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The project to end genocide and crimes against humanity



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**GENOCIDE**

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20520

April 9, 2013

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are writing to urge you to support the appointment of a new U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan who has the political stature, experience and skills necessary to make substantial progress on the issues facing these countries in the next four years. As you know, Ambassador Princeton N. Lyman announced that he was retiring from his position in December 2012, and he formally left government almost a month ago. However, there has been no announcement of a successor, and we are concerned that there is a growing vacuum of leadership regarding Sudan.

Given the varied U.S. national interests at stake, we urge you to support the immediate appointment of a Special Envoy with sufficient political stature and experience to command the respect of Sudanese and South Sudanese officials and other relevant international and domestic actors. This is a critical moment, where a new envoy from outside the Department of State could bring fresh energy to these complex problems. Moreover, this decision will set the tone for how the Department of State and the U.S. Government intend to address this issue for the next four years.

We urge you to not only support the immediate appointment of a replacement, but also to offer your personal support in helping resolve the ongoing problems facing Sudan and South Sudan both internally and between the two states. Your own experience working on these problems and on the successful referendum for South Sudan, while you were Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is a real asset. For the people of Sudan and South Sudan to make progress towards their aspirations for democracy, peace and prosperity, a new envoy, your personal engagement, and that of the President will all be critical.

Continued high-level U.S. leadership will be required to help the international community maintain a coordinated and effective approach on these issues. The National Congress Party's unrepresentative governance structures and perpetual marginalization of Sudan's periphery have allowed a deepening humanitarian crisis in the Two Areas and continued suffering in Darfur. Indiscriminate attacks against civilians have led to the displacement of millions of Sudanese, uncounted deaths from violence, and a humanitarian emergency of food insecurity. Forces for democratic transformation within Sudan continue to need support and face restricted political space. Bilaterally, Sudan and South Sudan remain divided over critical outstanding issues in their bilateral relationship, including the status of the Abyei region straddling their shared border, the creation of a demilitarized buffer zone to separate their armed forces, and the international border's actual location. The framework for international engagement, provided first by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and then the AUHIP-led bilateral negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan, is coming to a close. Deadlock and inaction at the African Union and at the United Nations mean that the current trajectory could easily devolve into deeper dysfunction,

with numerous other international actors implicated. Failure to quickly appoint an experienced, high-level, and well-respected U.S. Special Envoy will allow these problems to deteriorate. In contrast, an influential envoy could offer much-needed leadership during this new period.

It is also important that the Special Envoy be resourced with a sufficiently qualified and resourced team. With the recent departure of other senior and long-serving staff, we urge you to ensure that the Special Envoy is equipped with a knowledgeable staff and ensures that efforts related to Darfur are integrated into the overall Sudan strategy.

We thank you for your leadership on Sudan and South Sudan and look forward to the appointment of a new Special Envoy who can make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Act for Sudan  
American Jewish World Service  
The Enough Project  
Humanity United  
United to End Genocide

Cc: National Security Adviser Tom Donilon  
Administrator for USAID Rajiv Shah