

May 23, 2006

**RE: Support Supplemental Funding for UN Peacekeeping in Darfur**

Dear Conferee:

**We urge your continued support for a total of \$129.8 million to fund U.S. contributions to UN peacekeeping in the FY06 supplemental appropriations bill (H.R. 4939).** Both the House and Senate approved versions of this bill include this amount to fund a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur and address the current shortfall in U.S. contributions to UN peace operations. **We urge you to maintain this total in the upcoming conference committee.**

Now that a Darfur peace agreement has been signed, a UN peacekeeping force may soon be asked to implement the accord. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Security Council unanimously passed a resolution, drafted by the United States, deploying a joint UN-African Union (AU) assessment team to Darfur to lay the groundwork for a robust UN operation. UN peacekeeping officials – with help from the U.S. military – have been planning this operation for months. As they prepare to step in, the UN urgently needs the funds to pay for an estimated 13,000 additional peacekeepers, as well as the considerable transportation and logistical resources needed for a successful Darfur mission.

According to Jane Holl Lute, the UN's Assistant Secretary General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, this operation will be the largest and most complex peacekeeping mission ever undertaken by the UN. But this should not deter the international community from action.

As President Bush said recently, "The vulnerable people of Darfur deserve more than sympathy. They deserve the active protection that UN peacekeepers can provide."

Millions of Sudanese have already suffered while waiting for the international community to respond. Congress can help ensure more do not suffer needlessly by providing the UN with the financial resources NOW, so that they will be ready to step in when called. **Please stand firm to preserve the \$129.8 million in the FY06 supplemental appropriations bill to prepare the UN for a peacekeeping mission to Darfur.**

Sincerely,

Africa Action

Amnesty International USA

American Jewish Committee

American Jewish World Service

Better World Campaign

CARE

Church World Service

Citizens for Global Solutions

Council for a Livable World

Democracy Coalition Project

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Feminist Majority  
Food for the Hungry  
Friends Committee on National  
Legislation (Quakers)  
General Federation of Women's Club  
Genocide Intervention Network  
Indiana Coalition to Save Darfur  
International Crisis Group  
Lutheran World Relief  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Medical Mission Sisters - Sector North  
America  
National Association of Evangelicals  
Unitarian Universalist Association of  
Congregations

National Council of Churches  
Open Society Policy Center  
Oxfam America  
Physicians for Human Rights  
Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition  
Presbyterian Church, (USA),  
Washington Office  
Refugees International  
Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for  
Human Rights  
Save Darfur Coalition  
United Methodist Church, General  
Board of Church and Society  
United Nations Association of the USA