

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

Dear Senator:
August 27, 2020

In Sudan, a revolution begun in December 2018, demanding Freedom, Peace and Justice, was hijacked by the same military complex that prevailed during the Al-Bashir regime. It consists of the Sudan Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces (aka Janjaweed), and the General Intelligence Service (formerly NISS). The government structure—military, security, financial, industrial— is ruled by these elements, most with ties to the Bashir regime. The killing of citizens is ongoing, as PM Hamdok is ineffectual in containing Generals Al-Burhan and Hemeti, who chair the Sovereign Council.

The US Congress has spoken through Senate Resolution 188, passed unanimously, which states, “Until Sudan transitions to a civilian-led government, it will remain on the State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST) list and sanctions against the country will continue.” Similar positions are expressed in H. Res. 321 and H. Res. 6094, in the House.

Sudan faces claims against it for its role in terrorism—USS Cole bombing, Embassy bombings, and the WTC 9/11 attacks. Sudan has simply ignored the 9/11 families’ lawsuit, leaving them facing an uphill legal battle. The Embassy bombings settlement is being debated in Congress: Sudan’s offer is criticized as being too low— less than 3% of the amount of \$10.4 billion awarded to the victims by US courts— and as being unequally divided between US families and non-US families. Pompeo has been urging the acceptance of Sudan’s offer, claiming the settlement would lead to de-listing Sudan from SST.

Pompeo has taken the position that the US should reward this unreformed genocidal regime by de-listing it from the SST, in the face of ongoing violence by the militia in power. Pompeo visited Sudan this Tuesday, 8/25, and effectively offered de-listing as a ‘carrot’ to induce Sudan to normalize relations with Israel. The Arabist factions of the Sudan Transitional government, however, refused to befriend our ally, Israel.

De-listing of Sudan, in any case, is ill-advised and would:

- a) qualify Sudan for debt relief of \$48 billion, and give it access to international financing, all of which would accrue to the military in power, giving it license to kill, and assuring the suppression of its citizens for decades to come.
- b) restore Sudan’s sovereign immunity, shielding it from the rightful claims of the victims and their families against Sudan for its role in terrorism.

Congress should not be coerced by the interests of the CIA and the State Department into taking the side of this genocidal regime, thereby betraying the interests of the oppressed people of Sudan, and betraying the victims of Sudan’s terrorism. It must hold to Congressional Resolutions— S.Res 188; H. Res. 321, H.Res. 6094 —and keep in mind that Congressional oversight of the Intelligence Community is rooted in the US Constitution in the “necessary and proper” clause and the “implied powers” of Congress.



African Freedom Coalition:

Molefi Asante, PhD, Chairman, African-American Studies, Temple University, author
David Livingstone Smith PhD, Professor of Philosophy, New England University, author
Al Sutton MD