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May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008

[title, name]  
Member of Parliament  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Dear [title, name],

We are writing today to express deep concern about Canada's lack of response to the May 10<sup>th</sup> violence in Sudan's capital, and subsequent retaliatory acts against unarmed civilians by the Sudanese security services. This recent surge of violence threatens to further destabilize prospects for peace in the Darfur region, as well as long-term stability in all of Sudan. The incidents have also intensified hostilities between Sudan and neighbouring Chad, since Khartoum accuses N'Djamena of complicity in the attacks.

Given Canada's considerable investments in peace, security and humanitarian relief in Darfur and South Sudan, Canada's lack of response is particularly troubling. We have sent a separate letter to Mr. Bernier, but we request that you register your formal concern with his office, and with your party as well.

While we advocate for peaceful resolution of the Darfur crisis and we condemn rebel attacks on the capital, we also support the right to a fair trial for all accused, and the exemption of civilians from retaliation.

Our primary concerns are:

- widely reported disappearances of hundreds of individuals without formal accusation following the May 10<sup>th</sup> attacks, and credible accounts of violence, torture and summary execution against persons detained by the Sudanese government;
- Khartoum's track record of disregarding international agreements concerning the treatment of detainees, and credible reports that those taken into custody for the May 10<sup>th</sup> attacks face have not been held under international standards. To date, Sudan has not observed international standards for the timely release of individuals not charged with crimes, the disclosure of the identities and whereabouts of those detained to international agencies, or other international standards of fair treatment.
- reported systematic door-to-door and check point targeting of unarmed civilians based on their perceived ethnic identities, and not relating to evidence of involvement in the May 10<sup>th</sup> attacks, resulting in a state of terror for those belonging to some ethnic groups;
- that this is a first incident of a larger spread of Darfur's violence to other regions of Sudan, which could undermine the struggling peace process; and

- that tensions with neighbouring Chad will escalate as a result of the May 10<sup>th</sup> incidents, with Khartoum charging N'Djamena with complicity in the attacks, and Chad closing its borders with Sudan in return.

We call on the Canadian Government to:

- immediately condemn the May 10<sup>th</sup> attacks of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and violent retaliatory acts by the Government of Sudan, and call for increased commitments to peaceful resolution of the crisis by all parties;
- call for Khartoum to respect international law in relation to the treatment of those in custody and those accused of crimes. This includes, but is not limited to, international disclosure of the identities and whereabouts of detainees, fair and just treatment of those in custody, prohibition of the use of torture by security services, the prompt release of individuals not charged with crimes, and the provision of a fair trial for all accused;
- increase its efforts within the international community to ensure that the delayed United Nations and African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is fully deployed as soon as possible. The movement of rebels from Darfur to Khartoum would likely have been detected and the violence averted if UNAMID had the international aerial and reconnaissance commitments required for the mission.
- increase efforts to support the peace process in Darfur, and to deescalate tensions between the Chadian and Sudanese governments.

Hundreds of Darfurians in Canada are deeply troubled by news from loved ones in Sudan, with accounts of a widespread state of fear, violence against unarmed civilians, and the unknown status of family and friends thought to be in custody. The Darfur crisis is not just a foreign affairs issue – it is the concern of many people here at home.

Signed:

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Ishmael Adam, President of the Darfur Association of Canada, a national network of Darfurians living in Canada and executive member of Save Darfur Canada  
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**For more information** about the Canadian Darfur advocacy movement and members of the Save Darfur Canada coalition, please see: [www.SDCanada.org](http://www.SDCanada.org).

International NGO and UN responses to the May 10<sup>th</sup> rebel attacks and retaliatory acts of the Sudanese Government include:

Human Rights Watch: [Mass Arrests After Rebel Attack Raise Concern](#)

Sudan Organization Against Torture: [Mass Arrests and Reports of Torture in Khartoum Following JEM Attacks](#)

Aegis Trust: [Darfuri civilians, including women, shot in Khartoum according to locals](#)

United Nations Security Council: [Security Council strongly condemns 10 May attacks against Sudanese Government by Justice and Equality Movement](#)