



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

21 April 2008

Dear Senator Feingold,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 29 February 2008, regarding the peace process between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). I appreciate your interest in this conflict that has displaced more than 1.7 million people in Uganda and the subregion, claimed thousands of lives and prevented the development of the country, particularly in the north. The financial contribution made by your country in support of the African Observers has enhanced their role of building confidence between the parties and the mediation.

The overall situation in Northern Uganda has steadily improved since the August 2006 signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. Due to the improvement of the security situation and progress in the talks, over 1 million internally displaced persons and refugees have returned to their places of origin or are in the process of doing so. The United Nations is currently providing assistance for this return and reconstruction process through a Consolidated Appeal for US\$374 million in 2008, and all relevant United Nations agencies are active in the conflict-affected areas of Northern Uganda.

The appointment of my Special Envoy, former President Joaquim Chissano, and his increased presence in the region gave new impetus to the peace process. In fact, the United Nations has been more than an observer at the talks. Mr. Chissano's role has been instrumental in putting the peace talks back on track, and he was directly responsible for the resumption of the talks in Juba in March 2007. The commitment of donors to support the talks was also decisive in this regard.

Since February 2008, the parties have demonstrated their determination to conclude the talks. While we all agree that stability in Uganda is founded primarily on the efforts of Ugandans, the continued support of your country, as well as that of other international partners, remains crucial to bring about lasting peace and stability in Northern Uganda and the neighbouring countries affected by LRA activities.

The Honourable Russell Feingold
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.


The Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP) is, in this regard, one of the key tools to regain and consolidate peace and lay the foundation for recovery, development and stability in Northern Uganda. Successful peace talks will create an environment for economic revitalization and sustainable development in Northern Uganda, and will have a positive effect on regional peace and security.

The United Nations and its non-governmental partners are directly engaged with the authorities on PRDP planning. Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, the humanitarian, human rights and development communities are fully committed to providing technical and financial support to ensure that the PRDP can deliver a peace dividend to the people of Uganda.

We are now at a crucial time in the peace process. We believe that the Agreement provides a framework for peace and justice to go hand in hand, calling for prosecution within Uganda of those accused of serious war crimes and offering other important provisions to address the legacy of the violence, such as reparations and a truth commission-style body to investigate the past.

As we await the conclusion of the peace process, I wish to reaffirm my intention to remain firmly engaged in this process through my Special Envoy. I am in the process of strengthening the Office of the Special Envoy in Kampala in order to ensure a continued presence and follow-up during the implementation phase of the Final Peace Agreement. I wish to assure you of the continued support of the United Nations to the Government and people of Uganda in their efforts to secure peace and stability in their country and the subregion.

Yours sincerely,



BAN Ki-moon

39 Letters for SG's signature

1. Senator Russell Feingold
2. Senator Sam Brownback
3. Senator Joseph R. Biden
4. Senator Norm Coleman
5. Senator Christopher J. Dodd
6. Senator Larry E. Craig
7. Senator Jeff Bingaman
8. Senator Olympia J. Snowe
9. Senator John F. Kerry
10. Senator Pat Roberts
11. Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV
12. Senator George V. Voinovich
13. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman
14. Senator Saxby Chambliss
15. Senator Daniel K. Akaka
16. Senator Dianne Feinstein
17. Senator Ron Wyden
18. Senator Barbara Boxer
19. Senator Richard J. Durbin
20. Senator Mary L. Landrieu
21. Senator Maria Cantwell
22. Senator Robert Menendez
23. Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.
24. Congresswoman Susan Davis
25. Congressman Christopher Shays
26. Congresswoman Darlene Hooley
27. Congressman Joe Sestak
28. Congressman Earl Blumenauer
29. Congressman Peter DeFazio
30. Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz
31. Congressman Bobby Rush
32. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
33. Congressman Jim McDermott
34. Congressman Pete Fortney Stark
35. Congressman David Wu
36. Congressman Chris Van Hollen
37. Congressman John Lewis
38. Congressman Henry Waxman
39. Congressman Frank Wolf

Drafter: DPA

Proofread by: JL/SM

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. G. Ambr", is written over the "Approved by:" line.