

We also received a letter during our trip from a group of women who were raped. To protect them further attacks, we purposely do not mention where they are from or list their names. The translation is heart-breaking:

"Messrs Members of the US. Congress

"Peace and the mercy and the blessings of God be upon you.

"We thank you for your help and for standing by the weak of the world, wherever they are found. We welcome you to the (. . .) region, which was devastated by the Janjaweed, or what is referred to as the government 'horse- and camel-men,' on Friday (. . . 2004), when they caused havoc by killing and burning and committing plunder and rape. This was carried out with the help of the government, which used the (. . .) region as an airport and supplied the Janjaweed with munitions and supplies. So we, the raped woman of the (. . .) region, would like to explain to you what has happened and God is our best witness.

"We are forty-four raped women. As a result of that savagery, some of us became pregnant, some have aborted, some took out their wombs and some are still receiving medical treatment. Hereunder, we list the names of the raped women and state that we have high hopes in you and the international community to stand by us and not to forsake us to this tyrannical, brutal and racist regime, which wants to eliminate us racially, bearing in mind that 90 percent of our sisters at (. . .) are widows."

"(Above) are the names of some of the women raped in the (. . .) region. Some of these individuals are now at (. . .), some are at Tawilah and some are at Abu Shouk camps. Everything we said is the absolute truth. These girls were raped in front of our fathers and husbands.

"We hope that you and the international community will continue to preserve the balance of the peoples and nations.

"Thank you.

From: The raped women at (. . .)"

These rape victims have nowhere to turn. Even if they report the attacks to the police, they know nothing will happen. The police, the military and the Janjaweed all appear to be acting in coordination.

DIRE SITUATION IS MAN-MADE

The situation in Darfur is dire, and from what we could see, it is entirely man-made. These people who had managed to survive even the severest droughts and famines during the course of their long history are now in mortal danger of being wiped out simply because of the darker shade of their skin color.

Over the course of three days, we saw the worst of man's inhumanity to man, but we also saw the best of what it means to be human: mothers waiting patiently for hours in the hot sun so that they could try to save their babies; NGO aid workers and volunteer doctors feeding and caring for the sick and the dying, and the courage and bravery of men, women and children eager to talk to us so that we would know their story.

The world made a promise in 1994 to never again allow the systematic destruction of a people or race. "Never again"—words said, too, after the Holocaust. In Darfur, the international community has a chance to stop history from repeating itself. It also has a chance to end this nightmare for those who have found a way to survive. If the international community fails to act, the next cycle of this crisis will begin. The destiny facing the people of Darfur will be death from hunger or disease.

When will the death of innocent men, women and children who want nothing more in this world than to be left alone to farm

their land and provide for their families—be too much for the conscience of the international community to bear?

We sat with the victims. We heard their mind-numbing stories. We saw their tears. Now the world has seen the pictures and heard the stories. We cannot say we did not know when history judges the year 2004 in Darfur.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN

The Government of Sudan should immediately implement key provisions of the April 8 cease-fire agreement, including: the cessation of attacks against civilians; disarming the Janjaweed; and removing all barriers to the admittance of international aid into Darfur. There should be a strict timetable holding the Government of Sudan accountable for implementing these provisions.

The Government of Sudan should renew a dialogue with the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement to discuss the political, economic and social roots of the crisis.

THE AFRICAN UNION

Additional cease-fire observers should be deployed and violations of the cease-fire reported immediately. The current number of 270 is inadequate to monitor the activity of an area the size of Texas.

THE UNITED STATES

The United States should publically identify those responsible for the atrocities occurring in Darfur, including officials and other individuals of the Government of Sudan, as well as Janjaweed militia commanders, and impose targeted sanctions that include travel bans and the freezing of assets.

The President should instruct the U.S. Representative to the United Nations to seek an official investigation and hold accountable officials of the Government of Sudan and government-supported militia groups responsible for the atrocities in Darfur.

THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations should pass a strong Security Council Resolution condemning the Government of Sudan. It should call for: an immediate end to the attacks; the immediate disarming of the Janjaweed; the immediate protection of civilians by beginning a review of the security of refugees in Darfur; the determination of the feasibility of sending in UN protection forces; an immediate review of bringing legal action against those responsible for the policies of ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur; and the imposition of targeted sanctions that include travel bans and the freezing of assets.

The United Nations should immediately deploy human rights monitors to Darfur.

The protection of civilians and access to humanitarian aid should be a primary concern; the Security Council must be prepared to establish a no fly zone if the cease-fire continues to be violated.

The United Nations together with other organizations should continue to coordinate a relief strategy for getting aid into those regions of Darfur that have yet to receive humanitarian assistance. Alternative routes and means of delivering aid should be considered if the Government of Sudan continues to impede deliveries.

The United Nations should take immediate steps to seek the removal of Sudan from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The United Nations should set a deadline for the Government of Sudan to comply to all obligations under the cease-fire and prepare contingency plans in the event those deadlines are not met.

We would like to thank everyone involved in organizing, coordinating and implementing our trip. Representatives from the State Department, USAID and the NGOs both in Washington and Sudan deserve special thanks. We would also like to thank Sean Woo, general counsel to Senator Brownback, and Dan Scandling, chief of staff to Rep. Wolf, for accompanying us on the trip. They played a critical role in writing this report and took all the photographs. We would also like to thank Janet Shaffron, legislative director, and Samantha Stockman, foreign affairs legislative assistant, to Rep. Wolf, and Brian Hart, communications director, and Josh Carter, legislative aide, of Senator Sam Brownback, for editing the report. Colin Samples, an intern in Rep. Wolf's office, did the design and layout.

We also want to extend our thanks to Secretary of State Colin Powell and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for visiting the region. Their personal involvement in working to resolve this crisis is critically important.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHILIP D. WHITE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Fire Chief Philip D. White on the occasion of his retirement after more than 30 years of excellent service at the South San Francisco Fire Department, ten of them as chief. Chief White has saved many lives—human and animal—and brought safety and peace of mind to all residents.

He came to the South San Francisco Fire Department as a paramedic and firefighter in 1983. In 1992 he was promoted to Fire Captain and in 1999 he advanced to Provisional Battalion Chief and Battalion Chief. In 2002 he was promoted to Deputy Chief and then finally to Fire Chief in 2003.

During his distinguished career, Chief White has served with contagious enthusiasm and earned a long list of awards and acknowledgments. For example, he was named 1992 Firefighter of the Year by the South San Francisco Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He received a commendation from FEMA for urban search and rescue deployments during Hurricane Iniki, the Northridge earthquake, the World Trade Center and Hurricane Katrina. He received a service award from the Peninsula Council of Lions Clubs in 2001 and was named the 2003 City of South San Francisco Employee of the Year. Also in 2003, he received a special commendation from the United States Marine Corps for the "Yellow Ribbon" resolution passed in support of military families. In 2011 he was honored with the California Commendation Medal for meritorious service and support of soldiers and airmen of the California Army and Air National Guard.

This long list of honors demonstrates Chief White's tireless energy and commitment to others. He has made South San Francisco a better place to live by introducing ordinances and programs that will serve residents for decades to come. Chief White was instrumental in developing technical rescue, maritime and emergency response programs. He helped make new buildings safer by requiring sprinkler systems. His colleagues can also thank

him for a state-of-the-art live fire training tower complex, multipurpose classrooms and an emergency operating center.

Chief White also obtained regional training center status for trench rescue, confined space rescue, rescue systems 1 & 2, authored the San Francisco Bay Area Maritime Fire, Rescue and EMS Automatic Aid Agreement, and he promoted the department's participation in Urban Shield.

Chief White applied his "can do" attitude to his volunteer and community service as well. He served on several county committees reviewing pre-hospital care issues at the advanced life support level. Chief White also coordinated CPR training for citizens and he promoted outreach programs such as Day In The Park, Fire Prevention Week, Junior Fire Academy, Christmas Toy Drives, Jazz by the Bay and USO Bay Area.

His hard work and optimism have earned him the utmost respect and gratitude at the South San Francisco Fire Department. His fellow fire fighters credit him with the prevention of layoffs and fire station closures, top-notch training facilities and outstanding moral. I was told they even promised Chief White that his fire station will be number 1 in Urban Shield next year.

In his well-deserved retirement, Chief White is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of 32 years, Donna, their four children, three grandchildren and his beloved Labrador retriever Bella. He will also enjoy more trips to our national parks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Chief Philip D. White for his generous contributions and deep commitment to South San Francisco residents. He will be missed but never forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes on August 1st. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall No. 428, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 429, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 430, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 431, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 432, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 433, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 434, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 435, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 436, I would have voted "no."

HONORING MR. EMMIT ELLIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Emmitt Ellis, Jr.,

professionally known as "Bobby Rush", an award-winning rhythm and blues artist—composer, musician, singer; and I'm proud to say a resident of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

Emmit Ellis, Jr. was born in the small town of Homer, Louisiana to father Emmit Sr. and mother Mattie Ellis. Emmit Ellis, Jr. later adopted his stage name "Bobby Rush" out of respect for his father standing in the community as a minister.

Bobby's passion for music began early during his childhood, as he built his first primitive guitar from a broom. At age 13, his family moved to Chicago, IL, where he formed his own band and performed locally at "juke joints" playing the guitar. He later incorporated the harmonica into his repertoire of singing and guitar playing, thereby creating his own unique musical flair dubbed "folk-funk" music.

His zeal for music and innate talent afforded him the opportunity to perform with musical legends such as Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, and Ray Charles. His colorful style in music was recognized when he became the only Blues artist to win the highest honor in both "Best Acoustic Artist of the Year" at the Blues Music Awards for his album *Rush*, and "Best Soul Blues Artist."

Mr. Rush also became a Grammy nominee in 2000 for his album *Hoochie Mama*. His popularity continues to this day: this year, he was again nominated for "Male Soul Blues Artist" at the Blues Music Awards.

He is also an internationally recognized artist, and, in fact, was the first artist to perform Blues at the Great Wall of China to an audience of 40,000. His dedication to promote peace through the language of music has not gone unnoticed. He was recognized as the Friendship Ambassador and Spokesperson to the Great Wall of China Foundation; and referred to as the "International Dean of the Blues".

In addition to performing at the Great Wall of China and other international venues, he has also performed in the most esteemed concert halls in the United States including the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Rush maintains strong relationships with his fans, often performing to purely share his passion for music with others. He has demonstrated his patriotism and charity by performing for our troops in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan, and has supported projects for prisons and at-risk youth. He also annually entertains veterans and active servicemen through his own Red, White and Blues Jam where he gives more than 2,000 free tickets to veterans to attend.

He continues to perform locally, and plays for charity events and mentors other artists. The compassion and generosity that Mr. Rush consistently expresses are truly commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Emmitt Ellis, Jr. (Bobby Rush) for his outstanding talent, community service, and dedication to sharing the Blues with the world.

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Thousand Islands International Bridge.

After 16 months of construction, 20,700 cubic yards of concrete, 798 tons of reinforcing steel, 6,550 tons of structural steel, 555 tons of cable materials and 575,000 man hours of labor, the bridge system opened 10 weeks ahead of schedule, on August 18, 1938. At the dedication ceremony, with 25,000 onlookers lining along the border, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King shared the stage, highlighting the unique and special relationship of the U.S. and Canada.

The U.S.-Canada relationship is not only an economic one, but one shared in common principles. While the U.S.-Canada trade relationship is the largest one in the world, accounting for nearly \$700 billion in goods and services, our nations share representative democracy, individual liberty, and a common interest of opportunity for all. With nearly 2,000,000 crossings annually along the Thousand Islands International Bridge System, tourists from both the U.S. and Canada can explore the region's unique geographic and cultural offerings. Today, the bridge system continues to demonstrate the rare and long-standing common bond shared between the two countries.

I rise today to recognize this time in history, and to also congratulate the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority on this achievement and their excellent work.

HONORING RICHARD ("RICK") FOSTER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleague the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee SANDER LEVIN to recognize and thank Richard ("Rick") Foster, the Chief Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), for his service to the nation. Rick retired this year after nearly 40 years of public service, including the last 18 years as the chief actuary.

Mr. Foster and his colleagues in the Office of the Actuary (OACT) have provided valuable guidance through the years to Members of Congress and their staffs on both sides of the aisle as we have worked to improve Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. OACT's estimates are used to calculate key indices and other measures used throughout Medicare's payment systems. OACT also manages the widely used and often cited National Health Expenditure (NHE) account data and projections, which measure national health spending trends in both public programs and the private sector. Whether responding to technical or confidential requests