

AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

Dear Congressman Meeks,
October 31, 2019

After 30 years of racist genocidal rule, the people of Sudan began a peaceful protest in December, 2018, which led to the ouster of its President al-Bashir. While, usually, such a turn of events would be considered a positive development, in the case of Sudan it is not so: the present transitional government is ruled by the RSF (Janjaweed) General Hemeti and General Burhan, both men with notorious histories of violence in the former Bashir regime. Further, there are almost no signs of reform.

While the US Congress seeks to help Sudan in its transition, it must *not permit* the State Department to remove Sudan from our list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST), as they have not taken any steps for reform. Removing their name would make Sudan eligible for relief from its debt of \$58 billion, allow it to receive international financial aid, and give away any leverage the United States has to encourage reform.

The history of genocide in Sudan is a long and horrific one: “The issue is clearly one of racial and ethnic genocide: the killing of black people by the Arab-controlled government of Sudan. This government attacks all black people whether they are Muslim, Christian, or Traditionalists so long as those black people do not accept Arab culture; this is why the wars in Sudan must be considered bloody genocidal battles against the African people.” (Prof. Molefi Asante)

- 1955 - 1972 Khartoum vs. S. Sudanese people deaths 1.0 million
- 1983 - 2005 Khartoum vs. S. Sudanese people deaths 2.5 million
- 1988 - 2002 Khartoum vs. Nuba people deaths 100,000
- 2003-present Khartoum vs. Darfuri people deaths 500,000
- 2011-present Khartoum vs. Nuba, Blue Nile deaths 50,000

Today, there is no relief from the suffering of the people of Sudan: daily violence continues; 2.6 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) suffer in camps without humanitarian aid; over 300,000 refugees languish in Chad and elsewhere. No action is being taken with regard to the accountability for the past genocides, or for the recent killings, including the June 3 massacre in Khartoum. The transitional government of Sudan, instead of addressing these ills, is conducting a major campaign for a fast economic solution by asking the US to remove its name from the list of SST, without making the reforms necessary for its people.

While much of the US policy with Sudan has been dictated by the Intelligence Community and its thirst for counterterrorism intel, we must not turn a blind eye as the Sudan government willfully disregards democracy and human rights, ignoring the dire humanitarian situation faced by its most vulnerable.

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