ACTION ALERT

DATE: April 12, 2012
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP Urges Swift Passage Of Legislation To Address The Crucial And Continuing Humanitarian Crises In Sudan
APPROXIMATELY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE CURRENTLY FACE STARVATION AS A RESULT OF ACTIONS BY THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT

THE ISSUE:
Recently, the Government of Sudan has shifted their tactics from direct attacks on Darfuri civilians to restricting aid from humanitarian organizations and peacekeepers. These restrictions prevent these organizations from effectively providing aid and security to Darfuri civilians who desperately rely upon it. Since July of 2011 the Government of Sudan has restricted access of the African Union / United Nation’s Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) at least 50 times. An estimated 4.7 million people are currently directly affected by the conflict in Darfur.

Although the number of deaths due to direct attacks have slowed in the Darfur region over the past couple of years over 300,000 people have been reported to be killed since 2003 and close to 1/3rd of Darfuri civilians, or 2.7 million men, women and children live in internally displaced person (IDP) camps. Sadly, these camps often lack security and basic resources such as water, food, and medical supplies. In 2011 there were 752,000 newly displaced civilians and so far this year there have been 53,000 newly displaced. Approximately 2.8 million people have been displaced from their homes in the Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and Abyei regions.

To address this crisis Congressman Jim McGovern (MA) has introduced the Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act of 2012 (H.R. 4169), which is intended to create a comprehensive strategy towards ending atrocities and creating peace in Sudan. This legislation could not be more urgent: roughly half a million people in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions of Sudan are at risk of starvation because of a blockade preventing food and humanitarian aid. In addition, the bombing attacks in that region which have been linked to the Sudanese government have prevented families from planting their crops. With no food and nothing to harvest, hundreds of thousands now face starvation.

The Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act will address the current humanitarian crisis in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei, while continuing to assist in Darfur and other parts of Sudan. It will mandate broad-reaching sanctions to target any government or person who supports or assists in the commission of serious human rights violations, including those who:

- Provide any military equipment to the Government of Sudan.
- Contribute $500,000 or more of goods or other support to the Government of Sudan or its proxies and which directly and significantly contribute to the commission of serious human rights violations;
- Interfere with humanitarian aid;
- Impede or threaten peace or stability in Sudan;
- Fail to execute international arrest warrants against Government of Sudan officials.

The legislation also requires the Administration and all relevant agencies to work together and create a comprehensive strategic plan focused on all of Sudan.
**THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:**
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WILL ADDRESS THE CURRENT HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

- **Make a Phone Call:**
  Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is *(202) 224-3121* (see message section, below).

- **Write a Letter**
  To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
  The Honorable (name of Senator)  
  U.S. Senate  
  Washington, D.C.  20510

  To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
  The Honorable (name of Representative)  
  U.S. House of Representatives  
  Washington, D.C.  20515

- **Send a Fax**
  If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

- **Send an E-Mail**
  To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on “Find Your Senators”. Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.
  To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Write Your Representative” (on the left hand side, just under “find your Representative). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

**REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!!**

**THE MESSAGE**

- The Sudanese government has severely restricted humanitarian and human rights workers’ access to the people who live in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and Abyei regions of Sudan.

- The United Nations estimates that as many as 300,000 people have died in Darfur since the start of the current conflict in 2003, from direct violence or deprivation.

- An estimated 4.7 million people are currently directly affected by the conflict in Darfur.

- 2.8 million people have been displaced from their homes in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and Abyei so far.

- H.R. 4169, the *Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act of 2012* establishes broad-reaching sanctions to target any government or person who supports or assists in the commission of serious human rights violations.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!**
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at *(202) 463-2940.*

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(date)

The Honorable ___________________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.  20510 / 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO END THE
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN

Dear Senator / Representative ______________________________;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support the swift enactment of the
Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act of 2012 (H.R. 4169) which will
help create a comprehensive strategy towards ending the humanitarian atrocities
and creating peace in Sudan.

Instead of direct attacks on Darfuri civilians the Government of Sudan has shifted
their tactics to restricting aid from humanitarian organizations and peacekeepers.
The actions of the Sudanese government have prevented organizations, most
notably the African Union / United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)
from effectively providing aid and security to Darfuri civilians who are in
desperate need of them. Since July of 2011 the Government of Sudan has
restricted UNAMID's access at least 50 times.

There are estimates from the United Nations that 200,000 to 300,000 people
have died in Darfur since the start of the current conflict in 2003 from direct
violence or deprivation. In Sudan, out of a total population of around 6.2 million,
an estimated 4.7 million people are directly affected by the conflict. Humanitarian
aid has been constrained and the people of the Blue Nile and South Kordofan,
and Abyei regions of Sudan have been unable to plant or harvest their crops due
to incessant bombing by the Sudanese government. This lack of crops, when
combined with a lack of access by aid workers to those in need, has put more
than half a million people at immediate risk of starvation.

I hope that you will act swiftly to help the people of Sudan and end the potential
genocide of even more innocent people. Please support and co-sponsor H.R.
4169, the Sudan Peace, Security and Accountability Act today. I look forward to
hearing from you in the near future as to what you are doing on this issue and
what more I can do to be effective.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)