

## US policy on Sudan: Congress needs to oversee Intelligence community and State Dept.

### AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

March 28, 2019

Dear Congressperson:

Since 1955, repressive regimes have murdered 5 million non-Arab blacks in serial racist genocides in Southern Sudan (now South Sudan), Darfur, Nuba Mountains, and the Blue Nile. The chart summarizes the slaughter:

<u>Years</u>	<u>targeted peoples</u>	<u>deaths</u>	<u>religions</u>	<u>est. percent</u>
1955 - 1972	South Sudanese	2.0 million	Chr./Muslim	60/40
1983 - 2005	“ “	2.5 million	“	“
1988 - 2002	Nuba, Blue Nile	100,000	Muslim/Chr.	50/50
2003 - present	Darfuri	500,000	Muslim/Chr.	90/10

Under its president, al-Bashir, who has ruled Sudan since 1989, the people continue to suffer unspeakable daily violence, especially in the marginalized populations of Darfur, Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile. In Darfur, 2.6 million persons, internally displaced, languish in camps ruled by Sudan military, blocked from humanitarian aid; thousands of refugees are in camps in nearby countries. Al-Bashir was indicted by the ICC for genocide in Darfur in 2010.

In 1993, US placed Sudan on its list of State sponsors of Terrorism, and four years later, the US imposed sanctions on Sudan. In 2004, both Houses of Congress, and Secretary of State Powell declared Sudan's actions against its own people to be genocide. In 2006, thousands of concerned US citizens, including then-Senator Obama and Rep. Pelosi, protested against the Darfur genocide on the Washington mall. Sadly, this concern has since dissipated.

During the past decade, US policy with Sudan has been largely controlled by the Intelligence Community (IC) and the State Department, with little Congressional input or oversight. As such, decisions are being made to 'engage' with Sudan—predominantly for its purported counterterrorism value, without regard to the detrimental effect of this 'engagement' on the people being oppressed by the genocidal regime of al-Bashir. Sudan has not shown good faith in this engagement, failing to allow humanitarian access, or protect human and religious rights. The policy, abetted by a number of US-based NGO's, has promoted two issues desperately sought by the Sudanese regime:

- a) the lifting of US sanctions on Sudan, and
- b) the removal of Sudan from the US list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, a move would qualify Sudan for having its debt of \$51 billion forgiven.

Most recently, today, the people in Sudan's cities are entering the 4th month of peaceful protests against the al-Bashir regime for dire economic hardships as well as for its long-standing brutal policies. Al-Bashir has responded with violence, declaring a national emergency that has led to more violence, and replacement of all governmental posts with military appointments.

The climate is ripe for the US Congress to speak out against this racist genocide to which we have acquiesced for decades. The plight of the people of Sudan, the intransigence of the Bashir regime, and the desperate protests of the populations in Sudan have brought the matter to a head. The issues deserve to be considered by our Congressional committees—foreign affairs, intel, financial services, judiciary. Congress must exercise oversight of the policies being made by the IC through inquiries, on-the ground testimony, and hearings.

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