishes.

At a time when both President Bush and Senator Kerry have called upon the country to come together for the benefit of us all, we believe that this nonpartisan initiative can be a vibrant demonstration of the ways in which our values unite us as Americans.

Over the past few months, the fighting in Sudan has intensified and the need for food, shelter and improved sanitation became even more critical. As displaced people continue to flee for safety, their appeal for security should not go unanswered. We hope to work with you to make this series of trips happen and stand ready to assist in any way.

Sincerely,



~~Henry W. M. ...~~ J. L. S. ...

Barbara Lee

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Dennis J. Kucinich

Tim Van Vollen

Julia Carson

Bruce ...

Donald ...

Raul M. ...

Ron Kind

Susan L. ...

[Signature]

Tom Allen

Tony ...

Jim M. ...

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