SAVEDARFUR

June 9, 2009

The Honorable Howard Berman
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States House of Representatives
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Berman:

On behalf of the Save Darfur Coalition, which represents over 180 human rights, faith-based, and advocacy organizations, I am writing to express the Coalition's support for important provisions that have been included in H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

We are pleased to see the Committee's determination to reinforce the strength of the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Peacekeeping Force in Darfur (UNAMID) in Section 1108 of the bill. This section encourages the State Department to work with the international community to retrofit helicopters so that they can be used in UN peacekeeping missions. UNAMID currently faces a shortfall of 18 transport helicopters and Section 1108 represents a step forward in the effort to secure and deploy these critical assets. We look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process to ensure that funding for helicopter refurbishment is provided by the Appropriations Committee.

Additionally, we support the language in Section 1127 which expresses Congressional support for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process. Finally, because we firmly believe the United States should used the lessons learned from Darfur and other genocides to prevent future atrocities, we strongly support Section 1002 which requires the Department of State to develop recommendations to improve and institutionalize the United States Government's response to mass atrocities and genocide.

The Save Darfur Coalition strongly supports the goals of Sections 1002, 1108, and 1127 and urges that they, or language with similar intent, be appropriately protected while the bill is under consideration on the House Floor. We look forward to continuing to work with you to end the Darfur genocide.

Sincerely,

Thanks!

Jerry Fowler
President, Save Darfur Coalition

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