

REFUGEE COUNCIL USA

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VIA FACSIMILE: 202-282-8401

August 26, 2004

The Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Naval Security Station
Nebraska and Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Ridge:

We, members of Refugee Council USA, a coalition of 19 U.S. non-governmental organizations focused on refugee protection, are writing to urge you to re-designate Sudan as a country whose nationals and habitual residents should be provided with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). As Secretary of Homeland Security, you are authorized to designate a foreign state for TPS based on ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. The current crisis in Darfur, which has killed tens of thousands and uprooted more than a million civilians, is such a situation. USAID estimates that 300,000 to 350,000 excess deaths will occur this year relating to the Darfur conflict (Briefing by Roger Winter, USAID DCHA Assistant Administrator, Foreign Press Center Briefing, July 29, 2004.)

We would like to point out that the statute directs you to review the TPS designation at least 60 days prior to its scheduled expiration, which is due to expire November 2, 2004. Because the scale of violence as well as its location and its primary victims within Sudan have changed significantly since Sudan was originally designated for TPS on November 9, 1999, we are calling not for an extension of the original TPS designation, which would apply to less than 600 Sudanese physically present in the United States as of that date (who have registered and re-registered during previous extensions of the TPS designation). Instead, we call upon you to re-designate Sudan under the TPS program so that Sudanese who arrived in the United States after November 9, 1999 and until the date of the new designation—most likely November 2, 2004—would also be protected. Only a re-designation will protect people who have fled Sudan as a result of the current conflict.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your staff to present you with evidence gathered by human rights and humanitarian organizations,

including some of the undersigned organizations, about the conditions in Sudan that prevent nationals and

habitual residents of Sudan now residing in the United States from returning to that country.

Sincerely,



Mark Franken
Chair, Refugee Council USA

Executive Director

Migration & Refugee Services/United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

On behalf of the following members:

Bill Frelick, Director, Refugee Programs
Amnesty International USA

John Salzberg, Washington Representative
Center for Victims of Torture

Joseph Roberson, Director
Church World Service/Immigration and Refugee Program

C. Richard Parkins, Director
Episcopal Migration Ministries

Leonard Glickman, President & CEO
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

Elissa Massimino, Director, Washington Office
Human Rights First

Lavinia Limón, Executive Director
Immigration and Refugee Services of America/U.S. Committee for Refugees

William Canny, Secretary General
International Catholic Migration Commission

Arnold Leibowitz, President
International Refugee Research Institute

Robert Carey, Vice President for Resettlement
International Rescue Committee

Fr. Kenneth Gavin, S.J., Director
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

Dr. Pary Karadaghi, Executive Director
Kurdish Human Rights Watch

Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr., President
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Max Niedzwiecki, Executive Director
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

Wendy Young, Director of External Relations
Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children

R. Timothy Ziemer, Rear Admiral, USN (ret), Executive Director
World Relief

cc: Eduardo Aguirre, Director, US Citizenship and Immigration Services
Joseph Cuddihy, Director, Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations, USCIS
Jonathan Mills, Office of Program and Regulations Development, USCIS
Arthur E. Dewey, Director, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, DOS
Scott Busby, Office Director, Policy and Resource Planning, DOS/PRM
Margaret McKelvey, Office Director, Assistance for Africa, DOS/PRM