

**Remarks of Congressman Donald M. Payne, Chairman
Hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health
Sudan: U.S. Policy and Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement
July 29, 2009**

Let me first welcome you all to this important and timely hearing on Sudan. Let me also express my deep appreciation to the witnesses, who are certainly among the most knowledgeable people on Sudan.

Friends of Sudan, this coming Friday marks the four year anniversary of the death of my friend, the late John Garang. Let us also remember a number of the other friends who died that day, including Commander Ali. Despite the many efforts made over the years to bring about just and lasting peace in Sudan, the people of Sudan continue to suffer under the brutal dictatorship of the NCP government.

The people of Sudan and the international community sincerely hoped that that the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement will bring about the much desired peace and stability.

The hopes and expectations of many Sudanese have been crushed repeatedly by a regime at war with its own people. It was just a year ago that the NCP militia burned the town of Abyei. For some observers and U.S. policy critics, the U.S. policy is too focused on punitive measures. The fact of the matter is, if one looks closely at our policy over the past two decades, the U.S. never disengaged. That is why we had more Special Envoys appointed to Sudan than any other country in Africa. In the last five year alone we had five Envoys.

For those who pushed for a policy of appeasement believing that there are some moderates within the NIF, have been proven wrong many times. It is important that we don't confuse a policy of appeasement with that of engagement. Moreover, a policy of engagement without pressure will not work.

During the 21-years civil war in South Sudan, the United States provided humanitarian assistance but also maintained a relationship with successive governments in Sudan. We are helping the people of Darfur, yet we have failed to end their suffering.

We continue to push for a peace agreement in Darfur yet we have ignored the plight of the 2 million displaced. In fact, United Nations officials and some U.S. officials are saying that since fewer people are being killed now conditions have improved, there is no longer genocide.

In Rwanda, an estimated one million people died in less than 100 days fifteen years ago. We did not even want to call the genocide by its rightful name let alone intervene to end it. I said a few years ago, "If Rwanda was a black mark on our conscience, Darfur is a cancer that will destroy the moral fiber of our society."

Unfortunately, we have some people ready to embrace the same criminals who committed these atrocities in Darfur, South Sudan, and other parts of the country. In fact, the man who led the NCP delegation to a CPA conference in Washington in June is the same man who was not allowed to enter the United States for many years for security reasons. He is also the same man who helped transport the terrorists who were engaged in the assassination attempt of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The current regime only responds to real pressure. The Clinton and Bush Administrations imposed comprehensive economic and trade sanctions over the past decade; the impact of these sanctions are mixed. But the government of Sudan has survived years of sanctions imposed by the United States and the United Nations. However, this does not mean that sanctions did not yield positive results. I strongly believe that the NCP is incapable of changing its ideology and behavior. A regime change in Khartoum could bring a swift end to the crisis in Darfur, help implement the North-South agreement, and end the regime's support to extremist and terrorist groups.

Another important measure we should take is the Strengthening of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The Government of South Sudan is a staunch ally of the United States. The SPLA is a formidable force. Strengthening the SPLA could serve as a guarantor for peace in Sudan and the region. The SPLA is strong but requires support in air defense system and air power. Moreover, we should help and strengthen other democratic forces in Sudan. Most important, we must not ignore the importance of accountability to a just and lasting peace. Without justice there is no peace.

I welcome our distinguished panel – Roger Winter, Rich Williamson, John Prendergast, and Pagan Amum Okiech – and thank them for joining us today, especially Mr. Okiech for traveling from Sudan. I will read their bios following Members' opening remarks.

I now turn to our Ranking Member, Mr. Smith, for his statement.

Thank you.