



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUN 24 2009

Dear Mr. Capuano:

Thank you for your letter of May 18 regarding the ongoing regional conflict involving Chad, the Central African Republic, and Sudan, and the need for a comprehensive and independent Chad policy. We appreciate your insights into the need to develop a policy that addresses the root causes of instability in Chad, which will ultimately allow us to promote stability in Sudan and the sub-region.

The Sudanese-backed Chadian rebel incursion in eastern Chad in early-May, which was followed by a retaliatory Chadian military operation against Chad rebel bases inside Darfur, highlighted once again the negative impact of cross-border military operations on regional stability. Continued fighting between the Government of Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), which are supported by the Government of Chad, demonstrates how Khartoum's and N'Djamena's support for their proxies complicates efforts to achieve a lasting solution to the Darfur crisis.

The President's Special Envoy for Sudan, J. Scott Gration, and the Bureau of African Affairs work together to urge Chad and Sudan to abide by existing agreements calling for an end to cross-border support for respective proxies and a normalization of bilateral relations. We also continue to craft and implement a specific policy aimed at bringing political stability and economic development to Chad. We, along with our international partners, have encouraged the Government of Chad and the Chadian armed opposition to explore opportunities for a peaceful resolution to the armed conflict. This initially requires the Chadian rebels to cut ties with the Government of Sudan and lay down their arms, and demands that parties to the conflict begin talks to reach an accord that peacefully reintegrates the

The Honorable
Michael E. Capuano,
House of Representatives.

armed opposition back into Chadian society, and creates peaceful conditions that will allow Chadian refugees in Darfur and IDPs in eastern Chad to return to their homes in safety and dignity. We will continue to express our support for any positive mediation efforts aimed at reconciling the warring parties

Recognizing that any push toward political dialogue must be accompanied by enhanced security, we also have maintained our support for the United Nations Mission to Chad and the Central African Republic (MINURCAT), whose forces are mandated to protect humanitarian operations and vulnerable populations in the region. The United States provided \$67 million in assessed contributions to support MINURCAT's activities in 2008, and we have already requested additional funds this year. We also supported an expansion of the mission during MINURCAT's recent mandate renewal, including ensuring that a contingent of UN peacekeepers remained in CAR. Last year, we also provided \$2 million to the UN-trained Integrated Security Detachment (referred to by its French acronym, the DIS), which consists of Chadian gendarmes assigned to protect refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. We will make every effort to continue to support MINURCAT's activities, which are vital to ensuring humanitarian relief for those affected by violence in the region.

Any long-term strategy that achieves peace and stability in Chad must include a process that promotes democracy, good governance, and human rights. We continue to call on Chadian authorities and political opposition groups to implement the August 13, 2007 Accords, which lay the groundwork for future legislative and presidential elections. We are pleased our FY 2008 Supplemental Economic Support Funds (ESF) will be utilized to complete the country's national census, an important first step to holding national elections. We also working on programming additional FY 2008 Supplemental and FY 2009 Bridge Supplemental ESF to support the country's democratic institutions and encourage improved human rights conditions. We support projects to strengthen youth involvement with the media as well as to improve reporting on gender-based violence. Finally, we continue to support policy dialogue between Chad and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank aimed at encouraging the Government to implement budgetary reform and transparently manage its oil revenues.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns.
Please feel free to contact us further on this or any other matter of concern to
you.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Verma
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs