

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

Mr. George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

June 14, 2007

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to express our continuing concern about the crisis in northern Uganda and to appeal for increased U.S. action in support of current efforts to achieve lasting peace in the region. In response to a similar appeal last November, the State Department emphasized that "Putting an end to the suffering generated by this twenty-year conflict is a priority for the Administration" and that "encouraging the parties to find a peaceful, long-term solution to the conflict is a longstanding element of U.S. policy."

As you know, the peace negotiations being held in Juba, southern Sudan between the Government of Uganda and Lord's Resistance Army resumed on April 26 following a several-month suspension by the LRA due to concerns over legitimacy and neutrality. The ongoing talks, which began last summer, have already led to dramatic improvements in regional security and new hope among war-affected communities in northern Uganda and southern Sudan. Approximately 300,000 of the 1.8 million people displaced by the crisis have been able to return home and are beginning the process of recovery and economic development.

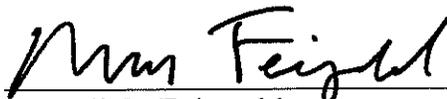
We welcome the steps taken by your Administration thus far in supporting what is widely acknowledged as the best opportunity to end this prolonged humanitarian crisis and to avert an imminent threat to regional stability. Unfortunately, the negotiations continue to be threatened by a lack of resources, trust, and accountability. African leadership of the process, which has been laudable in its efforts to keep the warring parties committed to peacefully resolving the conflict, would be greatly enhanced by public support from the United States. Given our country's strong influence in the region, greater engagement by the U.S. government would be decisive in building confidence and adding much-needed leverage and accountability to the peace process.

Therefore, to further strengthen the prospect of reaching a consolidated peace agreement, we urge you to immediately dispatch a senior diplomat to Juba to act in direct support of the negotiations. Both as a representative of the United States and as a supplement to the part-time UN and European envoys, this individual would be able to advise the parties and the mediators and inform the United States and our allies on how best to advance the peace process. This individual could convey critical legitimacy on the talks and would provide valuable advice on the ground and information about the U.S. government's support for the African-led process and our willingness to provide assistance as appropriate.

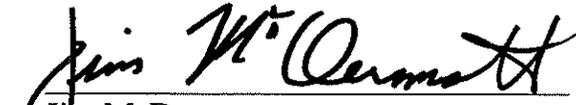
A stronger U.S. presence in the negotiations would provide a much-needed injection of legitimacy and significance into the proceedings and would position the United States to provide leadership in dealing with the regional dimensions of the crisis. We are particularly concerned about the potentially disruptive role of the government of Sudan in Khartoum and implications for the tenuous north-south peace in Sudan. This public gesture would not only build confidence in the negotiations process by showing our investment in peace, but would also advance our long-term humanitarian and security interests in this troubled region.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator



Jim McDermott
United States Representative

Cc: Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State
Jendayi Frazer, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, State Department
Bobby Pittman, Senior Director for African Affairs, National Security Council
Ambassador Stephen Browning, US Embassy, Kampala, Uganda

Arlen Specter
Uganda

Rabih Menezy

Tom Harkin

Ron Wyden

Blanche R. Lincoln

Susan Collins

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Bob Casey, Jr.

John F. Kerry

Dick Durbin

Barbara Boxer

Robert A. Menendez

Edward M. Kennedy

Monty G. Brien

Patty Murray

Joe Biden

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Earl Blumenthal

Sam W. Doolittle

Jim Moran

Bobby L. Rush

Dennis J. Kucinich

Ruben Hinojosa

Joe Schick

Frank Jones

Rail M. Hiyabon

Paul Smith

Sam A. Davis

J. Mathem

John W. Orr

Gene Pinn

Stew Chobot

Alma E. Watson

Pete Stark

Jay McInnis

Brian Higgins

Hoyt Houghton

Melvin L. Benn

Tom. J. Peterson