



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Dear Mr. Filner:

Thank you for your letter of July 5 to President Bush concerning the situation in Darfur and the need to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) as quickly as possible. The White House has asked us to respond on its behalf.

We appreciate your tireless endeavors on behalf of the people of Darfur. The United States and its partners in the international community remain gravely concerned about the continuing violence in Darfur and the pace of implementation of the DPA. As you know, we have repeatedly made clear to all sides of the conflict that we view these issues as inter-related. The Department shares your view that we must work towards an urgent resolution to the Darfur crisis within the framework of the DPA and with the strong commitment from all of the parties involved, including the Government of Sudan, rebel group leaders, and the international community.

The United States and its partners continue to encourage the Darfur rebel groups to sign the DPA and abide by its provisions. In order for the DPA to remain an effective peace agreement, the parties must begin to make visible progress towards peace on the ground for the people of Darfur. An essential part of the process is supporting those rebel leaders that have already signed on to the DPA, including Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) leader Minni Minawi. In President Bush's July 25 meeting with Minawi, he reiterated the firm belief of the United States and international community that the violence and lawlessness occurring in Darfur must be halted immediately. Minawi, too, conveyed his deep concern for the suffering and strife of his people. He stressed his commitment to the DPA and to securing the protection of civilians in the refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

Achieving such peace and security in Darfur will not be swift or simple. However, we want to underscore our support for urgent, decisive

The Honorable
Bob Filner,
House of Representatives.

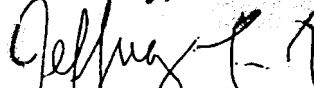
steps to end the violence and ease the suffering of the citizens of Sudan. As you know, the United States has provided considerable support to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) operating in Darfur, and those forces have been successful in ending the large-scale violence where present. However, AMIS has reached the limits of its capabilities and now is the time to transition to a robust international peacekeeping operation to stop the violence, protect civilians, and ensure delivery of critical humanitarian assistance. We will continue to strengthen AMIS as we transition to the UN-led force.

Moreover, we have also made clear our intention to pursue targeted sanctions on those who are responsible for violence or who are not cooperating to achieve peace – including the rebels. We continue to apply pressure to the Government of Sudan to aid peacekeeping efforts by moving forward with the disarmament of the Janjaweed militia and allowing a UN mission in Darfur. To that end, we are working intensively towards attaining a successful vote on a United Nations Security Council Resolution that would authorize a robust UN-led mission to neutralize the militias and protect the people of Darfur.

With the continued dedication of international partners and the participation of Sudanese leaders, we can end the suffering in Darfur and achieve stability throughout Sudan. The United States will remain actively engaged and is deeply committed to supporting the peace process. We look forward to your continued cooperation in that effort.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns. Please feel free to contact us further on this or any other matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

