

Israel, joined by 22 Members of Congress, urges Amb. Rice to resist any U.N. attempts to delay action on the ICC warrant; Congressmen call for Presidential Envoy on Sudan

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Steve Israel (D – NY) and 22 additional Members of Congress sent the following letter to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice. The letter requests that Amb. Rice work against any efforts within the U.N. to delay action on the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant for Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, and calls for a Presidential Envoy to respond to the ongoing crisis in Sudan. Rep. Israel led the bipartisan effort.

The Honorable Susan E. Rice
Ambassador
U.S. Mission to the United Nations
140 East 45th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Ambassador Rice,

We write to request that you work with your colleagues at the United Nations to resist any attempt to delay action on the recently issued International Criminal Court arrest warrant for Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. Recent news that the Government of Sudan has suspended licenses for international humanitarian groups serving displaced Darfuris should strengthen the resolve of the United States to oppose any attempt to invoke an Article 16 deferral.

The situation in Sudan is extremely delicate. The peace talks in Doha are a sign of progress but there is much work to do. The United States must lead the international community in embracing this unique opportunity to secure peace and justice for Sudanese in all regions of the country.

We continue to believe that a Presidential Envoy is needed to lead our response to the ongoing crisis in Sudan. President George W. Bush's first Envoy to Sudan, Senator John Danforth, was successful in using the influence of the United States to broker the Comprehensive Peace

Agreement which ended the deadly twenty-year civil war between Khartoum and Southern Sudanese rebels. We believe President Obama can build on that important legacy by appointing a high-level envoy with direct access to the principals and a full-time team on the ground in Sudan.

We are encouraged by your recent statements and previous record on Sudan. If there is anything we can do to assist your important work at the United Nations, we are at your service.

Sincerely,

Rep. Steve Israel
Rep. Frank Wolf
Rep. Barbara Lee
Rep. Tammy Baldwin
Rep. Maurice Hinchey
Rep. Tim Ryan
Rep. David Reichert
Rep. John Olver
Rep. Steve Rothman
Rep. Lynn Woolsey
Rep. Trent Franks
Rep. Mark Kirk
Rep. Alcee Hastings
Rep. Frank LoBiondo
Rep. Mike McMahon
Rep. Lloyd Doggett
Rep. Jerry Moran
Rep. Dennis Kucinich
Rep. Tom Perriello
Rep. Frank Pallone
Rep. James McGovern
Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao

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