

December 11, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned human rights organizations, have grave concerns that the current U.S. policy is ineffective at stopping mass atrocities in Sudan. We write in the hope that the transition to your second term in office will bring an urgent shift in the U.S. policy to finally end the humanitarian crises and bring about a just and lasting peace in Sudan.

As you know, genocide continues in Sudan. The National Congress Party (NCP) regime in Sudan, led by a president indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, is causing the death, starvation, displacement, and destruction of livelihood of Sudanese civilians in Darfur, Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan and the Blue Nile state.

When speaking about Sudan in 2007 you called the genocide in Darfur a "stain on our souls" and said that "as a president of the United States I don't intend to abandon people or turn a blind eye to slaughter." Vice President Biden, the same year, called for military force in Darfur. Yet five years later, the same genocidal regime, whose grave human rights abuses have been left unchecked by the international community, is emboldened to continue to perpetrate atrocities, not only in Darfur but now in Sudan's border regions.

In your first term, your administration pursued a policy of engagement, marked by conciliatory diplomacy. Under the oversight of two Special Envoys, this policy has failed to stop the government of Sudan from committing ongoing mass atrocities.

We now ask that you revamp your Sudan policy to address the root cause of Sudan's multiple conflicts, the repressive and genocidal Sudan regime.

Specifically, we ask that your administration:

- 1) Deliver humanitarian aid to the starving Sudanese civilians in the Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan and Blue Nile State, with or without agreement from the government of Sudan or the U.N. Security Council, with multilateral partners or unilaterally, and with the urgency required to save starving people.
- 2) Instruct the National Security Council to accelerate decisions and related actions regarding protection of Nuba, Blue Nile, and Darfuri populations from air attacks and to seriously consider the destruction of Sudan's offensive aerial assets and/or the imposition of a no-fly zone pursuant to the responsibility to protect doctrine.
- 3) Support an end to the NCP regime's control of the government of Sudan and support the movement within Sudan for democratic transformation.
- 4) Oppose debt relief and cash transfers to the government of Sudan, thereby increasing pressure on that government and strengthening the effects of U.S. sanctions.
- 5) Demonstrate strong leadership to end the government-sponsored violence in Sudan, protect civilians in Sudan and South Sudan, ensure unhindered humanitarian access for those in need, and bring the perpetrators of genocide and mass atrocities to justice at the International Criminal Court.

The government of Sudan's blatant and longstanding abuse of its citizens and disregard for the international community clearly defines the nature of that government. Sudan's repeated failure to abide by the outcome of negotiations is a well-established pattern. After 23 years of mass atrocities committed by President Bashir and his government, it is long past time for the United States and the international community to confront Bashir and the NCP and bring an end to their mass atrocities.

Sincerely,

Act for Sudan

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"Change the world. It just takes cents" TM

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