

(Letterhead of Congregation)

(Member of Congress Address)

Dear Honorable (Representative or Senator name)

We witness ongoing violence in Sudan that is breeding instability and mistrust in the region. Increased attacks in southern Sudan by roving militia sponsored by the Khartoum Government is undermining the fragile Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which the United States was instrumental in achieving. I/we are requesting that you join other members of Congress in taking swift action to curb what might well become a huge humanitarian disaster. I/we urge Congress and the State Department to ensure that the details of the CPA are upheld and that all parties to the Agreement are held accountable for their actions. Our government must act now in concert with our global partners who were key in bringing about the CPA so that the chance for peace is not lost.

Whatever attempts are made to negotiate with the Khartoum Government to enforce the CPA must be coupled with precise standards for assessing compliance with its provisions, as well as timelines for taking the necessary steps to ensure that free and fair elections occur. Given the importance of national elections in 2010, I/we urge that sufficient resources be committed to provide education and monitoring to promote confidence in the election outcomes and offer a solid basis for a reliable referendum on Sudan's future in 2011. I/we recommend that use of civil institutions in Sudan such as major faith communities as resources in bolstering the integrity of and confidence in the election process.

In this regard, I/we recommend that Special Envoy Gration meet with the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church in Sudan, the Most Reverend Daniel Deng Bul, who leads a faith community of nearly five million persons throughout Sudan. This meeting would provide excellent opportunity for mutual understanding and for Mr. Gration to learn how the Church can be an ally in fulfilling the terms of the CPA. The Archbishop has been a stalwart supporter of the CPA and an agent of reconciliation in reaching across both religious and tribal boundaries to attempt to prevent violence from overtaking the peace process. His efforts and that of other faith leaders can provide access to citizens, even in the most remote and inaccessible parts of Sudan contributing to a free and fair election process.

The United States has an opportunity to help stem the tide of violence and displacement in Sudan. The urgency surrounding impending humanitarian disaster with violence moving from the Darfur region in the north to regions in the south requires not only active diplomacy but robust U.S. leadership in requiring the CPA partners to adhere to their obligations under the Agreement. Your leadership is critical. Please act now.

Sincerely yours,

(It would be best if many names were signed to this letter. Be sure that the people sign then write their name and address with zip code)