

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**IN WAKE OF PRE-ELECTION HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY GOVERNMENT,  
SUDAN ADVOCATES ASK PRESIDENT OBAMA TO IMPOSE CONSEQUENCES**  
*Merely condemning NCP's actions not a sufficient consequence, say advocates*

CITIES NATIONWIDE – December 15, 2009 – Today 50 organizations representing Sudan advocates and Sudanese expatriates from around the country, together with actress Mia Farrow and Sudan expert Eric Reeves, sent an open letter to President Obama calling on him to impose immediate consequences on the Government of Sudan for public violations of human rights in advance of the elections and for the eroding situation on the ground.

The letter recommends that President Obama 1) Lead the United States and the broader international community in applying the pressures necessary to ensure that the conditions for credible elections mandated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) are enacted and implemented without further delay, 2) Act immediately to secure multilateral asset freezes and travel bans on National Congress Party (NCP) leaders, multilateral support of the International Criminal Court cases against key Sudanese officials, multilateral enforcement of the UN Security Council arms embargo; and denial of multilateral debt relief, 3) Direct Special Envoy Gration, the State Department and USAID to conduct and make public an assessment of the current status of humanitarian services and 4) Direct Special Envoy Gration to promptly brief the appropriate House and Senate committees on the contents of the classified documents that are part of the Administration's Sudan policy.

According to the letter, the Administration's Sudan policy review promised a balanced approach of both incentives and pressures. "The policy will lack credibility if no consequences are imposed now, particularly after the very public violations of human rights on December 7 and 14 and the eroding situation on the ground. There is no need to wait further to impose consequences on Sudan for these clear and critical violations. These actions by the Government of Sudan illustrate the importance of the United States acting with a fierce urgency to deliver the promised consequences. Merely condemning the NCP's action is not a sufficient consequence," the letter states.

On Sunday, the NCP and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and south agreed to the terms of a controversial referendum on southern independence on Sunday. However, according to Mohamed Suleiman, a Darfuri and a spokesman for the group, the NCP has a consistent track record of breaking its agreements. "The fact that the government violently quelled a peaceful demonstration the day after announcing this agreement demonstrates that it will not honor the reform of Sudanese laws necessary for credible elections, including freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of speech," he said.

The letter cites Obama's recent address in Oslo where he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize. "Those regimes that break the rules must be held accountable. Sanctions must exact a real price. Intransigence must be met with increased pressure -- and such pressure exists only when the world stands together as one," President Obama said in his speech there.

## FULL TEXT OF DECEMBER 15 LETTER

December 15, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

As members of the nationwide anti-genocide movement, our organizations represent many Americans around the country watching the escalating crisis in Sudan with increasing concern and outrage. You provided a brief spark of optimism with the release of the long-awaited Sudan policy on October 19, 2009. Since then, however, we have become increasingly concerned about the lack of transparency and implementation of the policy, while conditions on the ground in Sudan have become even more alarming.

We have four primary areas of concern:

**1) 2010 Elections.** The Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 (CPA) mandates the reform of Sudanese laws necessary for credible elections, including freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of speech. In its all too customary disregard for signed agreements, Sudan's National Congress Party (NCP) has obstructed passage of these reforms.

**We ask that you lead the United States and the broader international community in applying the pressures necessary to ensure that the CPA-mandated conditions for credible elections are enacted and implemented without further delay. These pressures should include clear and public messages that the United States will under no circumstances fund, assist or support elections that lack credibility. To date there has been too much focus on the mechanics of elections, with little emphasis placed on the fundamental reforms contained in the CPA that would allow for a fair election and the eventual transformation of Sudanese society.**

**2) Disincentives for NCP leaders.** Since announcement of the United States' new Sudan policy, the situation in Sudan has deteriorated. Despite the promises and assurances of the NCP to your Special Envoy, Major General Gration, and others, the NCP continues to brutally violate Sudanese citizens' most fundamental human rights. On December 14, Sudanese security forces fired tear gas to disperse about 200 opposition protesters on Monday who tried to rally near Sudan's parliament to demand democratic reforms before presidential and parliamentary polls. According to Reuters, riot police with batons and shields lined the streets near parliament before the planned rally, a Reuters witness said. Early reports say dozens of protesters were arrested during the protest. This recent news follows the government's repression on December 7, 2009 when Government of Sudan officials arrested hundreds of people – including several SPLM and northern opposition leaders – participating in a peaceful rally calling for electoral reforms. Amnesty International received reports that some of those arrested were tortured in detention. Some of those detained are still reported as missing. The

NCP's arrest of opposition leaders and protesters is a blatant violation of commitments it made in the CPA, as are the continued problems and delays in demarcating borders; in Darfur, it continues to restrict and disrupt UNAMID operations. Further, there are disturbing signs that the NCP has a hand in the increased militia violence that has claimed more than 2,000 lives in South Sudan this year alone.

The policy review promised a balanced approach of both incentives and pressures. The policy will lack credibility if no consequences are imposed now, particularly after the very public violations of human rights on December 7 and 14 and the eroding situation on the ground. There is no need to wait further to impose consequences on Sudan for these clear and critical violations. These actions by the Government of Sudan illustrate the importance of the United States acting with a fierce urgency to deliver the promised consequences. Merely condemning the NCP's action is not a sufficient consequence. As you stated in your Nobel Prize acceptance speech:

"...[I]n dealing with those nations that break rules and laws,...we must develop alternatives to violence that are tough enough to actually change behavior -- for if we want a lasting peace, then the words of the international community must mean something. Those regimes that break the rules must be held accountable. Sanctions must exact a real price. Intransigence must be met with increased pressure -- and such pressure exists only when the world stands together as one...The same principle applies to those who violate international laws by brutalizing their own people. When there is genocide in Darfur,...there must be consequences...the closer we stand together, the less likely we will be faced with the choice between armed intervention and complicity in oppression."

**The world will not “stand together as one” without your personal engagement and leadership and that of the Secretary of State. Such engagement and leadership are also indispensable to securing:**

- **Multilateral asset freezes and travel bans** on individual NCP leaders as provided for in UN Security Council Resolution 1591. Likely candidates for such sanction include: Nafi Ali Nafi (Presidential assistant and NCP Deputy chief), Bakri Hasan Salih (Presidential Adviser for security), Gutbi Almahdi (High ranking NCP official), Ahmed Ibrahim Eltahir (Parliament Speaker), and Altaib Mustafa (President al-Bashir's uncle and owner of *Allntibaha*, a newspaper publishing hate against Pagan Amum and Yasir Arman, two arrested SPLM leaders);
- **Multilateral support of the International Criminal Court case** against key Sudanese officials with respect to both existing indictments and further expansion of cases;
- **Multilateral enforcement of the UN Security Council arms embargo**, first set out in UN Security Council resolution 1556 (2004) and strengthened in resolution 1591 (2005); and
- **Denial of the multilateral debt relief** sought by the NCP.

**3) Humanitarian Aid in Darfur.** In addition to the obstruction of UNAMID mentioned above and broader concerns over security, humanitarian access continues to be a major problem in Darfur. General Gration has made conflicting statements regarding the status of humanitarian aid in Darfur. Darfuris, the United Nations, Physicians for Human Rights and others have reported that humanitarian organizations are working with severely limited access in Darfur and, since the expulsion of aid workers in March 2009,

the fragile network of medical and psycho-social services for victims of gender-based violence has collapsed. In a recent exacerbation of the crisis, the withdrawal of the International Red Cross after the kidnapping of two of its workers has left parts of Jebel Marra and Jebel Si (not served by the UN) without aid.

**Please direct General Gration to work in consultation with the State Department and USAID to conduct and make public an assessment of the current status of, and future outlook for, the provision of all services in each area of Northern Sudan, the specific steps being taken to ensure their restoration, and the benchmarks he is using to measure progress.**

**4) The U.S. Sudan Policy.** Regardless of the words used to describe the classified components of the Sudan policy, Congress should know its contents and have a clear understanding of the benchmarks by which progress or the lack thereof will be measured and the incentives and pressures that will be deployed as the parties meet or fail to meet these benchmarks.

**We ask that Special Envoy Gration promptly brief the appropriate House and Senate committees on the contents of these classified documents. In addition, Senators and Representatives should receive the National Security Council working papers and other relevant documents without delay.**

In anticipation of your prompt action on these matters, we remain very truly yours,

**Alliance for the Lost Boys of Sudan**

Joan Hecht CEO  
Jacksonville, Florida

**American Friends Service Committee**

Stephen McNeil, Assistant Regional Director for Peacebuilding  
San Francisco, California

**American Jewish Committee**

Eliseo Neuman, Director, The Africa Institute  
New York, New York

**Americans Against the Darfur Genocide**

Nikki Serapio, Director  
San Francisco, California

**ChampionDarfur.com**

Corey Dragge, Founder  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Congregation Emanu-El**

Rabbi Sydney Mintz  
San Francisco, CA

**Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM)**

Alexander Levering Kern, Executive Director  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Damanga Coalition for Freedom and Democracy**

Mohamed Yahya, Founder and Executive Director  
Washington, D.C

**Darfur Human Rights Organization of the USA**

Abdelgabar Adam, President  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Darfur Reconciliation and Development Organization**

Adeeb Yousif, Founder & Chairperson  
Zalingei, West Darfur and San Francisco, California

**Darfur Rehabilitation Project**

Yahya Osman, President  
Newark, New Jersey

**Darfur Self Reliance Education**

Mohamed Suleiman, President  
Alameda, California

**Darfur and Beyond**

Cory Williams, Founder  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Darfur Community Organization**

Bakheit A Shata, Founder/Executive Director  
Omaha, Nebraska

**Darfur People's Association of New York**

Bushara Dosa, President  
Church Ave Brooklyn, New York

**Dear Sudan, Love Marin**

Geri Miller, Founder and Coordinator  
Tiburon, California

**Elizabeth Hankins**

Author of "I Learned a New Word Today...Genocide"  
Houston, Texas

**Enough Project at the Center for American Progress**

John Norris, Executive Director  
Washington, D.C.

**Eric Reeves**

Author of "A Long Day's Dying: Critical Moments in the Darfur Genocide"

**Essex County Coalition for Darfur**

Gloria Crist, Co-Founder  
Montclair, New Jersey

**Fur Cultural Revival**

Mansour Ahmed, President  
Portland, Maine

**Genocide No More - Save Darfur**

Marv Steinberg, Coordinator  
Redding, California

**Hudson Institute**

Nina Shea, Director, Center for Religious Freedom  
Washington, DC 20005

**Idaho Darfur Coalition**

A.J. Fay, Co-Founder  
Boise, Idaho

**Investors Against Genocide**

Susan Morgan, Co-founder  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Jacob Blaustein for the Advancement of Human Rights**

Felice Gaer, Director  
New York, New York

**Jewish Community Relations Council of  
San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin,  
Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties**

Rabbi Doug Kahn, Executive Director  
San Francisco, California

**Jewish World Watch**

Tzivia Schwartz-Getzug, Executive Director  
Los Angeles, California

**Kentuckiana Interfaith Taskforce On Darfur**

Bob Brousseau, chair  
Louisville, Kentucky

**Keokuk for Darfur**

Julia Hays, Founder/Director  
Keokuk, Iowa

**Living Ubuntu/Orange County for Darfur**

Barbara English, Executive Director  
Newport Beach, California

**Long Island Darfur Action Group**

Nancy Walsh, Coordinator  
Long Island, New York

**The Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan National Network**

Julie Hines Mabus, President  
Washington, D.C.

**Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur**

Eric Cohen, Chairperson  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Mia Farrow**

Sudan Advocate, Actor

**Michigan Darfur Coalition**

Dr. Tim Page, General Coordinator  
Birmingham, Michigan

**New York City Coalition for Darfur**

Sharon Silber, Co-founder  
New York, New York

**Office of Public Policy and Social Concerns,  
Archdiocese of San Francisco**

George Wesolek, Director  
San Francisco, California

**San Antonio Interfaith Darfur Coalition**

Susan Smylie, Coordinator of Advocacy  
San Antonio, Texas

**San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition**

Martina Knee, Member, Executive Committee  
San Francisco, California

**Save Darfur: Central PA**

Lee Ann De Reus, Co-founder  
Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania

**Save Darfur Washington State**

Deborah Jones, President  
Seattle, Washington

**South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network**

Lilian Riziq, President & CEO  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Southern Sudanese Community Center of San Diego**

Chuol P.Tut, Executive Director  
San Diego, California

**STAND at University of California, Davis**

Jessica Verhein, President

Davis, California

**Stop Genocide Now**

Gabriel Stauring, Director  
Los Angeles, California

**Sudan Advocacy Action Forum**

Bill Address, Director  
Lexington, SC, USA

**Sudan for All**

Emad Bukhari, Founder  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Sudan Unlimited**

Esther Sprague, Founder,  
San Francisco, California

**Temple Beth Elohim**

Michael Gilman, Trustee and Past President  
Wellesley, Massachusetts

**Texans Against Genocide**

Laura McCarthy and Susan Smylie, Co-Founders  
Dallas and San Antonio, Texas

**The Institute on Religion and Democracy**

Faith McDonnell, Director, Church Alliance for a New Sudan  
Washington, DC

**Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations**

Rob Keithan, Director, Washington Office for Advocacy  
Washington, DC

**Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**

Charlie Clements, President and CEO  
Cambridge, Mass.

**Use Your Voice to Save Darfur Rhode Island**

Sandra Hammel, Director  
Providence, Rhode Island

**Voices for Sudan**

Gafar O. Kangam, Public Relations Representative  
Washington, DC

**World Relief Organization**

Elgasim Salih, President  
Philadelphia PA

cc: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton