



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 15, 2009

Dear Friend:

Thank you for your letter urging action to address the crisis in Darfur. I share your outrage over the hundreds of thousands of lives lost in the genocide, and the suffering of millions more. Bringing relief to the battered region of Darfur and promoting peace and stability throughout Sudan is a top priority for my Administration. We are acting not only to alleviate the suffering and root causes of violence in Darfur, but also to ensure the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

As President, I am building on America's efforts that I previously championed in the Senate. I led in calling for the joint African Union/United Nations peacekeeping force now on the ground, and insisted that comprehensive sanctions against the Khartoum government remain until there are concrete and verifiable improvements in the lives of the Sudanese people. I have appointed a Special Envoy dedicated to the multiple crises facing Sudan. He is fully empowered to address the conflict in Darfur and support the North-South peace process with equal vigor. Going forward, my Administration will continue this work with unstinting resolve.

In my discussions with other nations, I will work to involve our allies, interested countries, and other multilateral institutions in an effort to change the conditions of the Sudanese people and to push for tough sanctions if there is no progress. It is equally critical that we focus on the civilians who are in dire need of life-saving assistance. I will work with Congress to provide necessary humanitarian aid because America must lead with our actions as well as our words.

Thank you again for expressing your concern about this human catastrophe. It is very encouraging to hear from Americans like you who act not on self-interest, but on a moral imperative. Our action and leadership will demonstrate who we are as a Nation and as a people.

Sincerely,