

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

July 17, 2020

Dear Congressperson:

We are urging Congress to not legitimize the military genocidal government of Sudan by de-listing it from State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST). The 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 military and the old regime, and make the threat of terrorism even more likely.

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. The Sudanese people decry the military control, which has deprived them of civilian government, freedom, peace and accountability.

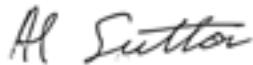
This Monday (7/13/20), an armed attack on peaceful demonstrators in North Darfur killed nine and wounded fourteen. According to Darfur rebel leader, Abdul Wahid, the attack was carried out by Janjaweed militia. This is a familiar pattern, emblematic of the racist genocidal history of Sudan, to which we must not become inured.

The Congress has already spoken on the need for democracy in Sudan. On July 9, 2019, the Senate had passed S.Res.188, expressing 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 also 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.

Inexplicably, on Tuesday (7/14/20) 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. Although Sudan’s offer is less than 3% of the \$10.2 billion amount awarded to the victims’ families by US Courts, thus far, only Senator Menendez has objected to the settlement, as the deal would not do justice to the American families.

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.



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