



Rt Hon. Jack Straw MP  
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Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing to you following UNA-UK's 2006 Annual Conference, held from 21 to 23 April in Durham. Our members were deeply concerned by the continuing killings, harassment and abuses of human rights going on in Darfur. It seems clear that the government of Sudan either cannot or will not protect its own citizens from these terrible crimes. The conference urged the British government to remain fully engaged in seeking ways to protect the population. In particular, our members highlighted the following:

1. The UK government should work with members of the Security Council to secure as rapidly as possible the deployment of an effective UN peacekeeping force to Darfur, mandated and resourced sufficiently to protect civilians. As you will be aware, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean Marie Guéhenno, speaking to the Security Council on 26 April 2006, called on the government of Sudan to allow the UN to conduct an "on-the-spot" assessment of the situation in Darfur, in order to explore modalities for the deployment of the mission. We urge the UK government to work with the members of the Council and bilaterally to put pressure on the Sudanese government to cooperate fully with the UN assessment mission. The UK should, in the meantime, also provide support for the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS).
2. UNA-UK welcomes Security Council resolution 1672 (25 April 2006), which imposed travel restrictions and financial sanctions as specified in resolution 1591 (2005) on four Sudanese individuals deemed responsible for atrocities in Darfur. We urge the UK government to work with the members of the Council to ensure that sanctions are imposed on other individuals identified by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591, and to implement the recommendations of the Committee's 30 January report (S/2006/65) to enhance the effectiveness of sanctions.
3. Regarding the AU's efforts to facilitate the negotiation of a political solution to the conflict, UNA-UK welcomes the British government's support for the AU-led peace talks being held in Abuja, Nigeria between the Sudanese government, pro-government militia and rebel groups. In the all too likely event of the negotiations not being successfully completed by the deadline at the end of this month, it is to be hoped that the government would work to maintain a negotiating track and to bring pressure on both sides to compromise, not excluding the possibility of sanctions. UNA-UK welcomes the £96 million that the UK government has contributed to humanitarian efforts in Darfur since 2003. These efforts must continue.

I look forward to hearing about the government's intentions, so that I can convey your response to our members.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Lord Hannay*

Lord Hannay of Chiswick  
Chair, UNA-UK