

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

July 16, 2020

Dear Senator:

We are urging Congress to resist those elements of the US Administration that want to legitimize the military genocidal government of Sudan, and de-list Sudan from State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST).

The Sudanese people, despite their revolution last year, decry the military control of the government, which has deprived them of civilian government, freedom, peace and accountability. Generals al-Burhan and Hemeti now run the government, along with members of the old Bashir Regime, and control most military, security, industrial, financial and agricultural aspects of Sudan. Prime Minister Hamdok is not seen as having power over those elements.

On July 13, 2020, an armed attack on peaceful sit-ins in North Darfur killed nine and wounded fourteen. According to Darfur rebel leader, Abdul Wahid, the attack was carried out by Janjaweed militia. This is a familiar pattern, that is emblematic of the racist genocidal history of Sudan.

The US is being pressed by Sudan to delist it from SST. The windfall of financial reward— potential debt forgiveness of \$48 billion, and the opening of international support— would accrue to the benefit of the military government, further entrench the genocidal behavior of the old regime, and make the threat of terrorism even more likely to resurge.

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. The House passed H. Res. 432 in 2019, and H. Res. 6094 was introduced in 2020; both support a civilian-led democratic transition, promote accountability for human rights abuses, and encourage fiscal transparency in Sudan,

On July 14, 2020, the House introduced HR 7608, “Department of State Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act 2021”. A change in the language from previous versions of the bill now allows for funds to be made available to Sudan— notwithstanding Sudan being listed on the US SST. This implies a *de facto* delisting of Sudan.

In the Senate, the acceptance of Sudan’s offer to settle for its complicity with Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda for the attacks outside US Embassies in East Africa in 1998, is being considered. The acceptance is regarded as removing a barrier to the de-listing of Sudan from the SST. Thus far, only Senator Menendez has objected to the settlement as the deal would not do justice to the families. Besides, the offer by Sudan is less than 3% of the amount awarded to the victims’ families by US Courts, \$10.2 billion.

While the US State Department and CIA seem to be satisfied that Sudan’s promise of being a partner for counterterrorism outweighs any argument to withhold de-listing of Sudan from SST, Congress must stand fast until a civilian government is installed and democracy is established.



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

Subject: Sudan's military government does not merit legitimacy

Letter emailed on 7/17/20 to:

Senate 100

CBC 50

HFAC 40

Intel 30

Apps, house 40

est. 260 congress, 12 media, 10 friends