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Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington DC 20520

Stop the flow of weapons to human rights abusers in Sudan

Dear Madam Secretary:

We, the undersigned, call for the immediate and strong US support for a full, mandatory arms embargo on Sudan, and to urge you to press other UN Security Council members to do likewise. Arms transfers and logistical/security supplies continue to reach gross human rights violators. It is time for the UN Security Council to impose a mandatory embargo with a strong monitoring mechanism.

Despite the government of Sudan's promises to maintain a ceasefire, the government reportedly continues to conduct aerial bombings of civilians. According to the BBC, Sudan's Air Force has bombed a town in the Darfur region killing approximately 100 people, mostly women and children. Deputy Spokesperson George Somerwill with the UN Advance Mission in Sudan told IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Networks) that the village of Hamada was almost totally destroyed due to the raids.

This news report is unsurprising. Amnesty International has found evidence that the Sudanese Air Force conducted aerial bombings on civilians and civilian objects and provided cover for militia ground troops with MiG jet fighters or other aircraft during the last two years in Darfur as well as during the North-South conflict. The government of Sudan has also used dual-use aircraft to drop off arms and ammunition to supply the militia.

Yet, despite strong evidence of the Sudanese government's culpability, several countries provided arms and logistical or related security supplies to the government of Sudan. The Sudanese government, for example, announced in July 2004 the import of 12 MiG-29 jet fighters from Russia. In the past few years other countries such as China, France, and Saudi Arabia have provided large quantities of small arms and light weapons to Sudan.

Madam Secretary, to stop these transfers, we urge you to press all UN Security Council members to impose a full mandatory arms embargo with a strong monitoring mechanism.

