

## AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

November 18, 2019  
Dear Lawmaker,

As you know, the people of Sudan, after peaceful protests, ousted its president, Al-Bashir, on April 11, 2019. He had led a racist genocidal regime for 30 years, after taking power by a military coup in 1989. His legacy of 3 million deaths during that rule led to his indictment for genocide by the ICC. The racist core of Arab elitist hegemony over indigenous African blacks began with the independence of Sudan from the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium on January 1, 1956, joining the Arab League two weeks later. It is no coincidence that this racism was expressed through serial genocides in the populous, resource-rich areas of South Sudan, Darfur, Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile, and Beja.

The demand of the people for civilian rule, however, has not yet been met; instead, a militia rules, co-led by General Burhan and RSF Janjaweed General Hemmetti, both of whom have notorious histories of genocide in the Al-Bashir regime. Principals from that regime are still embedded in the financial and political structure of the country. Today, the people suffer as violence continues; 2.6 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) suffer in camps without humanitarian aid; over 300,000 refugees languish in Chad and elsewhere. No action has been taken with regard to the accountability for the past genocides, or for the recent killings, including the June 3 massacre in Khartoum, attributed to the RSF. The longing of the people for peace and stability remains.

The transitional government of Sudan, instead of addressing these ills, is waging a major international campaign for fast economic solutions, primarily by pressuring the US to remove its name from its list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST). That move would make them eligible for relief of their \$58 billion debt, would open the flow of financing to the present militia-controlled government, and give away our leverage for demanding democracy for the people. It would be a terrible mistake to accede to that pressure before we are assured that the needs of the Sudanese people are first being met.

Much of the US policy on Sudan has been dictated by the Intelligence Community, and has been driven by US interest in counterterrorism intel. The State Department has been operating, largely without the oversight of the Congress, often creating a priority that overlooks the needs of the Sudanese people.

It is important that Congress keep apprised of the situation in Sudan, the violence, the suffering of the people, and the lack of humanitarian aid. Congress must take an active role in determining our policy through oversight and, if necessary, through control of appropriations.

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