

## AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

October 8, 2019

Dear Senator:

This year, the people of Sudan bravely marched in the city streets in peaceful protest against the racist genocidal regime led by Omar al-Bashir, deposing him after 30 years of rule. Sudan, however, is still in the hands of two military leaders, and civilian government has been postponed for 3 years. Both leaders, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and RSF General Dagalo (“Hemeti”), the former leader of Janjaweed, have long bloody histories of active participation in the genocides in Sudan under Bashir. (A letter signed by 100 scholars and activists sent to Secretary Pompeo last week warned against negotiating with Hemeti.) Abdallah Hamdok, now the nominal Prime Minister of the Sudan Sovereign Council, faces the same desperate issues that have plagued the country for years. See below:

**Darfuri refugees and IDP’s:** Today, more than 300,000 Darfuri refugees languish in eastern Chad, and over two million are internally displaced within Darfur. Humanitarian aid remains blocked; the (13) agencies that were expelled in 2009 have not been allowed to return.

**Villages destroyed, farmers displaced, unable to return:** Many thousands of villages remain wholly or partially destroyed, often without vital water sources and irrigation systems. Thousands of farmlands have been destroyed or seized by Arab militias, with damage to property and livestock in the billions of dollars. Displaced farmers seeking to return to their farms are subjected to murder, rape, and kidnapping by SRF militia. Violence continues in several conflict areas, especially in Darfur, where armed Arab groups target black African non-Arab farmers and internally displaced persons.

**Justice and Accountability:** Matters of justice and accountability have not been addressed. Although the ICC (in 2010) had meticulously proved al-Bashir’s culpability for genocide, and produced arrest warrants for the same, he has not been turned over to that body. Nor has there been a satisfactory investigation of the massacre of over 100 blacks by the SRF militia at a peaceful sit-in camp in Khartoum on June 3, 2019, over 40 of whose bodies were dumped in the Nile; hundreds more were wounded, and 70 raped.

**Freedoms of speech, press, and religion:** These have remained under threat, and all need to be expressly addressed and resolved.

We support the efforts of the new Sovereign Council to deliver peace and justice to Sudan. We should, however, require nothing less than proof of positive actions with verifiable timetables before we take steps. Until we see such proof, we must not remove Sudan from our list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. Doing so would allow Sudan to qualify for relief from its \$58 billion debt, and provide access to international financing. Those benefits, however, would not go directly to the people of Sudan, but would accrue to the as-yet-unproved Sovereign Council and its notorious militia. Further, to grant delisting would cede valuable leverage the U.S. might have on Sudan to monitor its progress and urge resolution of the desperate issues at hand.



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