

7 July 2008

Excellency,

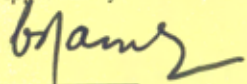
I wish to thank you for your letter of 11 June 2008. I too remain very concerned with the situation in Darfur, in particular the humanitarian and security situation. I wholeheartedly agree that the humanitarian community has worked tirelessly, and with a great degree of success, in support of your Government in the delivery of relief assistance in Darfur and across Sudan.

The estimate provided by my Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. John Holmes, in his brief to the Security Council on 22 April 2008 on mortality in Darfur was based on standard emergency humanitarian indicators used around the world to account for all deaths in conflict environments. The joint World Health Organization and the Sudanese Ministry of Health mortality study in 2005 used this same methodology. Moreover, several studies and think tanks substantiated his extrapolation as mathematically accurate.

As a comprehensive morbidity and mortality survey has not been possible over the past three years, I look forward to the results of the joint morbidity and mortality assessment agreed on 24 April at the High Level Committee for the Joint Communiqué on the facilitation of humanitarian assistance in Darfur. This assessment is particularly timely, given the recent statement of the United Nations Country Team in Sudan, which voiced concern over possible impacts of restricted humanitarian access due to violence, the effects of the rainy season, and increased vulnerability caused by limited harvests in some areas. I was also pleased to see agreement on the release of nutrition and food security assessments completed over the past few months. The results of these assessments will surely help bring clarity to the issue.

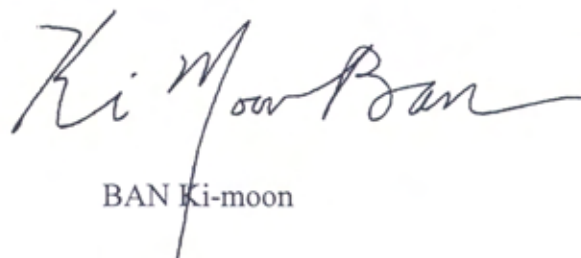
His Excellency  
Mr. Omer Hassan A. Al-Bashir  
President of the Republic of the Sudan  
Khartoum

Pres. Al-Bashir  
Drafter: OCHA  
Proofread by: NH/MZ  
Approved by:

  
Date: 7 July 2008

In the coming weeks and months, I look forward to working closely with you to improve the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur, a condition necessary to see progress towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

BAN Ki-moon