

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2008

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our deep concerns about and strong opposition to recent reports of a possible shift in U.S. policy toward Sudan. In 2004, the United States rightfully declared the atrocities in Darfur to be genocide. More than 400,000 have been killed and an estimated 2.5 million people have been displaced. The Government of Sudan continues to commit atrocities against innocent civilians in Darfur.

The Administration's decision to declare genocide in Darfur should be applauded. Your direct and active engagement during the North-South peace process was valuable and should be commended. Since you appointed Special Envoy Richard Williamson, he has been actively engaged on Darfur and South Sudan, and has reached out to all sides.

On the other hand, the recent meeting in Rome between Special Envoy Williamson and a Government of Sudan delegation led by Nafi Ali Nafi, a man responsible for many of Sudan's international terror links and domestic atrocities, sends the wrong signal to all concerned. We are alarmed that U.S. officials are negotiating with people known to many, including our own government, as the masterminds of the Darfur genocide and Sudan's international terror links.

Mr. President, Nafi Ali Nafi was the security chief when Sudan gave safe haven to Osama bin Laden in the 1990's, a period when Bin Laden began to build his terror network. Nafi was also a key player in support of Gama'a Islamia, a group that tried to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The weapons used in the assassination attempt were reportedly flown in by Sudan Airways and after the failed attempt, one of the assassins was flown to Sudan on Sudan Airways.

In February 2004 several Members of Congress sent you a letter stating that "our war on terrorism cannot succeed if we allow well-known terrorists to escape justice. Many of our citizens died as a result of the direct or indirect involvement of senior Sudanese officials." The letter provided a list of officials suspected of terrorist links. On the list were three of the five members of the delegation to the recent talks in Rome, including Nafi, Salah Gosh, and Mutref Sadig Nimeri.

The two-day meeting in Rome followed an exchange of non-papers between the Special Envoy and the Government of Sudan. The exchange of papers and the negotiations were between the U.S. government and the National Congress Party (NCP),

Sudan's dominant political power, bearing primary responsibility for the killing, maiming, and raping of civilians across Sudan.

We are troubled by what is being proposed in these papers, particularly the promise of rewards in exchange for the Government of Sudan releasing material held up in Port Sudan for the construction of our embassy, removing restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Darfur, and permitting the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers, among others. We were informed that the Government of Sudan agreed to release on April 27 the cargo it held up for months. In exchange, the Administration is reportedly planning to remove restrictions imposed on the embassy of Sudan here in Washington. While these are certainly important demands, they are measures that the Government of Sudan should have taken without being rewarded.

The Government of Sudan in its non-paper is demanding not only the lifting of sanctions, but also a formal apology and compensation for the 1998 bombing of Al-Shifa by the United States. The Government of Sudan is also demanding to be removed from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list, the release of Sudanese nationals from Guantanamo Bay, debt cancellation, support in the IMF and the World Bank, for the U.S. Congress to "refrain from issuing or adopting" legislation on Sudan, and a cessation of "hostile official media campaign" against Sudan.

The Government of Sudan would like the U.S. government to normalize relations while it continues its terror campaign against innocent civilians in Darfur and deliberately delays implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). In February 2008, the Sudanese army, with Chadian rebels, attempted to overthrow the Government of Chad, expanding its destabilization campaign to neighboring countries. While Administration officials have repeatedly stated that the Government of Sudan cooperates in the war on terror, we wonder why there are still members of the Abu Nidal Organization in Sudan and why President Bashir reportedly gave Hamas \$25 million last year.

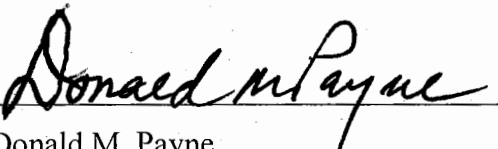
Mr. President, we respectfully urge you to consider the following recommendations before any move toward normalization with the Government of Sudan is taken.

1. The Government of Sudan must fully implement, without delay, the CPA and DPA.
2. The Abyei protocol must immediately be implemented and oil revenue shares owed must be paid retroactively.
3. The Government of Sudan must hand over to the International Criminal Court all indicted individuals without any delay.
4. The Government of Sudan must immediately end its atrocities against innocent civilians in Darfur and other parts of Sudan.
5. The Government of Sudan must allow the deployment of UNAMID forces and allow unhindered access to humanitarian workers.
6. The Government of Sudan must end its ties with known terrorist organizations and individuals.

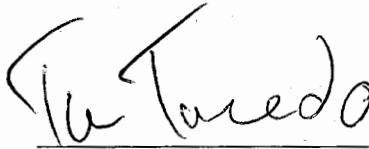
7. Senior officials in the Government of Sudan must be held accountable for the crimes committed in the Nuba, South Sudan, Southern Blue Nile, Darfur and Eastern Sudan.
8. Senior officials in the Government of Sudan must be held accountable for their support for Osama bin Laden and other terrorist groups.
9. A clear monitoring mechanism must be established by the United States to monitor and to ensure that the Government of Sudan is following through in the implementation of the demands outlined above.
10. The U.S. government should establish a period of two years to ensure implementation of the above and fundamental change in the character and ideology of the National Congress Party before normalization occurs.

We look forward to working with you in our continued efforts to end the suffering in Darfur and establishing lasting peace in Sudan.

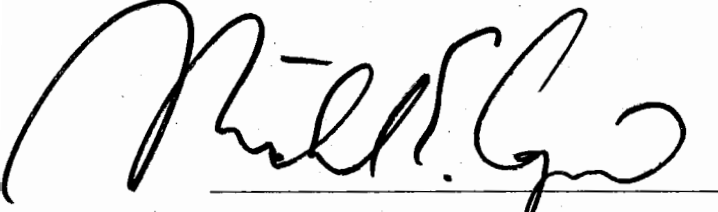
Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne




Tom Tancredo




Michael Capuano



Christopher Smith



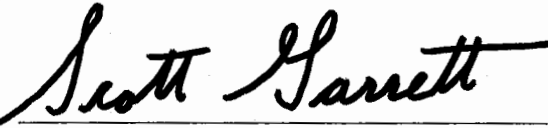
Thaddeus McCotter



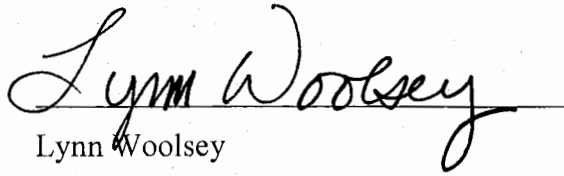
Steve Chabot

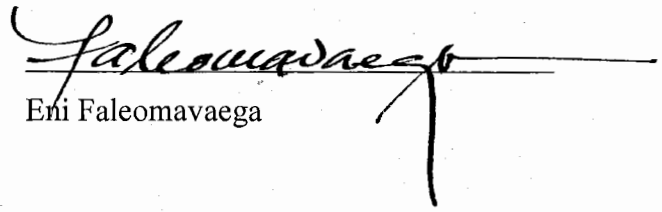


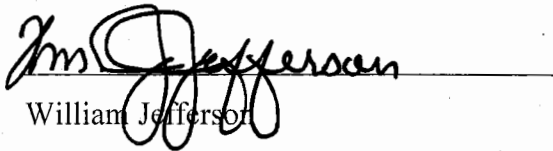
Brad Miller

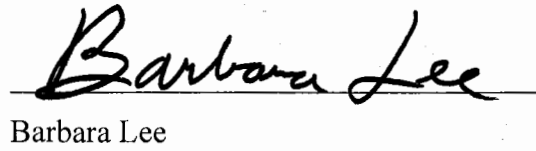


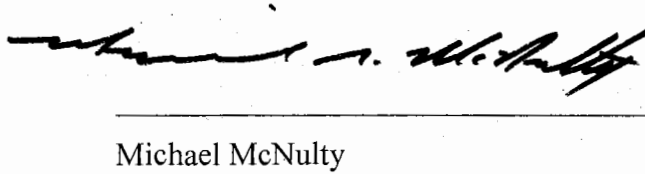
Scott Garrett

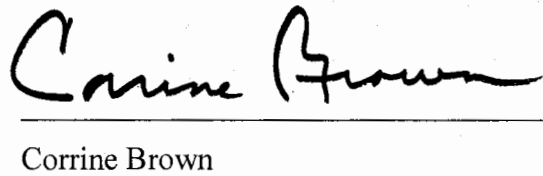

Lynn Woolsey

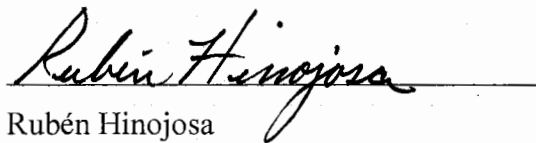

Eni Faleomavaega

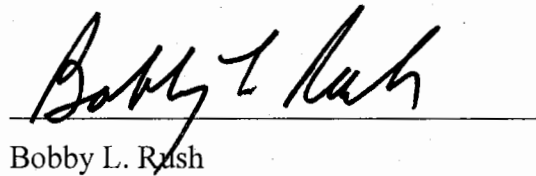

William Jefferson

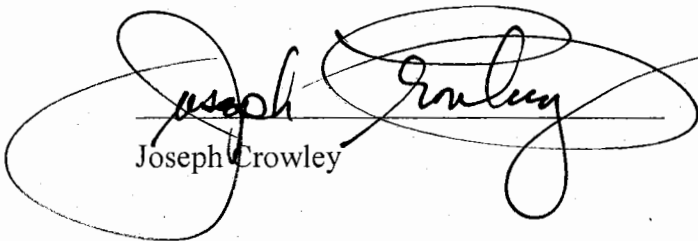

Barbara Lee


Michael McNulty

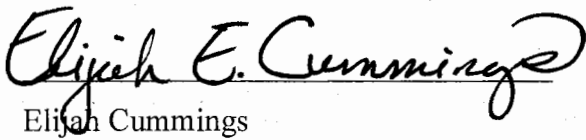

Corrine Brown

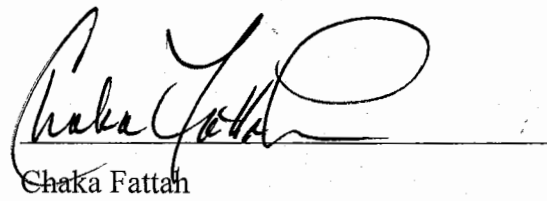

Rubén Hinojosa

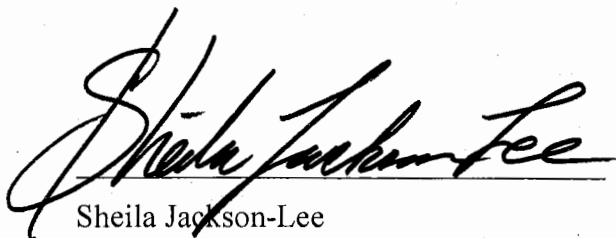

Bobby L. Rush


Joseph Crowley


Charles Rangel


Elijah Cummings


Shaka Fattah


Sheila Jackson-Lee


Brad Sherman

Robert Wexler
Robert Wexler

Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer

John Lewis
John Lewis

James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern

Lloyd Doggett
Lloyd Doggett

Betty McCollum
Betty McCollum

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Eddie Bernice Johnson

John W. Olver
John W. Olver

Thomas H. Allen
Thomas H. Allen

Michael H. Michaud
Michael H. Michaud

Yvette D. Clarke
Yvette D. Clarke

Michael M. Honda
Michael M. Honda