

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2011

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

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express support for your appointment of Ambassador Princeton Lyman as the new Special Envoy for Sudan and to outline critical North-South and Darfur issues that must be addressed during this crucial transition period.

We are deeply concerned about deteriorating conditions in Abyei, instability in South Sudan, and the ongoing crisis in Darfur. Earlier this year, the world watched as the people of South Sudan conducted a peaceful, transparent, and successful self-determination referendum. Sudan's and the international community's welcoming response to the overwhelming vote for Southern independence has been highly praised. U.S. leadership was critical to ensuring a successful vote. However, these positive developments must not cloud the international community's ability to recognize the negative role the Government of the National Congress Party (NCP) continues to play in key areas in North and South Sudan.

The United States must help to ensure that the popular consultations provided for in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile are free and fair, and that the results reflect the will of the people. The upcoming election in Southern Kordofan is critical in moving the North toward a more democratic and inclusive country. South Sudan and in fact the entire region will not be peaceful and stable if the North is not democratic and pluralistic.

The most worrisome unresolved situation between the North and South is Abyei. The NCP has not only blocked the implementation of the Abyei Protocol and the decisions of both the Abyei Boundaries Commission and the Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration, but it has been engaging in atrocious attacks against the people of Abyei by deploying Arab militias, the Popular Defense Forces, and elements of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF). These forces destroyed Abyei in 2008, razing the town to the ground. Recently, they have resumed their attacks, killing innocent civilians and burning villages; the same destructive methods employed in Darfur. We must work with the North and South to ensure a resolution to this impasse between now and the end of the transition period on July 9th, or Abyei is sure to be another long-disputed territory, and possible flashpoint for future conflicts.

On the issue of Darfur, it is clear that the status quo cannot persist. The NCP has been conducting air strikes and armed rebel groups continue to fight for their positions, all of which seriously jeopardizes the safety of civilians and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The Doha peace process must be reinvigorated to reach a political solution that will encompass the government, all rebel groups, and civil society. In addition, the United States should stand firmly against efforts by the NCP to distract from the conflict by holding a referendum on the

administrative status of Darfur. Such proposals must be negotiated and agreed to amongst the parties or else prove meaningless – or worse destructive – for the people of Darfur.

Finally, Mr. President, as Members of Congress who have followed the Sudan crisis for many years, we must stress that we can not support Congressional removal of legislative restrictions from the Government of Sudan, or normalization of U.S.- Sudan relations and debt relief unless the NCP-led government takes the following actions:

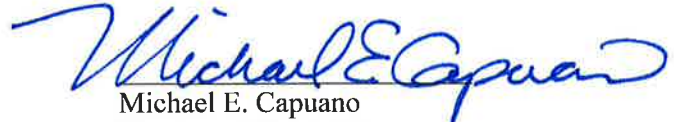
- Find a just and lasting peace in Darfur;
- Resolve the Abyei issue in a timely manner consistent with the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling;
- End support to militia groups in South Sudan;
- Fully cooperate in efforts to disarm, demobilize, and deny safe haven to the Lord's Resistance Army;
- Cooperate and hand over those individuals wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC);
- Resolve the border demarcation, citizenship, border security, and other outstanding North-South issues in a fair and timely manner; and
- Move towards a democratic and inclusive government

Again, we are pleased with Ambassador Lyman's appointment and know that he will work diligently to resolve these outstanding matters as Special Envoy for Sudan during this critical transition period. We look forward to your appointment of a full time United States ambassador when the South becomes independent on July 9, 2011.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress