

RE: sudan

From: Mills, Cheryl D MillsCD@state.gov

RELEASE IN
PART B6

To: hdr22@clintonemail.com

Subject: RE: sudan

We just spoke - he declined.

From: H [mailto:hdr22@clintonemail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 8:01 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: Re: sudan

We should discuss. I'm on my way in.

Also did ever call you back?

B6

From: "Mills, Cheryl D"
Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2009 07:56:02 -0400
To:
Subject: sudan
Below is article post is seeking follow-up on.

Asked Philippe to work with Robert to ensure our best foot forward.

Cdm

Sudan to throw out aid workers

By Ken Dilanian, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Having already ousted 13 foreign aid groups from the Darfur region, Sudan's president said Monday he would expel all international aid workers from the country over the next year, a move that threatens to cut off millions from their only source of food and water.

The announcement by Omar al-Bashir, who this month became the target of an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity relating to killings in Darfur, prompted new calls for President Obama to respond to what the United Nations calls a looming humanitarian disaster.

The United Nations has said that 1.1 million people in Darfur refugee camps will soon be without food and medicine. Sudanese troops and allied militia groups have attacked civilians in the region of western Sudan in a long-running conflict over control of the area.

A leading activist on Darfur and two members of Congress questioned Monday whether Obama's muted response to the worsening situation in the western region of Sudan matched up with his bold campaign rhetoric, which included a call for American military action to stop the government-sponsored killing.

"Why is there a disconnect between how passionate and articulate candidate Obama addressed the issue of Darfur ... and what President Obama is doing now?" Jerry Fowler, executive director of the Save Darfur coalition, said Monday.

Rep. Michael Capuano, a Massachusetts Democrat and co-chairman of the congressional caucus on Sudan, said he had hoped Obama would have acted more quickly on Darfur. "We need some action," said Capuano, who wrote Obama this month urging him to appoint a special envoy for Sudan.

Last year, Obama said the United States had a "moral obligation" to stop the killing in Darfur, which he called a "stain on our souls." He said the United States should help establish a no-fly zone to prevent the Sudanese air force from attacking civilians, a position backed by fellow Democratic senators Joe Biden and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Obama and Secretary of State Clinton have continued the Bush administration's policy of quiet diplomacy in the wake of al-Bashir's March 5 expulsion of aid workers. The president's only public comment on the Darfur situation came during a March 10 news conference, when he said he wanted to "send a strong, unified, international message that it is not acceptable to put that many people's lives at risk."

That same day, a State Department spokesman promised "some action on Darfur" but offered no details or timeline.

"I can assure you we are working hard diplomatically to try to get the Sudanese to reverse this decision," spokesman Robert Wood said at a news briefing.

Also Monday, Wood condemned the proposed expulsion of all foreign aid workers.

"Any responsibility for the humanitarian suffering that flows out of this decision should fall squarely on the shoulders of the Sudanese," he said.

The White House at the "highest levels" is trying to convince Sudan's government to change course, a National Security Council spokesman said Monday.

Last month, the chairman and ranking member of the Senate foreign relations subcommittee on Africa, Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., urged Obama to quickly appoint a special envoy.

Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., a longtime voice in Congress on Darfur, expressed frustration Monday that an envoy and a supporting staff wasn't in place.

Obama "hasn't done anything (on Darfur) since he got in," Wolf said.

Wood said Monday that he expected the