



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Chairman  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

## **Re: Sudan Hearings: Need for U.S. Support for Election Monitoring**

Together with my colleague in the Anglican Communion, the Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS), the Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, I am writing to you in connection with your July 30, 2009 hearings on the situation in Sudan. I speak on behalf of The Episcopal Church (TEC), in the United States and 15 other nations. As a Church, we are strongly committed to assisting the peace process in Sudan. We have established growing diocesan partnerships in Sudan, and have recently enacted resolutions at the Church's General Convention, which I am enclosing for your reference. There are four million Episcopalians in Sudan, all at risk in any further renewal of warfare in that country. As you know, there is a significant risk the north-south civil war may resume very soon, adding to the Darfur carnage.

As referenced in our resolutions, a key part of our peace commitment is support for the full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which the U.S. government helped negotiate and which the U.S. government has joined as a guarantor. Free and fair elections next year, and free and fair voting in the 2011 referendum on secession of southern Sudan, as provided in the CPA, are both critical to maintaining the fragile peace between north and south and to making progress towards peace in Darfur.

Archbishop Deng has identified effective election monitoring, including the training of many Sudanese election monitors, as essential to such free and fair voting. That monitoring is critical to assure people that the results accurately reflect the will of Sudan's people. Both TEC and the ECS strongly urge the United States government to commit to providing the substantial funds and technical support needed to assure such strong election monitoring, for transparency and honesty in such voting is critical to maintaining peace. Because elections and the secession referendum will occur over the next eighteen months, it is essential that such efforts begin without delay. Both churches will help support such efforts on the ground.

Faithfully,

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Presiding Bishop  
The Episcopal Church

The Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul  
Archbishop  
The Episcopal Church of Sudan

Cc: The Honorable Richard Lugar, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Scott Gration, The President's Special Envoy to the Sudan

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