

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

July 9, 2020

Dear Congressperson

Sudan's offer to pay victims of the 1998 Embassy bombings in East Africa, is currently being debated in the Senate. Senator Menendez, for one, is scrutinizing the agreement, insisting that the the US reach "the best settlement possible for every American family impacted by these horrid terrorist attacks".

US acceptance of Sudan's offer has been construed as removing a barrier for delisting Sudan from the US State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST). Such delisting, besides ceding any future US leverage, would allow Sudan to qualify for debt relief of \$68 billion, as well as for opening up untold international financial benefits. These huge rewards, however, would accrue to the Transitional Military government, led by the old Regime Generals, Al-Burhan and Hemeti, and to the old Regime players who still run Sudan, thereby entrenching them, irreversibly.

On May 18, 2020, the US Supreme Court unanimously ruled to uphold punitive damages of up to \$10.2 billion against Sudan for its complicity with Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda for the attacks outside US Embassies in East Africa in 1998. The offer made by Sudan, a total of \$300 million, constitutes less than 3% of the amount awarded by the US Courts. According to that offer, of the 224 lives lost, including 12 Americans, one third of the families would not be compensated at all; and the distribution would be unequal—i.e. families of non-Americans would receive 1/25th of the payout to American families.

What has *not* been considered is the effect of this 'deal' on the people of Sudan, who have seen neither compensation nor accountability for their decades of devastation. Today, millions of Sudanese blacks languish in IDP and refugee camps, still suffering under the same racist genocidal rule that has been operative since 1956, when it was first declared 'independent'. Decades of Arabist hegemony that followed led to serial genocides, with a cumulative toll of over 4 million. The goals of the revolution of last year, 2019, —peace, justice and accountability— have not been met. The people regularly encounter violence perpetrated by a military that answers to no-one. The government infrastructure—financial, military, security— is almost entirely controlled by members of the old al-Bashir regime, whose years of corruption and mismanagement have left the economy in shambles.

H. Res. 6094 was introduced in 2020 to support a civilian-led democratic transition, promote accountability for human rights abuses, and encourage fiscal transparency in Sudan, The Senate had passed S.Res.188 on July 9, 2019, which expressed support for democratization in Sudan and emphasized that, "until Sudan transitions to a civilian-led government, it will remain on the State Sponsors of Terrorism List and sanctions against the country will continue.

We ask the Congress to hold fast to its resolutions for civilian led government in Sudan, and to withhold de-listing of Sudan from SST. Nor should it be tempted by an agreement that does not do justice to all the victims of the Embassy bombings, offering unequal distributions that represent *less than* 3% of the amount awarded unanimously by the US Courts.



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