



International Justice and Peace  
3211 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20017  
Tel. (202) 541-3160  
Fax (202) 541-3339



228 West Lexington Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Tel. (410) 625-2220  
Fax (410) 685-1635

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January 20, 2011

Honorable Senator Bob Casey  
393 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4904

Dear Senator Casey:

As Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and President of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), we thank you for urging the Administration, in your January 7 letter to President Obama, to maintain its commitment to peace in Sudan well after the referendum for self-determination.

We agree that much remains to be negotiated and resolved in the months remaining to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. When the bishops of Sudan met with you last year they expressed their concerns about the rights of minorities remaining in the north, the tensions in the border areas of Abyei, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile, and the unresolved issues of border demarcation, citizenship, and oil revenue and debt allocation.

The Church in Sudan has also made it clear that the people of Darfur still suffer, and that this suffering and insecurity must be resolved to bring peace and development to the region. The people of South Sudan will need significant and sustained humanitarian and development funding as well as technical assistance to further develop effective and transparent governance. Civil society in South Sudan is nascent too and will need strong partnerships and developmental assistance.

We look forward to working with you and others to ensure that Sudan has the opportunity to build a future of peace and prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard  
Bishop of Albany  
Chairman  
Committee on International Justice and Peace

Ken Hackett  
President  
Catholic Relief Services