

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 3, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Darfur has not gone away. As you know, the crisis has spread to other parts of Sudan, particularly South Kordofan and Blue Nile, as lifesaving aid has been blocked and aerial bombardments have targeted civilians and their crops exacerbating an already dire humanitarian crisis. Across Sudan severe human rights abuses continue.

Public and media attention may have waned, but the suffering of civilians has not. We urge you to enhance the U.S. approach to this conflict, and re-prioritize peace, accountability, and protection of civilians in Sudan in your last year in office.

We appreciate the efforts you have made with the Sudanese government to address and resolve the crisis in South Sudan, and the recent opening of Sudanese southern borders is a welcome development. Such engagement, valuable on its own merits, must not preclude or overshadow the need for strong U.S. leadership and advocacy on the grave abuses and humanitarian crisis that persist and continue to worsen inside Sudan itself.

Today, over 5 million people are in need of life-saving aid across Sudan including at least 1.5 million who have been continually displaced since the Darfur genocide began in 2003. Violence has intensified in recent years, with at least half a million people newly displaced in the last two years. USAID's Famine Early Warning System reports almost 4 million people at crisis levels of food insecurity and warns of increased food insecurity in 2016. In Darfur, U.N. agencies report extreme levels of child malnutrition, and in some parts of South Kordofan, food insecurity may reach emergency levels, just one level below famine. While we welcome the fact that the United States remains the largest suppliers of humanitarian aid to Sudan, those efforts are hollow if that aid cannot get to the people who need it most, or if the conflict continues to rage on indefinitely.

The Government of Sudan is directly responsible, bombing civilian targets and blocking or delaying both life-saving aid and supplies for UN peacekeepers. This intransigence is well documented. Violations of UN Security Council Resolutions including the ongoing bombing of civilians are consistently reported by the UN Panel of Experts. Nuba Reports, a local group of journalists reporting from within Sudan, has documented over 4,000 bombs dropped on civilian targets in South Kordofan and Blue Nile since 2012.

The United States has a number of ways that it can help influence the behavior of the Sudanese regime through the use of financial tools at its disposal. We urge the Obama

Administration to enhance the current sanctions regime so that is focused to impact the calculations of the Sudanese regime's top-level officials, by targeting top level officials, financial institutions and other facilitators of the conflict. Similarly, the U.S. should utilize the good relations that the U.S has with countries in the Arab world that support Khartoum financially, to pressure countries like Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which are investing in Sudan and lending the regime money, to turn off the spigot until true reform and change occurs on the ground.

Additionally, we urge the Administration to counter gold as a major source of funding for the conflict in Sudan, allowing it to continue its atrocities. Please prioritize efforts to encourage industry associations to designate Sudan's gold as conflict-affected. Gold has emerged as a top revenue earner for the Sudanese government after the secession of South Sudan deprived the regime of oil proceeds. The bulk of this gold is mined in the conflict region of Darfur and its extraction bears the hallmarks of grave human rights abuses. Penalizing the trade in Sudanese gold can help deprive the regime of a major source of revenue for its war machinery.

Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir continues to travel with near impunity despite arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. This includes visits to India, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa with no apparent consequences. The lack of accountability has emboldened the Government of Sudan. Despite the documented uptick in violence and displacement the Government of Sudan has announced plans for dismantling displacement camps and has been demanding the removal of UN peacekeepers.

The United States can make a difference in Sudan by making it more difficult for the regime to continue to wage war against its own population. With sustained urgent attention and multilateral efforts, the United States can significantly contribute toward peace, accountability, and protection of civilians in Sudan. Ending the genocide in Darfur is an issue you championed as a Senator and as you came into office as President.

The current situation in Darfur and throughout Sudan requires sustained efforts at the very highest level of our government. Now, as much as ever, the people of Sudan need you to be a champion today.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



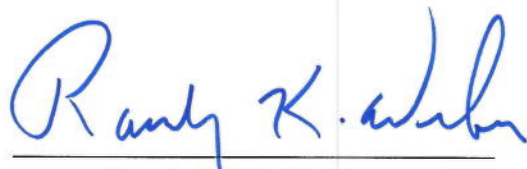
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



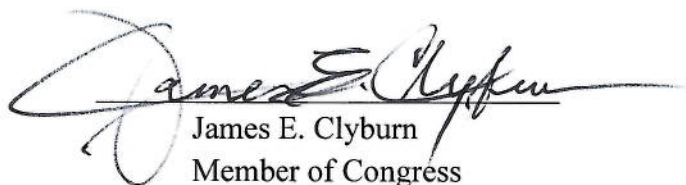
Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



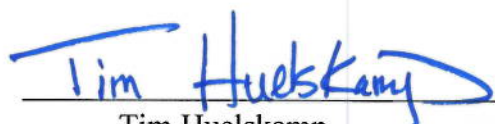
Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress



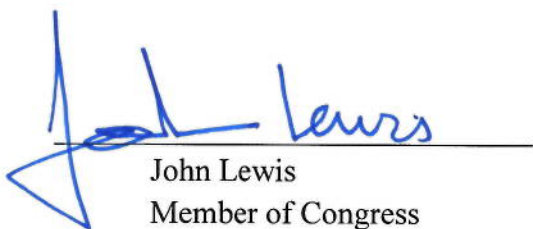
Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



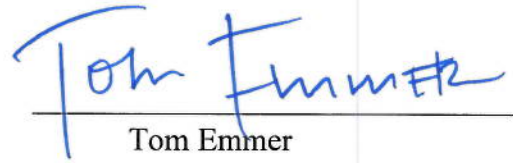
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



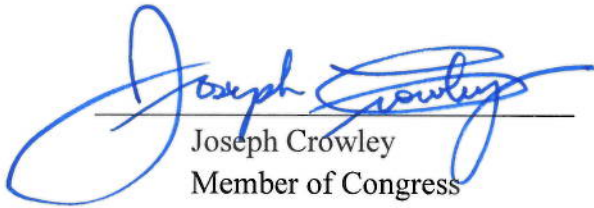
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



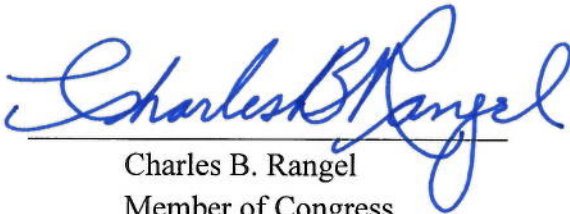
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



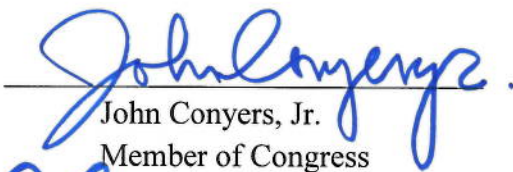
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



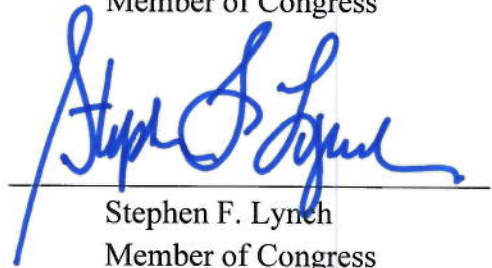
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



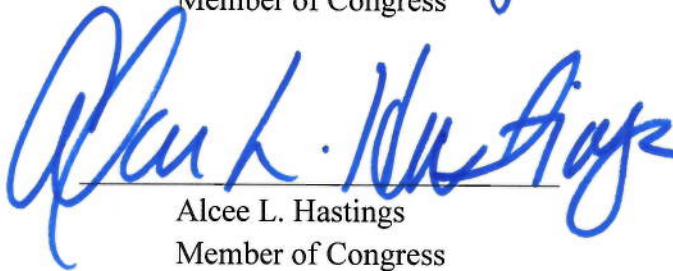
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



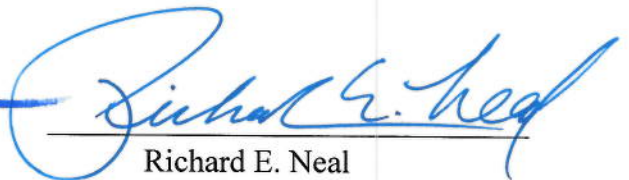
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



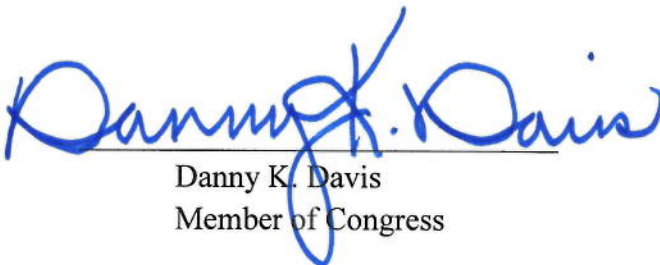
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



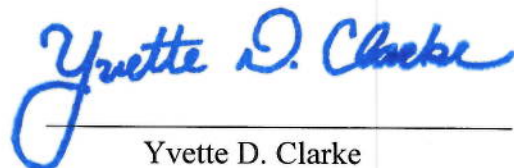
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



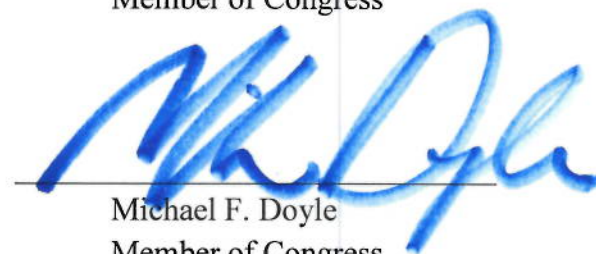
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



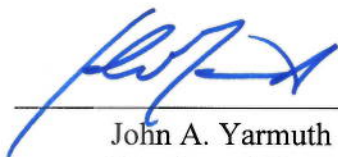
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Michael F. Doyle  
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



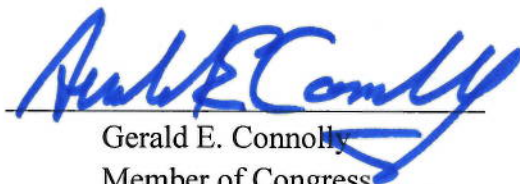
André Carson  
Member of Congress



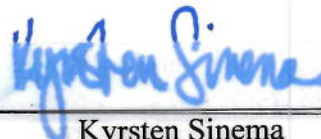
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

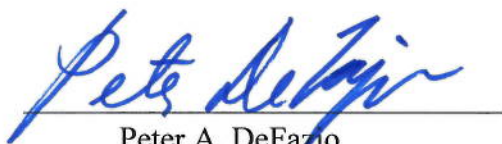


Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

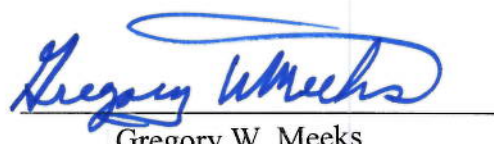
 

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



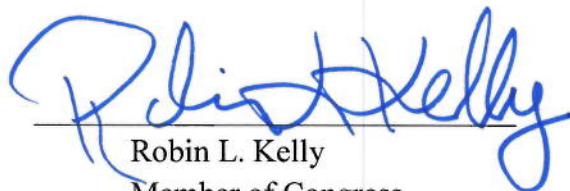
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



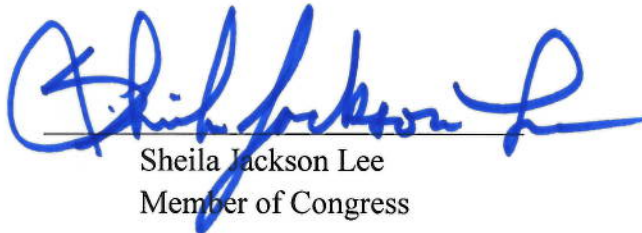
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



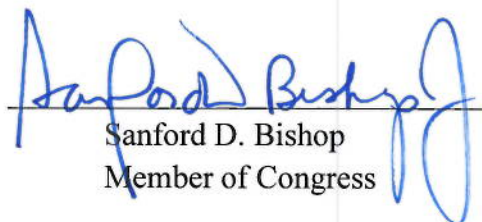
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



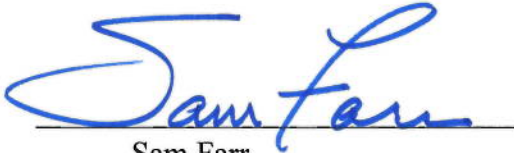
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



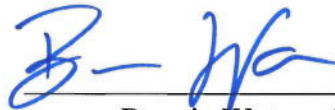
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



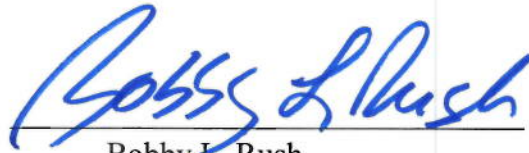
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



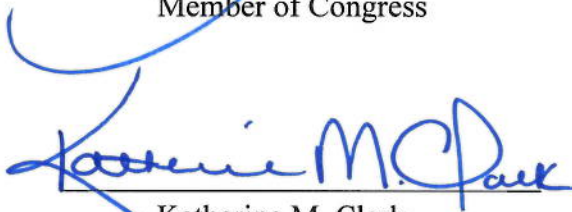
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



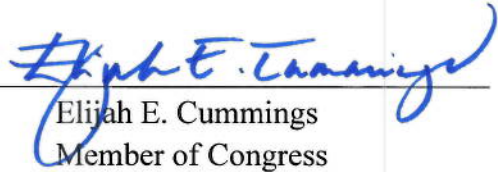
Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



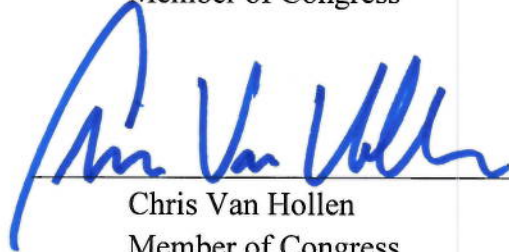
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress




Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



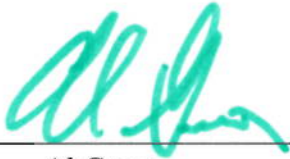
David Scott  
Member of Congress



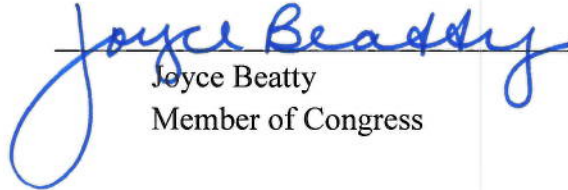
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



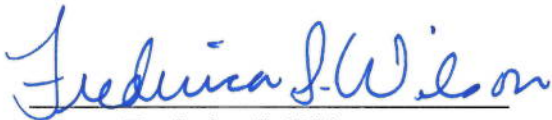
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



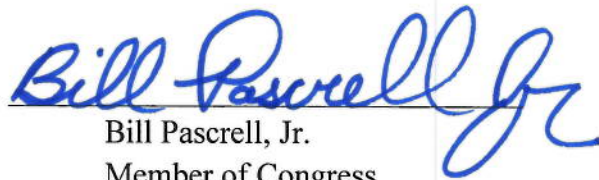
Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



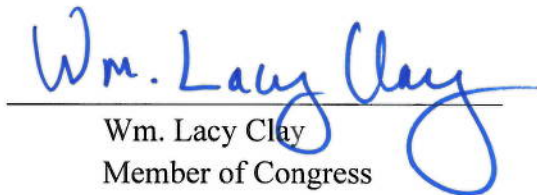
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



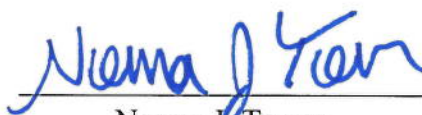
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



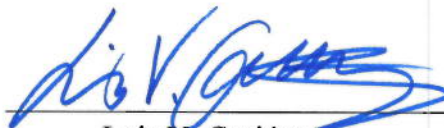
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



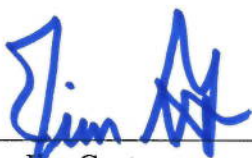
Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress




Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



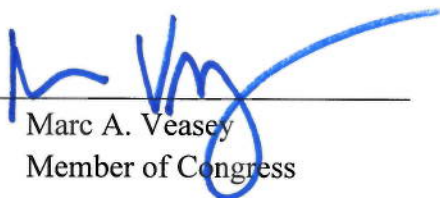
Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



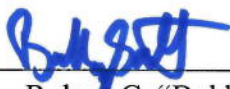
Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



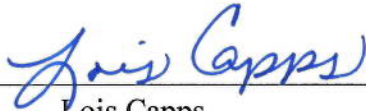
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



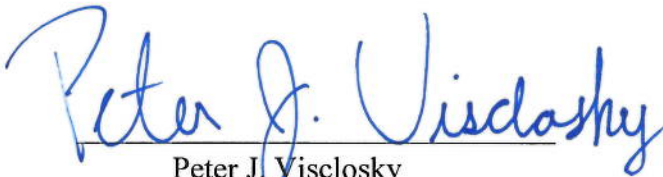
Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress



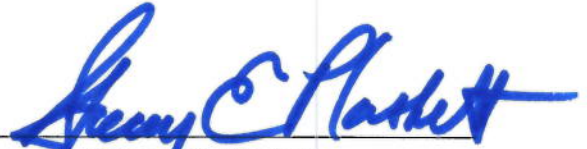
James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



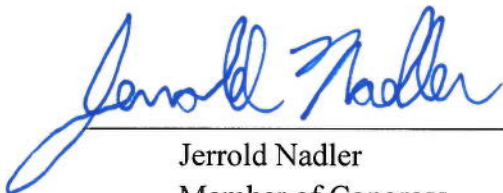
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



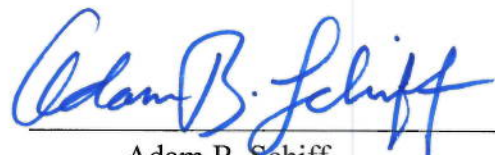
Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress



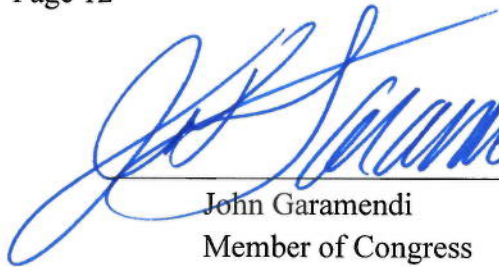
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress




Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



---

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress




---

David E. Price  
Member of Congress




---

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress




---

John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress




---

Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress




---

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



---

David Loebsack  
Member of Congress



---

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress