

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2024

Dear Secretary Blinken and Administrator Power,

We write with alarm at the catastrophic humanitarian emergency unfolding in Sudan, emphasized by the declaration of famine in the 500,000-person Zamzam refugee camp in war-ravaged Darfur—the world’s first confirmed famine since 2017. In the face of such incredible suffering, the U.S. must take extraordinary measures to support Sudanese civilians. We appreciate the Administration’s efforts at the ALPS Group talks in Switzerland to address Sudan’s humanitarian crisis, including by securing commitments from both parties to provide unhindered humanitarian access through Adre border crossing and along the Dabbah Road for 3 months, which all parties must immediately operationalize and expand to facilitate a famine response. We urge the U.S. to build on the peace talks to prioritize the scaling up of humanitarian aid in Sudan, through greater resources and staffing for Special Envoy Tom Perriello, more concerted U.S. leadership to push for creative solutions to aid delivery obstacles, support for a new pledging conference, and greater attention from the UN.

The lack of international attention has obscured a horrific reality: the war in Sudan is the largest humanitarian disaster in the world today. The country is experiencing higher rates of displacement, death, and starvation than during the Darfur genocide in the early 2000s. As Special Envoy Tom Perriello recently testified, the death toll from the war could be as many as 150,000 people. Millions of civilians are experiencing violence, with 6.7 million people at risk of conflict-related sexual violence, which disproportionately impacts women and girls. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) system, 26 million Sudanese, about half the country’s population, are suffering crisis levels of hunger—the worst food insecurity in Sudan the IPC has ever recorded. By one estimate, two and a half million Sudanese could die of hunger-related causes in the next four months. Sudan is also experiencing the world’s largest displacement crisis: 10 million people have been forced from their homes since the war began 16 months ago, two million of whom have fled to neighboring countries where humanitarian assistance is already at a breaking point. Sudan is experiencing a crisis of historic proportions with lasting consequences for U.S. interests in the region. There is no time to waste: the United States must bring the full weight of our diplomatic power and foreign assistance to bear to meaningfully improve the conditions on the ground.

Surging humanitarian resources to desperate civilians and bringing an end to this conflict should be a top priority of the U.S. foreign policy agenda, with commensurate resources and high-level diplomatic attention. We encourage the inclusion of relevant international partners in a centralized process to bring both the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to the table for further talks to end the war. In the meantime, it is essential that the U.S. seize the momentum of the ALPS Group talks to continue to mobilize its own resources and those of the international community to dramatically scale up the humanitarian response and save civilian lives in Sudan.



Breaking the current stalemate requires the work of a robust team backed by serious resources, and it is critical that the Special Envoy has the support needed to be successful. Alongside the diplomatic line of effort, we urge greater U.S. leadership in pushing for creative solutions to

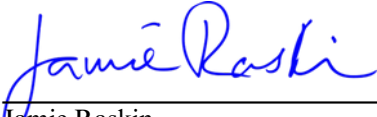
circumvent the numerous obstacles to aid delivery created by the SAF and RSF and to secure consistent and sustained access to the Adre border crossing after the initial three-month opening period. The risk of recurring impediments to traditional UN cross-line and cross-border humanitarian operations also make investing in alternative aid mechanisms all the more important. We urge you to ramp up support for cash programming and market-based assistance and direct greater funding to locally-led, grassroots response organizations like Emergency Response Rooms that are leading humanitarian efforts in many hard-to-access areas.

From a broader perspective, we are also concerned that only 37% out of the \$2.7 billion of the UN's humanitarian appeal for Sudan is currently funded. We urge the Administration to push for another emergency pledging conference in light of the recent famine declaration and the temporary reopening of the Adre crossing, and to engage urgently with international partners to encourage a multilateral surge of contributions. The U.S. should also utilize its position at the UN to help catalyze international action. We hope the U.S. is able to leverage the upcoming UN General Assembly to elevate the crisis to the highest levels of global action, including urging the UN Security Council to hold open briefings on Sudan until famine conditions are improved. Ending the Sudan crisis will require a deliberate and well-resourced U.S. response. We want to work with you to ensure the U.S. puts forward a policy that holistically addresses the humanitarian, political, economic, and regional impacts of the war.

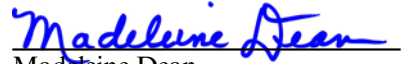
Famine is a reality on the ground in Sudan and the deprivation at Zamzam camp just scratches the surface of a much broader catastrophe. If we are to stop the suffering, the United States and our partners around the world must act swiftly and decisively to save civilian lives.

Sincerely,


Sydney Kamlager-Love
Member of Congress
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress
Sara Jacobs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Africa
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



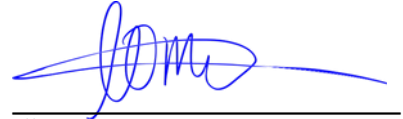
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



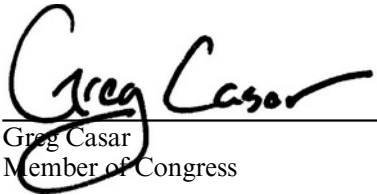
Madeleine Dean
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Abigail Davis Sponberger
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Ilhan Omar
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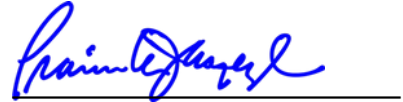
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



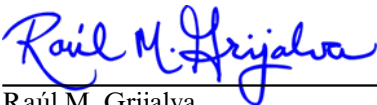
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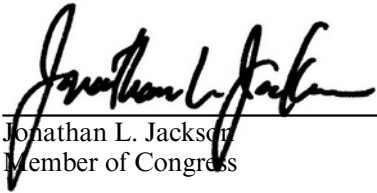
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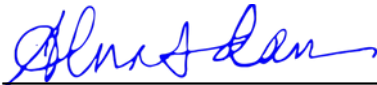
Maxine Waters
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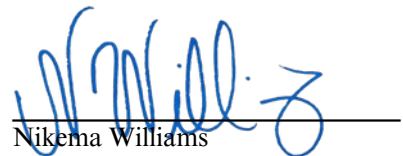
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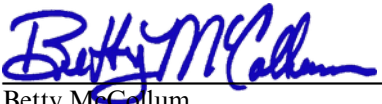
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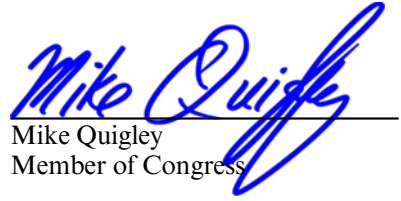
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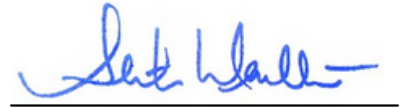
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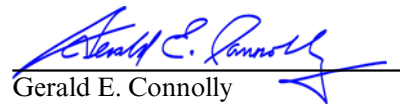
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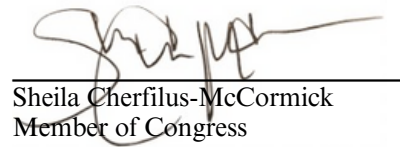
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Stephen F. Lynch
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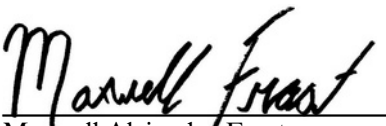
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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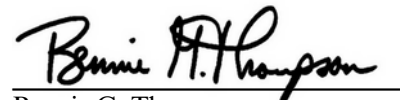
Andy Kim
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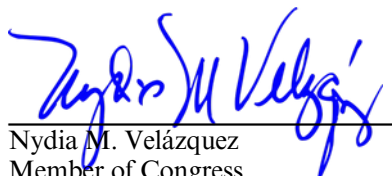
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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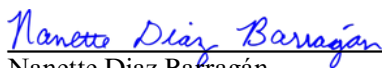
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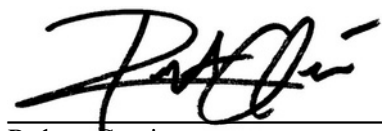
Seth Magaziner
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Nanette Diaz Bafragán
Member of Congress




Andre Carson
Member of Congress



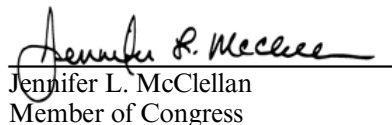
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



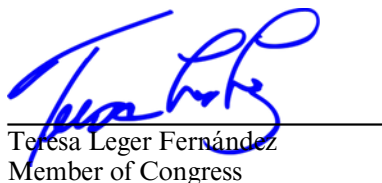
Ami Bera, M.D.
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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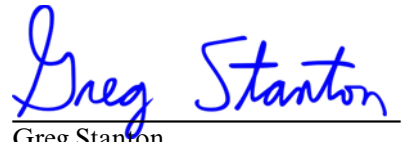
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



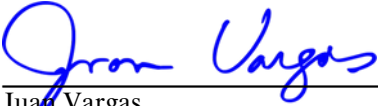
Teresa Leger Fernández
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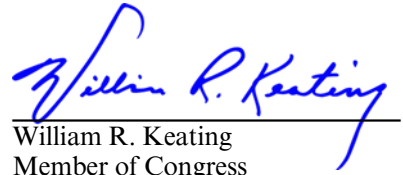
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