



June 9, 2008

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad  
United States Mission to the United Nations  
140 East 45th Street  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Khalilzad:

I am writing to urge you to use the opportunity of your June presidency in the UN Security Council to launch a call for an expanded UN arms embargo on Sudan. Officials in the Bush Administration have identified the horrendous crisis in Darfur as one of its “highest foreign policy priorities,” and over the past several years, the U.S. government has supported important initiatives and funding to help bring that crisis to an end.

As you are aware, arms have continued to flow into Darfur as a result of actions by the government of Sudan that flout international measures intended to contain the conflict and limit human rights violations and abuses. In its May 2007 report on Sudan, Amnesty International documented the off-loading of small arms cargo at the El Geneina airport and the Sudanese government’s use of disguised military aircraft in Darfur. In October 2007, the UN Panel of Experts on Sudan likewise reported that heavy weapons, small arms, ammunition, and other military equipment have been entering Darfur from other countries and other parts of Sudan. Moreover, the panel reported that between September 2006 and June 2007, the government of Sudan conducted offensive military operations in Darfur, which included aerial bombardments on civilian areas by Antonov aircraft and repeated attacks by M-24 helicopters.

It has become undeniably clear that the UN arms embargo mandated by UNSC Resolution 1556 (and expanded in 2005 to include all parties to the conflict) cannot effectively restrain the arms flow into Darfur. The government of Sudan has not acted in good faith. As State Department spokesman Sean McCormack noted in response to the January 2008 attack by Sudanese armed forces on UN peacekeepers, we need a stronger arms embargo in Sudan.

While Darfur remains in crisis with UN-AU peacekeepers only partially deployed, we cannot afford to wait any longer to stop the transfer of arms that place the people of Darfur in continuous danger. It is time to strengthen and enlarge the existing arms embargo to cover the entire territory of Sudan, with exemptions for humanitarian purposes to be certified by the UN.

U.S. leadership on this crucial matter is needed now more than ever. Therefore, I urge you to seize this important opportunity to shape and lead a renewed commitment by the UN Security Council to halt the flow of arms into Darfur.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to protect the people of Darfur. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Cox  
Executive Director  
Amnesty International USA

cc: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Department of State