

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are writing to express our continuing concern about the ongoing crisis in northern Uganda and to appeal for enhanced attention and action in support of a sustainable peace, particularly as the current negotiations in Juba appear to be in jeopardy.

Ongoing peace negotiations mediated by the Government of southern Sudan in Juba, while volatile and currently precarious, provide the strongest opportunity yet to end the war and facilitate recovery for war-affected areas and individuals. While there can be no impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, we welcome the Government of Uganda's efforts to work with local communities to develop mechanisms that address the need for justice and accountability in a way that does not impede peace and reconciliation. These collective regional efforts require increased support and resources from the United States and international community if they are to succeed.

The optimism that followed the August 26th ceasefire is dissipating due to violations by both sides and the Ugandan Government appears to be losing an interest in pursuing a diplomatic solution despite signing a new ceasefire of November 1st. On September 19th, the Senate unanimously passed Resolution 573, which calls upon the U.S. to provide diplomatic and logistical support for the cessation of hostilities agreement and subsequent progress towards a sustainable peace in Uganda. In line with this resolution, we urge you to do the following:

- Issue public statements in support of the peace process and efforts underway to develop local mechanisms to address issues of justice and reconciliation.
- Press the United Nations Security Council to call for a UN special envoy with a regional mandate to support a political resolution to the LRA insurgency and to help address the root causes of this insurgency.

facilitation of negotiations and efforts to monitor and enforce the ceasefire agreement.

- Develop a comprehensive plan for programs to demilitarize and develop war-affected areas in Uganda as an inclusive peace incentive for those at the negotiating table as well as those living in the camps.
- Assist local leaders and the Government of Uganda in establishing mechanisms to foster national reconciliation and address human rights abuses committed during the twenty year war, and beyond.

It is essential that the U.S. government devote adequate staff and sufficient financial resources to strengthen the Juba peace process and combat this severe humanitarian crisis in order to save innocent lives in northern Uganda. At the same time, to restore stability and security to this conflict-torn region, we must utilize all available political avenues to press both parties to reaffirm their commitment to a ceasefire and continue dialogue for advancing sustainable peace for northern Uganda and the region.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Nancy O. Frazier
Phil Manning

Herb Kohl

Frank R. Lautenberg

Barbara Boxer

Jimaine Christian
Sam Brownback

Norm Coleman

Paul Anthon

James Johnson

Debbie Stabenow

Marco Pryor

Susan M. Collins

Dick Durbin

Chris Dodd

Shyby Chamblin

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Tom F. Kelly

Ed Kennedy

Tom Harkin

Robert Menendez

Robert A. Menendez

CC: Michael E. Hess, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, United States Agency for International Development

Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, State Department

Ellen Sauerbrey, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Migration and Refugees, State Department

Ambassador Stephen Browning, US Embassy, Kampala, Uganda