

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2005

The Honorable Dr. Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madame Secretary:

The recent accord between the government of Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) signed January 9th does not cover the conflict in Sudan's western region of Darfur, where tens of thousands have died and nearly 2 million people have been displaced. We are writing to urge you to leverage pressure on the Chinese Government to join international efforts to forge a sustainable political and security solution and to halt the genocide in Darfur.

As Members of the United States House of Representatives, we have monitored developments in Darfur very closely. We are troubled that despite pressure from the international community, civilians continue to be attacked and killed by Sudanese government forces and Janjaweed militias. Also, despite ceasefire agreements and repeated assurances by the Sudanese Government of their commitment to create conditions for peace and security in Darfur, reports we have seen indicate that the Sudanese Air Force is bombarding areas in South Darfur and the government continues to incorporate militias into its state security services rather than disband them. Although humanitarian access has improved, human rights violations continue and the threat of further lawlessness and bloodshed looms on the horizon.

A delegation of U.S. lawmakers led by Representative Ed Royce returned from a recent visit to Sudan with similar, grim reports about Khartoum's brutality. All had the impression the government of Sudan is still tolerating genocide.

The extreme conditions in Darfur call for urgent and extraordinary actions. The United Nations and the International Community must step up the pressure on the Sudanese government to provide complete and immediate access to international human rights workers, and peacekeeping troops, including those already offered by the African Union.

Despite efforts by our own State Department, working with the United Nations, the Sudanese Government has shown little concern for the opinions of the international community. Therefore, we believe that the key to resolving this crisis may be the active engagement of the Chinese Government, and we respectfully urge you to do all you can to raise the issue of Darfur with the highest levels of the Chinese leadership.

China's position as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council obligates them to play a role in this crisis. Given that China is Sudan's largest trading partner, the main foreign investor in Sudan's oil industry, and the largest supplier of small arms to Sudan, China is uniquely positioned to apply the exact sort of pressure necessary to end the genocide.

Although China's own domestic record on human rights remains poor, and clearly, Beijing must implement domestic reform initiatives to cultivate progress in the areas of human rights, political and labor freedoms, and democracy, we cannot ignore the fact that on the international stage, Beijing projects tremendous economic and political strength. We have called upon this political and economic strength to help resolve the nuclear proliferation crisis in North Korea, and we should again call upon this strength for the suffering people of Sudan. In addition, Beijing's response to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan can serve as a litmus test of its commitment to reforming its own domestic human rights record.

Finally, we believe that Chinese policies with regard to arms shipments and oil exploration and development directly contributed to the problem in Sudan, and as a result, China bears a responsibility to become part of the solution.

As you may know, China National Petroleum Corp. has a 40 percent share in the international consortium extracting oil in Sudan, and it is building refineries and pipelines, which have enabled Sudan to benefit from oil export revenue. Since the 1970s, the government of Sudan has cleared huge tracts of southern Sudan to make way for oil production. Troops have terrorized civilians, burned homes and attacked villages from the air in a war for oil, oil that has in large measure gone to feed China's ever-growing demand for energy. In fact, China is now the world's second-largest consumer of oil, after the United States, and Chinese consumption of oil has accounted for 35% of the global rise in oil demand since 2003. Although most Western oil companies withdrew from Sudan under pressure from human rights organizations, Chinese companies turned a blind eye to the brutal way in which Sudan forced 200,000 to 300,000 of its citizens from oil-rich lands without compensation. The importance the Chinese place on Sudanese oil is evident from reports that China has deployed troops to protect their oil infrastructure investments.

As the largest shareholder in the Greater Nile consortium, China is unarguably the key player in Sudan's arms effort, and Beijing has sold arms to successive Sudanese governments since the early 1980s, becoming a major supplier in the 1990s. However, according to Human Rights Watch, Beijing attaches no conditions to arms sales other than monetary ones and oil concessions - 'guns for oil' deals or, in industry jargon, 'offset packages'. Weapons deliveries by China since 1995 include ammunition, tanks, helicopters and fighter aircraft, and it is not inconceivable to think that some of these weapons may have been used against Sudanese civilians.

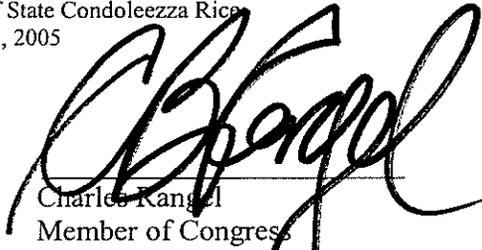
Once again, we believe that China must become part of the solution to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, and we respectfully ask you to raise this issue at the highest levels possible as quickly as possible. Thank you for your personal time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,

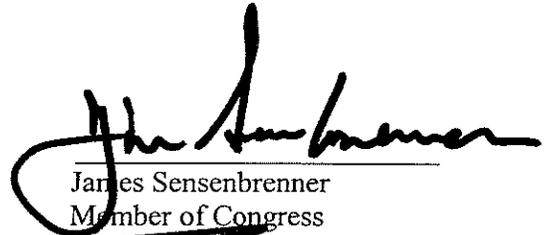
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



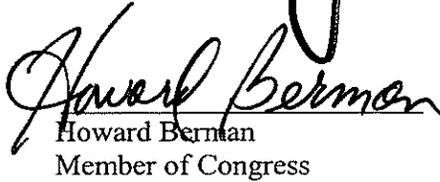
Tom Lantos
Member of Congress



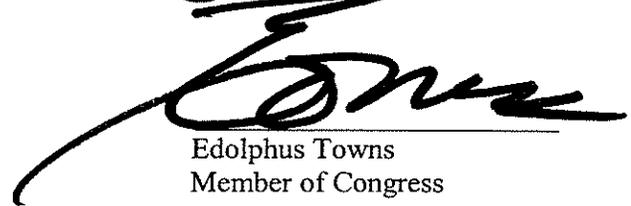
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



James Sensenbrenner
Member of Congress



Howard Berman
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



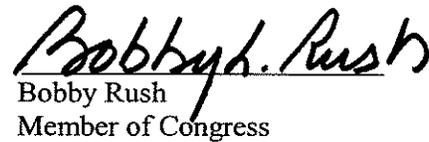
Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress

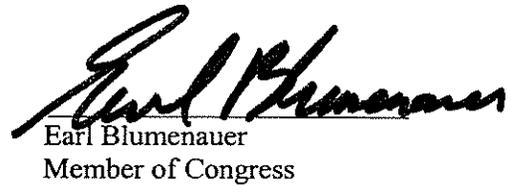


Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Albert Wynn
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Mark Green
Member of Congress

Thomas Tancredo
Member of Congress

Todd Akin
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice
February 11, 2005
Page 4

Mike Pence
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Edward Royce
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress