

## AFRICAN FREEDOM COALITION

May 13, 2021

Dear Congressperson:

### **Human Rights and US policy:**

At a hearing of the Lantos Commission on Human Rights in Middle East/North Africa (4/27/21), there were several takeaways important to us Americans who oppose genocide in Sudan:

— Dictators who practice oppression or genocide often set up pricey lobbies in the US to protect themselves from American Human Rights concerns. The US politician may be tempted to act as a de facto lobbyist, or even become a lobbyist for that country after leaving government service.

—The US often rewards dictators, with the spurious justification of achieving ‘stability’, or helping us oppose terrorism, while we turn a blind eye to their repression. As studies show, however, terrorists come from a repressed society, making it *dictatorships* that breed terrorism.

—While Human Rights have never been the centerpiece of US foreign policy, we have now lost credibility as their protector;

### **Sudan as a case in point:**

The above takeaways are relevant to US policy on Sudan as follows:

Although Al-Bashir was deposed in 2019, the people’s calls for freedom, peace, and accountability have been ignored. The presence of Bashir’s genocidal regime persists in Sudan today. General Al-Burhan is the Chairman of the ruling Sovereign Council; and General Dagalo (‘Hemeti’), head of the RSF/Janjaweed militia, is his co-chair. Both were notorious genocidaires in the Bashir regime. The companies that control industry, finance and infrastructure today are owned by members of the military-security complex, most of whom hail from the same genocidal apparatus.

While a peace agreement was signed in Juba in October, 2020, there is still no peace in Sudan, and attention to the core issue—**Arab racism against non-Arab indigenous blacks**—has not been addressed. More than two million citizens still languish in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Violence continues against the ‘marginalized people’ —the non-Arab black population. There has been no accountability for the perpetrators of the decades of genocides in Sudan.

Sudan exemplifies the failure of US policy. Despite imposing occasional sanctions, the US has not been effective in stopping the Khartoum regimes from killing, and raping the non-Arab black populations, and expelling them from their lands. Most recently, despite Senate and House resolutions insisting on civilian rule before removal of Sudan from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST), Congress approved Trump’s de-listing of Sudan, therewith ceding our leverage to advocate for human rights. Financial rewards quickly followed, including a bridge loan of \$1.15 billion on Sudan’s behalf to the World Bank, enabling Sudan’s **military-ruled** government to continue its genocide.

### **US moving forward:**

US needs to have moral and strategic reasons for choosing our allies—most importantly a shared respect for Human Rights— as opposed to reasons based on transactional or business factors. Thus the US should take the lead in the fight for Human Rights —in Sudan and elsewhere—and proudly restore its credibility.



### **African Freedom Coalition:**

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