

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

September 14, 2020

Dear Senator,

Settling Compensation Claims against Sudan:

An article in the WSJ, 9/13, describes the contention among lawmakers as to settlement of claims against Sudan for its involvement in terrorist attacks. Pompeo has been advocating that Congress accept the deal that is on the table with regard to victims of Embassy Bombings. It is understood that this would lead to lifting Sudan from the State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST) list, and would restore its sovereign immunity from additional liability in US courts.

Terrorist claims:

—USS Cole: Sudan agreed to pay \$30 million to the victims, but refused to take any responsibility;

—Embassy bombings: the offer made by Sudan, \$335 million, is less than 3% of amount awarded by US courts— \$10.2 billion. The non-American families would receive proportionately less by a factor of about 10;

— 9/11 victims— 2,977 dead, 6,000 injured— have been denied justice as Sudan has ignored their claims for 19 years. The victims and families may lose any chance at justice if Sudan regains its sovereign immunity.

Political considerations:

It is misleading when lawmakers describe Sudan's transitional government as 'civilian-led'. The Co-Chairs of the Sovereign Council are generals with bloody histories as racist génocidaires under the Bashir regime: Al- Burhan and Hemeti. Further, the entire structure of the military, security, industrial, financial sectors of Sudan are controlled by members of the former Bashir regime. (For details on the generals and the military industrial structure, see our email of 9/9/20). As further evidence of its close association with the Bashir regime, General Al-Burhan met last week with the National Program Group (NPG), well-known as allies of Bashir..

The Lawmakers who advocate rewarding this military government are violating their own resolution, S. Res. 188, which was passed unanimously, and states: "Until Sudan transitions to a civilian-led government, it will remain on the SST list, and sanctions against the country will continue." House Resolutions 321, and 6094 also express similar goals.

The people of Sudan:


Still suffering under the yoke of this militarily dominated government, they face ongoing genocidal violence,

which PM Hamdok has proven he cannot control. There are 2.4 million suffering in IDP camps, and hundreds of thousands of refugees. Religious freedom is still problematic: Christian leaders have raised concerns that Christianity won't be taught in Sudanese schools, where Christian students are required to study Islam and some educators have forced students to convert (Christian Post, 9/12/20)

The dire consequences of de-listing SST:

a) rewarding the 'transitional government' which is dominated by the military would give it a windfall — financial gain through international trade, and debt forgiveness of \$60 billion. There is no doubt that the military complex would be the sole recipient of such gain, guaranteeing the further repression of the Sudanese people for decades to come; and

b) restoring the sovereign immunity to Sudan would seriously compromise the efforts of all the victims of Sudan's terrorism in their claims for justice.

**African Freedom Coalition:**

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