

Frank-Walter Steinmeier  
President of the  
Council of Ministers of the European Union

13 April 2007  
Ref: B651

Dear Dr Steinmeier,

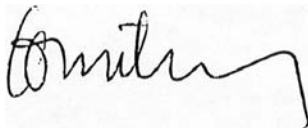
**Subject : EU Action on Sudan**

The crisis in Darfur remains dire, with widespread hostilities and attacks on civilians, persistent human rights abuses, and a deteriorating humanitarian situation. The violence now also affects eastern Chad and the northern Central African Republic. Research has confirmed that since the conflict began, over two million people have been displaced, over 200,000 killed, and thousands of women raped.

Ahead of the January GAERC meeting, a number of Brussels based civil society organisations wrote to you on 18 January calling for the EU to agree a plan of specific, targeted sanctions to be imposed on the government of Sudan on a clear timeline, in the event of non-compliance with the demands of the international community. In the three months following that letter, the crisis has continued. The ceasefire has not been enforced, humanitarian access to the people of Darfur has not been secured, and the limited diplomatic pressure which has been placed on the Khartoum regime continues to be ignored.

Against this background of clear lack of progress through diplomatic means, I would urge the April 23 GAERC to agree a plan of specific, targeted sanctions against the government of Sudan, to be implemented fully and immediately. The EU - both as an independent actor, and in wider international fora - must now move to apply effective pressure in the face of the suffering of the people of Darfur and the surrounding region.

Yours sincerely,



Dick Oosting  
Director,  
Amnesty International EU Office

Cc : Javier Solana, High Representative for CFSP  
Riina Kionka, Personal Representative of Javier Solana for Human Rights  
Commissioner Michel