

September 7, 2007

To his Excellency John Kufour, President of Ghana and Chairman of the Assembly of the African Union and all Members of the Assembly

His Excellency President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria
His Excellency President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola
His Excellency President Yayi Boni of Benin
His Excellency President Festus Mogae of Botswana
His Excellency President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso
His Excellency President Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi
His Excellency President Paul Biya of Cameroon
His Excellency President Pedro Pires of Cape Verde
His Excellency President François Bozizé of Central African Republic
His Excellency President Idriss Déby of Chad
His Excellency President Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi of Comoros
His Excellency President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
His Excellency President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Republic of the Congo
His Excellency President Laurent Gbagbo of Côte d'Ivoire
His Excellency President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti
His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt
His Excellency President Isaias Afewerki of Eritrea
His Excellency President Girma Wolde-Giorgis of Ethiopia
His Excellency President Omar Bongo of Gabon
His Excellency President Yahya Jammeh of The Gambia
His Excellency President Lansana Conté of Guinea
His Excellency President João Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau
His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya
His Excellency King Letsie III of Lesotho
Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia
His Excellency President Muammar al-Gaddafi of Libya
His Excellency President Marc Ravalomanana of Madagascar
His Excellency President Bingu wa Mutharika of Malawi
His Excellency President Amadou Toumani Touré of Mali
His Excellency President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi of Mauritania
His Excellency President Anerood Jugnauth of Mauritius
His Excellency President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique
His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia
His Excellency President Tandja Mamadou of Niger
His Excellency President Umaru Yar'Adua of Nigeria
His Excellency President Paul Kagame of Rwanda
His Excellency President Mohamed Abdelaziz of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
His Excellency President Fradique de Menezes of São Tomé and Príncipe

His Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal
His Excellency President James Michel of Seychelles
His Excellency President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone
His Excellency President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed of Somalia
His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa
His Excellency President Omar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir of Sudan
His Excellency King Mswati III of Swaziland
His Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania
His Excellency Prime Minister Edem Kodjo of Togo
His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia
His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda
His Excellency President Levy Mwanawasa of Zambia
His Excellency President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe

African Union Headquarters
P.O. Box 3243
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dear Sirs or Madam:

The ***Darfur 23*** is a concerned group of Black journalists, educators and professionals from America, Europe, the Caribbean and other parts of Africa. We returned from Sudan last May with eyewitness accounts of problems and conditions in the region. Moved by the plight of our people in the Sudan and the rest of Africa, we adopted the name “***Darfur 23***” to reflect our commitment to promoting the truth about Sudan and the people of Africa.

The purpose of this letter is to congratulate and thank the African Union and its illustrious membership for their leadership on behalf of African people throughout the world. We are especially encouraged by the recent announcement of agreements among all of the African Union’s 53 member nations to unite under some form of collective government or federation that will finally lead to a united Africa. We stand ready to support you with our resources and our lives if necessary.

With social and economic alliances blossoming in North America, Europe, Asia and even Latin America, it is indeed welcome news to hear and witness the development of possibly the greatest alliance in the history of man. A United Federation of African States or a United States of Africa would begin a new international renaissance of the African Spirit, a spirit crippled by centuries of the most brutal forms of slavery, **colonialism** and exploitation.

We believe that this Continental unity movement has its roots in the independence struggles against Neo-colonial forces post WWII, when African People began to systematically organize their resistance to decades of European war, domination, terror and subjugation. The rape and exploitation of the African continent that began with the 15th century slave trade was formalized with the Berlin Conference of 1884. The cruel

colonization crystallized by 1914 with a series of meetings finalizing those imperial ambitions over the lands of African people. This early meeting of the *European Union* carved Africa into much of its present day map.*

The legacy of those 'Dark Days' is the unholy condition of the scattered people and hollowed out lands that define us all. We, the stolen and lost children of Africa long to return or see Africa returned to its righteous path of self-determination. You, the heroes of Africa, correctly seek the unbowed objective to move Africa to its rightful place of leadership and advancement in today's world, with all deliberate speed.

'Africa Must Unite' has been our unifying plea for decades, and is more important now than ever before. The AIDS pandemic and new environmental threats brought on by manmade climate change, constitute an emergency requiring the attention and wisdom of every African man, woman and child. Africans have always been master stewards of the earth and leaders in all time-tested, natural sciences. New threats to human and planetary survival make African Unity imperative and non-negotiable. Africa has bore the blunt of much of the human suffering caused by the recently discovered industrial phenomena of Global Dimming. Only the people of Africa can restrain those who would destroy the remaining vestiges of precious habitat for African life and only a developed and united Africa can restore the Continent's devastated eco-systems.

Through careful management of all its continental resources, Africa can build the self-reliant, world power envisioned by its best and brightest. Examples of what can develop when independent people resolve to unite and build are ubiquitous. China, Japan and Germany are world powers today despite their meager positions, 50-60 years ago. It won't take Africa that long to surpass these and many other geo and political regions now that total continental unity is the primary goal.

"For those who think that Africa has too far to go, I say look at Southeast Asia, North and South Korea, Malaysia, I've been to Malaysia. Only 30 or 35 years ago, it was grass huts and dirt roads. Now they have 88-story twin towers and the largest airport in Asia. Or go to Singapore. Only a few years ago, the tallest building was four stories high...But what I'm trying to do with my summit meetings is bring businesses to Africa that have never been there before...in 50 years you'll see businesses from across America seeking opportunities in Africa. They won't be there for humanity's sake but because they can make money. Despite losing 100 million people to AIDS, in 50 years there'll be all most a billion people in Africa, and they'll need almost every conceivable product that the West can provide." **The late Rev Leon H. Sullivan - on AIDS in Africa**

African-Americans can play a role in the coming hyper advancement of every region of Africa. But first, Africa must be secured from paternal exploitive designs. African-Americans and Africans throughout the Diaspora have knowledge and skills without parallel except for a few of the largest industrialized nations. Africa's main threat is still European and Western intrigue and meddling.

The *Darfur 23* represents a major political shift as African-Americans assert themselves to develop an independent foreign policy toward Africa. Foreign sponsored wars and border disputes threaten stability in Somalia, Sudan, Congo, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Chad, Liberia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and the Ivory Coast. Graft and corruption are left over by-products of centuries of foreign exploitation. Regional disputes must be mediated with pre-colonial as well as neo-colonial considerations. The regional needs of African people must super-cede all outside development claims and exploitive concessions, regardless of origin.

Fact-finding missions and summits to Africa allow African-Americans to see for themselves the problems, hopes and aspirations of Africa. The *Darfur 23* is the result of such a mission. We recently returned from the Sudan with an Afro-centric view of the crisis in Darfur and other central African conflicts. We agree with the conclusions of the AU and support your collective mission to solve the crisis in that region.

The '*Darfur 23*' is the inspiration of a revitalized movement for truth and understanding of Africa's problems and how they can best be solved. Business people, journalists, educators and professionals from America, Europe the Caribbean and other parts of Africa are challenging the old colonial standard. Africa's own descendents are capable of compassionate analysis of Africa's future. Europe and Anglo-America have sought to obscure Africa in order to hide their own misdeeds of the past. Africa will be revealed to the world through African eyes.

“We face an enemy that is deep-rooted; an enemy entrenched and determined not to yield. Our march to freedom is long and difficult...the first condition for victory is black unity. Every effort to divide the blacks, to woo and pit one black group against another, must be vigorously repulsed. Our people – must be united into a single massive and solid wall of resistance, of united mass action.” Nelson Mandela – *'In His Own Words'*

It is time for the Diaspora to come to the aid and defense of Africa as never before. We propose peaceful and democratic international action in support of your goals. To that end we are prepared to work tirelessly to help you. Only a free and strong Africa can guarantee her descendents the respect and reverence African people deserve. No one can regard you as a free people as long as your homeland is occupied, exploited, divided or in chains. **The Sudan must unite. Africa must unite. The future of African people depends on it.** The struggle continues.

Sincerely,

The Darfur 23
Signatures

*The countries represented at the time included Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden-Norway (unified from 1814-1905), Turkey, and the United States of America. Of these fourteen nations, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Portugal were the major players in the conference, controlling most of colonial Africa at the time.