



Security Council

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Letter dated 25 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith my letter to the Secretary-General dated 20 May 2004, regarding the humanitarian situation in Darfur (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Referring to my meeting with you on 17 May 2004, on the humanitarian situation in Darfur, I have been closely following up with my Government all the issues raised at the meeting and previously discussed in your message to H.E. the President of the Republic.

Although I am still waiting to receive from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs the list of 65 visa applications claimed to be pending, I am nevertheless pleased to inform you in this regard that my Government, with a view to addressing those issues, has today taken the following actions:

1. Granting of entry visas within 48 hours to all humanitarian workers from the United Nations, donors, the Red Cross and international non-governmental organizations.
2. Suspension of the travel permit procedures to Darfur; from now on a simple notification to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs will suffice.
3. Commitment to continue to take further measures to facilitate the entry and clearance of equipment imported to be used for humanitarian purposes.
4. The above measures will be effective on Monday, 24 May 2004.
5. The Government of the Sudan has appealed to the African Union to expedite the deployment of the ceasefire observers as an important step in further facilitating the humanitarian activities.
6. The Government has appealed to the population to return to their villages, reaffirming its commitment to provide security and protection. In this regard the Ministry of the Interior has set up a special security plan to achieve that objective.

Please find enclosed the communiqué on the new measures issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.

While conveying these positive developments, I would like to reiterate the commitment of my Government to continue its full cooperation with the United Nations and the international community in its quest to alleviate the humanitarian situation of its citizens.

(Signed) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate**Joint Communiqué by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on humanitarian aid for Darfur**

Given its national responsibility to provide humanitarian aid to citizens in Darfur; confirming its commitment to implement the protocol on the delivery of humanitarian aid and the ceasefire agreement, both signed at N'Djamena on 8 April 2004; aware that the citizens need to receive humanitarian aid and that they must be allowed to return to their homes to prepare the harvest; desirous of mitigating the impact of the war and facilitating the task of Sudan's humanitarian partners, the Government of the Sudan has decided as follows:

1. To issue humanitarian workers in Darfur representing United Nations agencies, donors, the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations with entry visas directly through Sudanese diplomatic missions abroad within 48 hours of the date of submission of the visa application, these visas to be valid for a period of three months;
2. To suspend measures currently in force in respect of travel permits to Darfur for a period of three months and to be satisfied with entry visas only, together with notification of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of the name of the person concerned and the programme of his or her mission;
3. To continue taking measures to facilitate the entry of supplies required for humanitarian work in Darfur by specialized agencies;
4. These measures shall apply as of Monday, 24 May 2004;
5. Further details are available from the Ministry for Humanitarian Affairs.

In harmony with this improved access for the purpose of facilitating humanitarian work, the Government of the Sudan has called upon the Organization of African Unity to expedite the deployment of ceasefire monitors to Darfur to facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid and contribute to improved stability in the region. It has also urged the inhabitants to return rapidly to their homes, while the Government for its part commits itself to implementing the plan of the Ministry of the Interior to provide security and protection.
