

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

August 10, 2020
Dear Senator:

Secretary Pompeo told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday, July 30, that Washington is ready to de-list Sudan from State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST), framing it as an effort to preserve a tenuous democracy, overlooking that:

- Sudan's leadership is totally dominated by the murderous Generals, al-Burhan and Hemeti, who chair its Sovereign Council;
- they and other former members of the al-Bashir regime control the military, security, financial and industrial infrastructure of Sudan; and
- the Rapid Support Forces (Janjaweed), still under control of General Hemeti, are implicated in multiple horrific attacks on civilians in Darfur and South Kordofan, throughout the 18 months since Sudan's democratic uprising, and especially during the past two weeks. Sudan PM Hamdok has been ineffectual in stemming the violence, lacking control over the military.

De-listing of Sudan at this time would qualify Sudan for debt relief of \$48 billion, and financially reward the military in power, giving them further license to kill. It would cede any leverage the U.S. has towards its democratic reform.

De-listing would also restore sovereign immunity to Sudan, helping protect it from the numerous claims against it for its role in terrorist acts— the 9/11 attacks on the WTC, the attack on the USS Cole, and the Embassy bombings in East Africa. This would frustrate victims and their families who have been awaiting justice for years. While Congress is debating the merits of an offer by Sudan to compensate families for the East African Embassy bombings, the matter should be de-linked from any discussion about SST.

Pompeo's move to de-list Sudan violates Senate Resolution 188, passed unanimously in 2019, which states: " 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". Congress must not allow this Resolution to be undermined by pressure from the U.S. State Department and the CIA, whose priority of counterterrorism intel blinds them from the democratic needs of the people of Sudan for freedom, peace and justice.



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