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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 25, 2012

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The Honorable Barack H. Obama
The President
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Today I received a disturbing report from on-the-ground contacts at the Yida Refugee Camp in South Sudan and in the Nuba mountain region in Sudan. Though two different areas, the challenges facing the people in these regions are intimately connected and rapidly deteriorating. I am told that there is an alarming increase in the number of refugees pouring into Yida from the Nuba mountains. These refugees are desperately seeking sustenance and a reprieve from the daily bombings that have terrorized them for months. The condition of the new arrivals is deeply troubling and indicates that serious malnutrition has increased in recent weeks.

I know you are well aware of this situation. George Clooney, with whom you recently met, has been there. NBC correspondent Ann Curry has been there. *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof has been there. And I have been there. In fact, several months ago I sent you and several members of your administration a copy of my trip report which sounded the alarm that a humanitarian crisis was looming.

Mr. President, I was told today that the people in the Nuba mountains have resorted to "eating straw and bugs." They have not received seeds from U.S. and international aid groups to plant and the planting season is shortly coming to an end. The Nuba people are "effectively being starved out or to death."

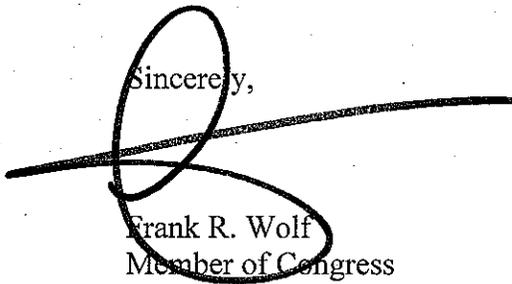
Today, I spoke with Ambassador Princeton Lyman and the USAID deputy administrator, Donald Steinberg, regarding this situation. Sudanese president, and internationally indicted war criminal, Omar al-Bashir is not only bombarding his own people, but is effectively starving them to death—using food as a weapon of war. The blood of the Nuban people is on his hands. Time is now of the essence as the rainy season has begun and in the weeks ahead the roads will be completely closed. I implore your administration to do more before the situation becomes catastrophic.

Time is running out. Lives hang in the balance. The marginalized people of these areas are yearning for our help.

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
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Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

cc: Secretary Hillary R. Clinton, Department of State
Ambassador Prince Lyman, Special Envoy Sudan, Department of State
Administrator Rajiv Shah, USAID
Hilde F. Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary General, UNMISS