

UNITED TO **END** **GENOCIDE**

September 10, 2012

The Honorable Mr. Barack Obama
President of the United States
c/o Obama for America
P.O. Box 803638
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of United to End Genocide, the largest activist organization in the United States dedicated to preventing and ending genocide and mass atrocities, I ask that you pledge your continued commitment to the cause of preventing genocide and mass atrocities.

We recognize and thank you for your past leadership on this issue, but feel that a renewed public commitment is crucial as the final weeks of the presidential campaign approach. Specifically, we encourage you to pledge that in a second term as President of the United States you would continue to make the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities a national priority, and that you would take steps to strengthen the Atrocities Prevention Board.

United to End Genocide welcomed Presidential Study Directive 10 and the official establishment of the Atrocities Prevention Board in April of 2012. We appreciated the opportunities to provide input and look forward to continuing to engage.

Important groundwork has been laid and the next presidential term will be vital to institutionalizing the whole-of-government approach to genocide and mass atrocities prevention as well as ensuring that it functions as effectively as possible. To this end, we look forward to an Executive Order further establishing the Atrocities Prevention Board. Successful prevention will also require the requisite resources for effective inter-agency efforts, positive engagement with the U.S. Congress, and expanded efforts to promote the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities internationally.

Perhaps most importantly, success will require continued high-level attention to this cause. Your speech—along with Secretary of State Hilary Clinton’s address at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum—was an important demonstration of what the Genocide Prevention Task Force described as the “indispensable ingredient” of leadership for successful prevention efforts. Leadership will remain just as indispensable in the next presidential term. A pledge that you will continue your commitment to and prioritization of genocide and mass atrocities prevention efforts ahead of the election is a prime opportunity to demonstrate that leadership.

Finally, we welcome and encourage you and your campaign team to reach out to non-governmental organizations that have been long dedicated to these efforts. United to End Genocide grew out of the merger of the Save Darfur Coalition and the Genocide Intervention Network and represents faith leaders, students, artists, investors, genocide survivors and hundreds of thousands of American citizens

who care deeply about the need to prevent mass atrocities. We would be happy to provide you with further resources that can be helpful in achieving progress toward our shared vision of a world without genocide and mass atrocities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line above the name.

Hon. Thomas H. Andrews
President and CEO, United to End Genocide

cc:

Jim Messina, Campaign Manager, Obama for America

Michele A. Flournoy, Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Committee, Obama for America

Colin Kahl, Co-Chair, National Security Advisory Committee, Obama for America

Samantha Power, Senior Director for Human Rights and Multilateral Affairs, National Security Council

Stephen Pomper, Director for War Crimes and Atrocities, National Security Council

UNITED TO **END** **GENOCIDE**

September 10, 2012

Mitt Romney
c/o Romney for President
PO Box 149756
Boston, MA 02114-9756

Dear Mr. Romney,

Congratulations on your nomination. On behalf of United to End Genocide, the largest activist organization in the United States dedicated to preventing and ending genocide and mass atrocities, I write to ask that you publically pledge your commitment to the cause of preventing genocide and mass atrocities.

Specifically, we strongly encourage you to pledge that as President of the United States you would ensure that preventing genocide and mass atrocities is a national priority and that you would maintain and strengthen the Atrocities Prevention Board.

We welcomed your statement on Sudan and South Sudan in January expressing your commitment “to protecting innocents from war crimes and other atrocities”. Beyond Sudan, in Burma, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Syria, and elsewhere atrocities threaten not only the lives and livelihoods of innocents, but also the national security interests of the United States. Whether in fueling instability in weak states already susceptible to terrorist recruitment and human trafficking or in fomenting regional tensions through the spread of refugees, failure to engage early to prevent these crimes presents greater costs and damages U.S. credibility and leadership.

In December 2008, the nonpartisan Genocide Prevention Task Force concluded that “the case for preventing genocide and mass atrocities must be made from the president on down—ideally at the beginning of an administration.” The first recommendation of the Task Force covered the “indispensible ingredient” of leadership stating that, “The president should demonstrate that preventing genocide and mass atrocities is a national priority.”

As the presidential campaign moves into the final weeks, a pledge of support would demonstrate a forward-looking willingness to lead on a nonpartisan issue critical to American interests and values.

The Genocide Prevention Task Force further called for “a standing interagency mechanism for analysis of threats of genocide and mass atrocities.” The existing Atrocities Prevention Board grew out of that nonpartisan recommendation and was officially established in April 2012 following a Presidential Study Directive. It is vital to future efforts that the Atrocities Prevention Board be continued and strengthened.

We further welcome and encourage you and your campaign team to reach out to non-governmental organizations that have been long dedicated to these efforts. United to End Genocide grew out of the merger of the Save Darfur Coalition and the Genocide Intervention Network and represents faith leaders, students, artists, investors, genocide survivors and hundreds of thousands of American citizens

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Hon. Thomas H. Andrews
President and CEO, United to End Genocide

cc:

Matt Rhoades, Campaign Manager, Romney for President
Jim Talent, Special Adviser, Romney for President
Vin Weber, Special Adviser, Romney for President
Richard Williamson, Special Adviser, Romney for President
Kerry Healey, Special Adviser, Romney for President
Pierre Prosper, Chair, Human Rights Working Group, Romney for President