

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

September 9, 2020

Dear Congressperson:

Congress is reportedly rushing to revive a settlement bill regarding the 1998 Embassy bombings in East Africa, which would clear the way for de-listing Sudan from the State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST). Secretary Pompeo has indicated his strong interest in de-listing Sudan; he even flew to Khartoum on August 25 where he discussed the matter with the PM Hamdok, as he sought to induce Sudan to recognize Israel, an effort which, to date, has failed.

Some US Lawmakers describe Sudan's present Transitional Government as being led by civilians— nothing could be further from the truth. The Co-Chairs of the Sovereign Council, the same generals who ruled under Bashir— Al-Burhan and Hemeti (see bios below)—have also been implicated in current violence—through its Rapid Support Force (RSF, formerly Janjaweed), the Sudan Armed Forces, and General Intelligence Services. We cannot accept Sudan's argument that this regime is unrelated to the former Al-Bashir regime. Note, especially, the September 6 meeting of Al-Burhan with the National Program Group (NPG), which is made up of several groups, previously allied with the former regime. The same players—military, security, industry— control the structure of the Sudanese economy as did before (see list of companies below).. Sudan PM Hamdok has no control over these powerful forces, and has proven unable to protect the people from ongoing violence

The US has a moral obligation to protect the welfare of the Sudanese people, who have suffered for decades under a genocidal regime, and still suffer, with 2.5 million in IDP camps, hundreds of thousands in refugee camps. It is clear that de-listing Sudan from SST would result in a financial windfall— international trade opportunities that would accrue to the military, security and industrial titans, mostly cronies of the old regime, irreversibly entrenching their power. It would also allow the same rulers to enjoy debt relief of \$60 billion. At the same time, it could lead to restoring sovereign immunity to Sudan, shielding it from the claims of the victims of its terrorism:

—USS Cole bombing: Sudan finalized a settlement with US families in April, 2020, though Sudan maintained it was not responsible for that attack or any other terrorist attack.

—US Embassy bombing settlement is being debated in Congress: the deal offered by Sudan comprises less than 3% of the original amount awarded the victims by US Courts; and the distribution is unequal, favoring US families over African families by a factor of 10.

—9/11 WTC victims' claims have been ignored by Sudan, leaving the families of those killed (224 people), and those injured (5,000 persons) in limbo, 19 years later. There is also great concern that Congress might provide Sudan with a legal immunity shield.

The US Congress has already spoken through S. Res.188, passed unanimously, which states, "Until Sudan transitions to a civilian-led government, it will remain on the

SST list, and sanctions against the country will continue.” Similar positions are expressed in H. Res 321 and 6094. Congress should not allow itself to be coerced by the parochial interests of the CIA and the State Department, thereby betraying the interests of the oppressed people of Sudan, and betraying the interests of the victims and families of Sudan’s terrorism.

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