

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

November 18, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Recently, the House-Senate conference committee approved a Foreign Operations conference report that did not provide funding for the African Union mission in Darfur (AMIS). We are seeking your commitment to address this omission in the next supplemental appropriations bill.

Darfur, as you recently reconfirmed, is the scene of ongoing genocide. The African Union is the primary line of defense against this continuing violence and terror. The Senate provided \$50 million for AMIS, a commitment that the United States had announced to the international community, yet this funding was cut from the conference report. Even \$50 million falls short of what is necessary to provide robust security in Darfur. However, this amount in funding is critical to expand AU forces to the minimal level of 7,700 for a region the size of Texas, a level that you personally endorsed.

In addition, for this force to be as effective as possible, we urge you to upgrade your efforts to press the African Union and the United Nations to strengthen AMIS' mandate to prioritize civilian protection. Certainly, the Sudanese government – the perpetrators of genocide – has no right to object to efforts by the international community to restore security to the people of Darfur.

The situation in Darfur has recently worsened, as Sudanese government forces have again taken part in raids on civilians and violence and chaos have escalated. AMIS itself is also under assault, as AU forces have been killed and kidnapped in recent weeks. There continue to be an estimated 500 conflict-related deaths each day and armed rebel groups have stepped up attacks against humanitarian convoys, cutting off life-saving supplies and making the Darfur the most dangerous place for aid workers in the world. There are still approximately 2 million civilians that have been displaced and are living in camps in Sudan and Chad. These camps are often unprotected and increasingly are becoming the targets of violence themselves.

With between a \$150 million and \$200 million shortfall and an increasingly challenging environment in which to operate, the AU desperately needs accelerated assistance. We therefore ask that your Administration request, at a minimum, \$50 million for the African Union in any upcoming supplemental appropriations request.

The United States has made a commitment to protecting civilians in Darfur. Too many lives have already been lost and too many will continue to be lost unless we fulfill our commitment by supporting and strengthening the African Union mission in Darfur.

Sincerely,

~~Paul Blumenthal~~ ~~Thaddeus McCotter~~ Michael E. Caputo

Donald Dwayne Williams ~~Delah~~ Bill Pascrell Jr

Charles Jabzlee ~~Roger L. Owens~~ Sherrod Brown

Andrew B. Maloney Charles B. Ray ~~Jim Oberstar~~

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Tom Udall ~~Gene~~ ~~Tom~~ Rail W. Higinbotham

~~Al Green~~ ~~Emmanuel~~ Lois Capps

~~Gregg W. Meeks~~ ~~Marshall M. Ford~~ ~~Bob~~ ~~Allen~~

Barbara Lee Dennis ~~Stine~~ ~~John~~ ~~Shaw~~

Paty McCollum ~~Rush~~ ~~Holt~~ ~~Tom~~ ~~Lantos~~

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