



June 19, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of **35,000 individuals from all 50 states and 39 supporting organizations**, the Better World Campaign is proud to present you and all Members of Congress the "Price of Peace" petition, which calls on Congress to address the \$500 million shortfall in the President's FY 2008 budget request for United Nations peacekeeping. The full text of the petition is attached.

As our petition indicates, Americans all across the nation believe that war and conflict are far too prevalent in today's world, and that UN peacekeeping provides a proven means of sharing the burden for international peace and security. That is why the international community and the U.S. have increasingly called on the United Nations to undertake more and increasingly complex peacekeeping missions. Today, the UN is helping to maintain peace, foster reconciliation, promote democracy, and build long-term stability in 18 missions around the world.

Unfortunately, the President's budget request for FY 2008 short-changed UN peacekeeping by \$500 million. Coupled with the more than \$500 million the U.S. owes in unpaid bills to UN peacekeeping, **the United States could owe more than \$1 billion to the United Nations** by the end of this year. Our unpaid bills to the UN do nothing to enhance U.S. standing in the world and are contrary to our actions at the UN, where the United States has approved numerous new and expanded peacekeeping missions in some of the most dangerous conflict zones in the world, including Darfur, Lebanon, Chad, the Central African Republic, and Somalia.

The Price of Peace Campaign ([www.PriceOfPeace.org](http://www.PriceOfPeace.org)) was launched on May 1, 2007 to raise awareness about the important role of UN Peacekeeping in fostering peace, security, and stability around the world, and to call for U.S. leadership and full support of these operations. Over the past month and a half, thousands of Americans have spoken out in support for UN Peacekeeping Operations and their belief that the price of peace is far cheaper than the human and financial costs of war. Americans everywhere understand that peacekeeping is a means of burden-sharing – so the United States doesn't have to pay every bill or take every risk associated with international security. The Price of Peace Campaign has also garnered support from 35 non-governmental organizations (see below) that have spread the message of UN peacekeeping to their membership.

On behalf of these 32,000 individuals and supporting organizations, the Better World Campaign urges you to support efforts to ensure that the United States honors its commitments to the UN and provides funding for UN peacekeeping operations on time, in full, and without conditions. For more information on the Price of Peace Campaign, please visit [PriceOfPeace.org](http://PriceOfPeace.org). If you have further questions about UN peacekeeping or issues related to the U.S.-UN relationship, please feel free to contact me at (202) 462-4900.

With best regards,

Deborah Derrick  
Executive Director  
Better World Campaign



## Petition in Support of UN Peacekeeping

Dear Members of Congress:

War and hostility are far too prevalent in today's world, exacting a huge economic, moral, and human cost. In contrast, the price of peace is a fraction of the cost of war. I strongly support UN peacekeeping as a fair and effective means of sharing the burdens for international security and stability. No nation should have to bear every burden, pay every bill, or take every risk; I urge you to act now to fully fund our promised contributions to the UN.

Today, the UN oversees a record 18 peacekeeping missions around the world, including in some of the world's most dangerous places - such as Sudan, Lebanon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Haiti, all of which are critical to our national and international security, and the U.S. votes to approve.

The UN's lifesaving peace missions are in jeopardy because donor countries are not living up to their commitments to support UN peacekeeping - particularly the U.S. Growing shortfalls in U.S. contributions, policy restrictions, and long-standing unpaid bills threaten to put the United States more than \$1 billion behind in peacekeeping obligations. Shortchanging UN peacekeeping has real impacts, forcing the UN to cobble together the necessary means for deployment and discouraging other countries from contributing their fair share of resources.

I urge you to take a leading role in fulfilling U.S. commitments to UN peacekeeping by increasing funding to the Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA) account by \$500 million in the fiscal year 2008 appropriation process. The U.S. should also take steps to pay off prior U.S. arrears. Investing in peace serves our country better than paying for the soaring costs of war.



## Supporting Organizations

Americans for Informed Democracy

Better World Campaign

Better World Project

Carolina Peace Resource Center

Citizen Alert

Church Women United

Citizens for Global Solutions

Citizens for Global Solutions Minnesota Chapter

Coalition for American Leadership Abroad

Council for a Livable World

DO PEACE MINNESOTA

ENOUGH! The Project to Abolish Genocide + Mass Atrocities

Fellowship of Reconciliation

Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Genocide Intervention Network

Global Policy Forum

Global Witness

Horn of Africa Community Center

International Crisis Group

International Peace Operations Association

International Rescue Committee

Mercy Corps

Mothers Acting Up

National Peace Corp Association

Open Society Policy Center

Partnership for Effective Peacekeeping

Peace Action Education Fund

Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington DC Office

Refugees International

Religions for Peace

United Nations Association of the National Capitol Area

United Nations Association of the United States of America

We, the World

Zonta International