

Sample Representative or Senator Letter:

Dear

When a tsunami ravaged Southeast Asia, the world leapt to aid anonymous victims. When an earthquake leveled Istanbul, Americans loaded provisions for transport, and when the evening news depicted Americans fighting for survival along the Gulf Coast compassion and generosity ran high. Today, a crisis of horrific proportions is raging on the African continent, and though Darfur's victims suffer from man's nature rather than Mother Nature, they deserve an equivocal humanitarian response.

Since 2003, fighting has killed hundreds of thousands of people and more die every day. The conflict has displaced more than two million people, most escaping to larger towns where they must live in overcrowded and often dangerous camps for "internally displaced people". Other refugees have escaped to similar camps across the border in Chad, an area that has become part of the conflict. Attacks on civilians have been brutal, with massive killing, rape, torture, displacement, and organized starvation. Those responsible for the violence have begun to threaten aid workers as well.

In fact, the ability of humanitarian aid organizations to access those in need of assistance is at an all-time low, with United Nations' access to the affected populations down to 64%. In addition, disease and violence remain a daily fact of life for the millions who have been displaced since the beginning of the conflict in 2003. Today, most are entirely reliant on the dwindling external humanitarian aid, and the threat of full-scale war is once again looming. The time to act is now.

The time for compassionate speeches is over and a collective international effort is now needed to end this crisis.

Sincerely,