

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In advance of your travel to Beijing to attend the Olympic Opening Ceremonies, we are writing to highlight recent developments which we feel should compel your Administration to modify its approach towards ending the genocide in Darfur.

Fueling the flames of this tragedy are the arms traveling from China to the Government of Sudan. Recent news reports and independent analyses indicate that despite the United Nations Security Council embargo on arms transfers into Darfur created by UNSC Resolution 1556 – passed four years ago today on July 30, 2004 – Chinese military hardware delivered to Sudan after that date has been identified and photographed within the embargo area. Eyewitness accounts indicate that Chinese weapons, ranging from small arms to fighter jets, have been used to attack villages and civilians.

The Chinese government argues that because its weapons sales are to the Government of Sudan, it is not violating the embargo and cannot be held responsible should their weapons be found in Darfur. This is a spurious argument; China cannot be naïve enough to believe that its arms are not supporting the Sudanese regime's repressive attacks in Darfur. As a signatory to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, China's arms sales to the Government of Sudan also appear to violate their duty under Article I of that historic and binding agreement: China's ongoing arms sales are at odds with their international obligation to prevent genocide.

The ongoing impunity for China and others who violate the arms embargo on Darfur cannot be allowed to continue. With China seemingly content to flout their international obligations, the U.N. Security Council must take the necessary step to prevent these illegal arms transfers by expanding the arms embargo to cover the entirety of Sudan, with an appropriate carve-out for the semi-autonomous Government of South Sudan. We therefore strongly urge you to instruct the Department of State to introduce a resolution at the United Nations Security Council expanding the arms embargo to include all sales to the Government of Sudan, and to push for its passage.

Further, in light of the recent evidence of violations of the current Darfur arms embargo, and considering China's continuing refusal to abide by its responsibilities as

laid out in the Genocide Convention, it is now wholly appropriate for you to tell President Hu during your visit to Beijing that the U.S. will push for such a resolution at the U.N. Security Council unless China agrees to voluntarily cease all arms transfers to the Government of Sudan. Only your strong and substantive action on these points will stem the flow of arms into the clutches of those who use them against the defenseless civilians of Darfur.

The Chinese government will be publicly shamed when peace in Darfur is finally secured and the extent to which their arms facilitated the conflict is revealed. History will judge the United States harshly as well if we do not exercise every opportunity to uphold our own obligation to prevent further genocide. To that end, we must use our influence at the United Nations to seek a resolution prohibiting the transfer of arms to the Government of Sudan.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



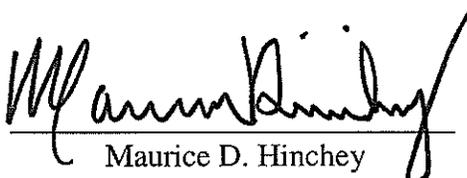
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



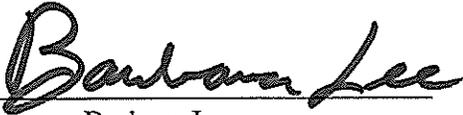
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



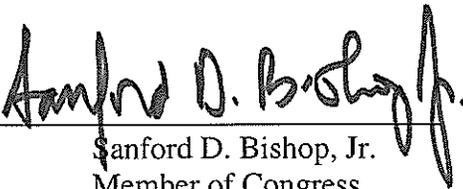
Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress

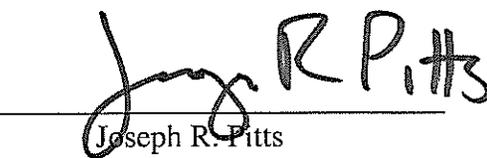


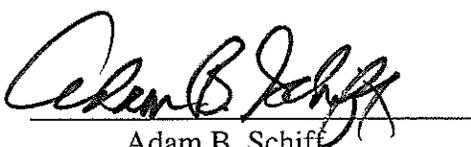
Phil English
Member of Congress

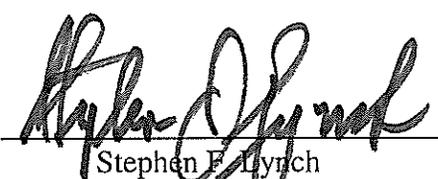

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Christopher Shays
Member of Congress

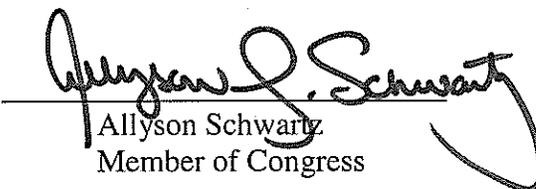

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

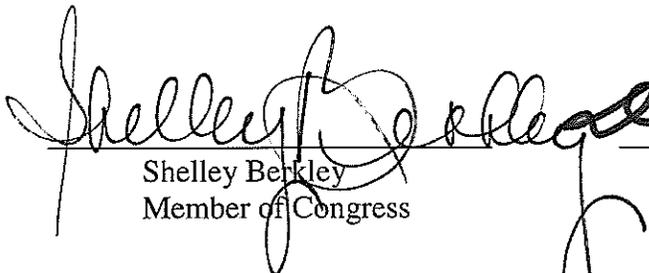

Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress

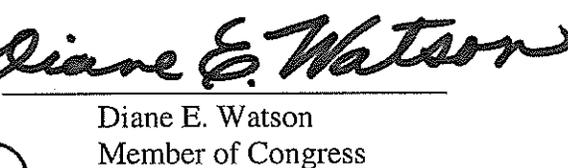

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

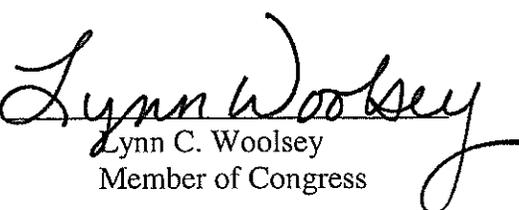

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress


Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

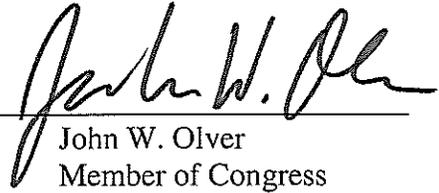

Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress


Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress


Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



Paul W. Hodes
Member of Congress



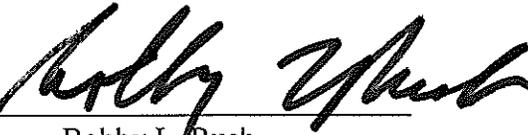
John W. Olver
Member of Congress



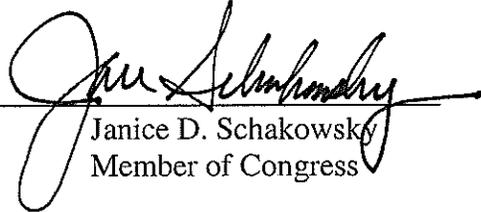
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



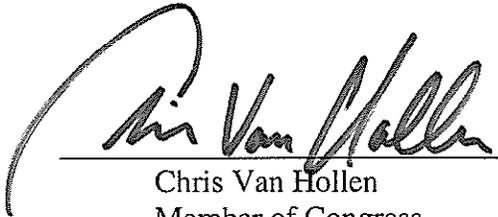
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



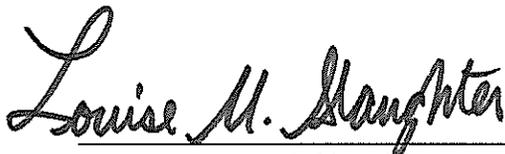
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



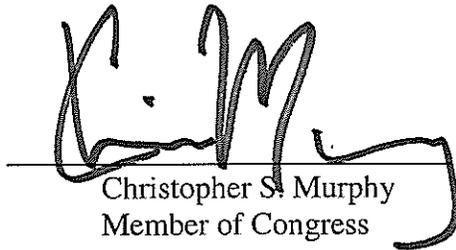
Betty Sutton
Member of Congress


Barney Frank
Member of Congress


Tom Allen
Member of Congress

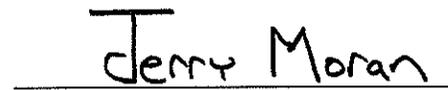

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Thaddeus G. McCotter
Member of Congress


Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

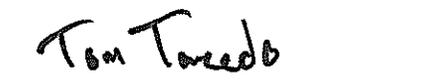

Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress


Jerry Moran
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress


Thomas G. Tancredo
Member of Congress



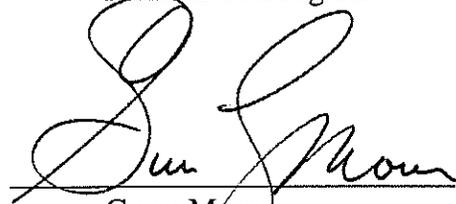
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



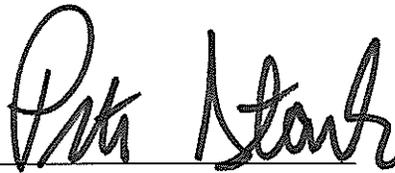
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



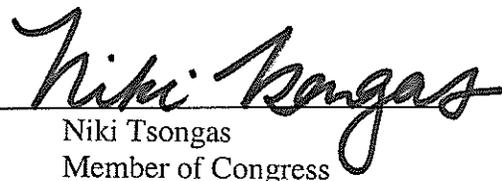
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

cc: Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State