

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are writing in light of the latest collapse in South Sudan's peace talks. We have been appalled by the failure of the parties to resolve their differences, which we believe reflects an abject failure of leadership, particularly on the part of President Kiir and former Vice President Machar. While these leaders stall at the negotiating table, South Sudan's people continue to suffer, with many facing unspeakable brutality: almost two million displaced, and more than 2.5 million facing severe food insecurity. In the past year, thousands of parents have also seen their young boys recruited into a new generation of violence. We urge you to increase pressure on the relevant parties to reach a negotiated settlement to this conflict by engaging directly in the IGAD plus peace talks, enacting a U.S. arms embargo, and bringing U.N. sanctions into force.

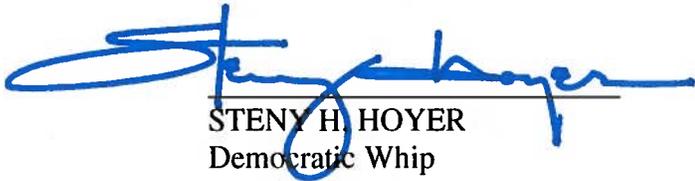
Last July, we wrote to you reiterating a clear message we had heard from representatives in the region: the United States is critical to bringing the parties together and helping resolve this crisis. We are grateful for your efforts to support and facilitate the talks to date, and we commend your team, particularly Ambassador Power, on its efforts to enact U.N. Security Council Resolution 2206 last month. Regrettably, U.S. actions to date, and those of our partners, have yet to alter the behavior of the negotiators or those providing them financial and military support. In the words of Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Hailemariam Dessalegn, "the consequences of inaction are the continued suffering of... the people of South Sudan, and the prolonging of a senseless war in [that] country. This is unacceptable, both morally and politically." We agree with that statement and encourage you to take stronger steps to end this conflict. We specifically believe that the U.S. should take further advantage of Executive Order 13664, and sanction additional individuals who are undermining the peace process in South Sudan.

We also encourage you to work with our international partners to give force to U.N. sanctions by passing a second resolution that establishes an arms embargo, and by expediting the Panel of Experts' investigations so that individuals responsible for driving the violence can be sanctioned. Without taking these steps, the U.N. Security Council will prove what the warring parties already suspect – that they can continue in their recalcitrance with little consequence for themselves. In the meantime, the people of South Sudan will continue to suffer. As we have seen in previous Sudanese peace negotiations, talks can take years, and the cost for the South Sudanese people

would be devastating. Only additional pressure will motivate the two sides to end their stalling and reach an agreement.

Thank you for your attention to this grave crisis, and we stand ready to work with you in the U.S. effort to resolve this conflict.

Sincerely,



STENY H. HOYER
Democratic Whip



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Member of Congress



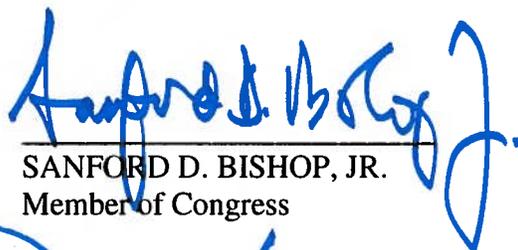
KAREN BASS
Member of Congress



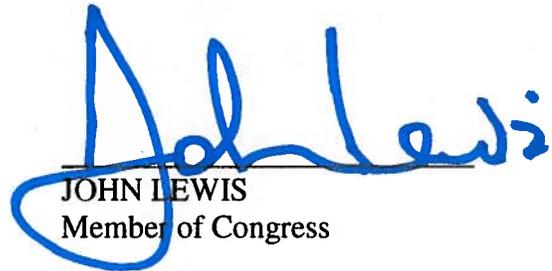
MICHAEL MCCAUL
Member of Congress



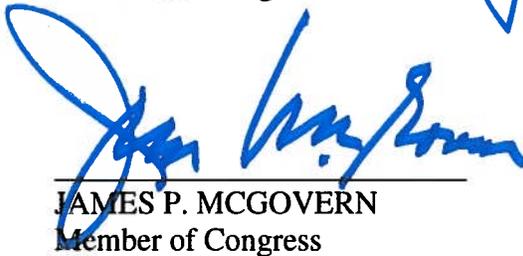
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress



DONNA F. EDWARDS
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress