

## Bring the Olympic Dream to Darfur

[www.dreamforDarfur.org](http://www.dreamforDarfur.org)

April 22, 2007

### An Open Letter to the Government of the People's Republic of China:

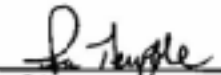
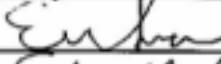
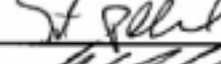
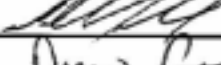
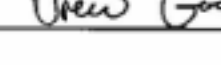
We, as basketball players in the NBA and as potential athletes in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, cannot look on with indifference to the massive human suffering and destruction that continue in the Darfur region of Sudan. Ethnically-targeted human destruction of Darfur's African tribal populations has entered its fifth year, and still the world has not responded—has not provided protection for millions of vulnerable civilians or for the world's largest and most endangered humanitarian operation.

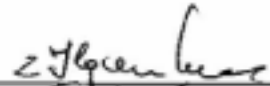

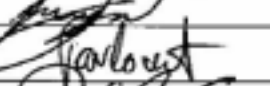
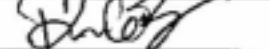
All too clearly the Government of Sudan in Khartoum believes that there is not enough outrage, not enough will or resolve on the part of the international community, to halt its brutal counter-insurgency war. And no country within the international community has done more than China to convince the Khartoum regime that it will pay no price for continuing to deny the protection force authorized by UN Security Council Resolution 1706. With its huge economic investments and oil interests in Sudan, as well as its lucrative weapons trade, China has given unstinting diplomatic protection to Khartoum, and convinced the regime to defy the international community.

China cannot be a legitimate host to the premiere international event in the sporting world—the Summer Olympic Games—while it remains complicit in the terrible suffering and destruction that continues to this day.

As professional athletes and concerned human beings, we call on the People's Republic of China to use all available diplomatic resources and economic pressure to end the agony of Darfur, and to secure access for UN peace support personnel.

Signed:

  
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