



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 7, 2012

Dear Mr. Schock:

Thank you for your letter of March 30 to President Obama concerning the humanitarian situation in the Sudanese states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile (known together as the “Two Areas”). We have been asked to respond on the President’s behalf.

We share your concern about the crisis in the Two Areas and the border region between Sudan and South Sudan, and have been working relentlessly to address it. We have repeatedly and strongly condemned the indiscriminate aerial bombardment of civilians. Further, we have denounced the Government of Sudan’s refusal to allow humanitarian access in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, which is causing tremendous human suffering and displacement.

We believe sustained international coordination is necessary to pressure the Government of Sudan to act on these issues. Together with our partners in the international community, we have called on Sudan to allow full humanitarian access for vulnerable populations in the Two Areas.

The United States is very pleased with the unanimous adoption by the UN Security Council of Resolution 2046, which endorses under Chapter VII and makes binding the requirements as well as the timelines embedded in the African Union Peace and Security Council’s Roadmap for peace between Sudan and South Sudan. With this vote, the Council has clearly imposed tight deadlines for concrete action, in line with the African Union decision. The Council has made very clear that both parties are obliged to halt all forms of violence—cross-border attacks, aerial bombardments, support to one another’s proxies—and to return promptly to the negotiating table to resolve the outstanding issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. This resolution also directs the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) to accept the Tripartite proposal and immediately allow urgently needed humanitarian access to all of the affected areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. If the parties fail to take

The Honorable
Aaron Schock,
House of Representatives.

these steps promptly, the Council is united in its determination to hold both sides accountable. We stand ready to impose Chapter VII sanctions on either or both parties, as necessary.

During their April 2012 meeting, the G-8 Foreign Ministers expressed alarm regarding the military clashes in the region bordering Sudan and South Sudan. They called upon both governments to exercise maximum restraint and protect civilians. The ministers also called for the immediate cessation of bombing of civilian areas reiterated the grave urgency of delivering humanitarian aid to the South Kordofan and the Blue Nile.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns. Please feel free to contact us further on this or any matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Adams', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

David S. Adams
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs