

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

September 25, 2020

Dear Senator:

Sudan Update!

Despite the failure to strike a deal with Sudan to include its normalization with Israel, the Trump Administration is preparing to remove Sudan from the list of States Sponsors of Terrorism (SST) (NYTimes 9/24/20).

—Earlier, on August 25, 2020 Pompeo had himself flown to Khartoum in an unsuccessful attempt to strike a deal for Sudan's normalization with Israel.

—On September 23, 2020, delegates from Sudan and the US ended talks in UAE on normalization, again failing to make a deal. The demands of Sudan were: US acceptance of Sudan's compensation offer regarding the US Embassy bombings in eastern Africa; immediate de-listing from SST with no preconditions; guaranteeing Sudan sovereign immunity against any future terrorism claims; and payments to Sudan by the US of \$9 billion over a 3-year period.

Pompeo has actually publicly urged Congress to accept most of the above demands. Many reasons, however, speak against his positions:

—Re: Sudan's compensation offer to the victims of the US Embassy bombings in eastern Africa: This offer has proved unacceptable to many Lawmakers, based on the low amount, which is less than 3% of the \$10.2 billion awarded the victims by US courts; and by the inequitable distribution plan whereby non-American families would receive one-tenth amount of the awards to American families. In any case, PM Hamdok has just announced (9/23) that Sudan would await legislation restoring Sudan's immunities before paying even that compensation.

—Re: de-listing of Sudan from SST: This action would provide financial reward — international lending opportunities, debt relief of \$60 billion—that would accrue to the present transitional government, consisting of a military-security complex, and members of the old Bashir regime, all led by the génocidaire generals al-Burhan and Hemeti. These same players who control the overall economy of Sudan, and rewarding them would further entrench their power, suppressing the non-Arab black Sudanese for decades to come.

— Re: legislation to restore Sudan's sovereign immunity: this would shield Sudan from any future claimants against Sudan's acts of terrorism. This would have the most adverse affect on the families of the 9/11 victims, whose claims for justice have been resisted by Sudan for 19 years.

The urgency by Pompeo and the Administration to 'make a deal' shows willingness to sacrifice the well-being of the Sudanese people, and to betray the victims of Sudan's terrorism, while restoring Sudan's sovereign immunity, and perhaps paying out \$90 billion. Sudan, meanwhile, begrudgingly offers a puny, insulting settlement to the Embassy victims.

Role of Congress: The US Congress has already passed its resolutions: S. Res. 188, passed unanimously, 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." H. Res. 432, and H. Res. 6094 state similar goals. Congress now needs to uphold its own resolutions. We cannot abandon the people of Sudan, who still strive for their "Peace, Freedom and Justice"; nor should we betray the victims of Sudan's terrorism.



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