

February 23, 2017

Dear Congressional Member,

We are writing you on behalf of the members of the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), established in 2011, including the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Sudan Liberation Movement/SLM-AW led by Abdel-Wahid al-Nour, SLM-MM led by Minni Minnawi, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/North (SPLM-N). We are appealing to you for relief from Sudan's genocidal regime in Khartoum.

For 62 years, the Arab-dominated Khartoum regime has conducted genocide against African blacks in Sudan, irrespective of their religion. This government uses aerial bombardment of civilians and their crops, murder, rape, and burning of villages, to achieve its racist ends. Besides these acts of violence, the mass displacement, the confinement to camps, and the lack of food, water, or humanitarian aid have added more danger to their lives, furthering the goal of Sudan to change its demography from indigenous African blacks to Arabs. Of the more than four million violent deaths in Sudan since 1955, about half were Christians and the remainder Muslims and followers of traditional religions in Darfur, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile.

The killing has continued to today in all of the conflict zones. As recently as January 1, 2017, the "Nertiti massacre" in the Jebel Marra mountains, Darfur, left 9 dead and 60 wounded. A recent 109-page report from Amnesty International documented the upsurge in the military campaign in Darfur through September, 2016, including the probable use of chemical weapons. These violent acts have been decried by 120 members of Congress in May, 2016 and again by 40 members in November, 2016, in letters to the then Administration.

The prior US Administration declared an easing of its sanctions against Sudan on January 13, 2017, without consultation with Congress. A short-term cease-fire was exercised in the three conflict areas — Darfur, Nuba Mountains, and Blue Nile. On 21 February, however, the Sudanese army and its allied militia started their dry season offensive around 6 AM in Krongo Abdalla in Kadougli county, Nuba Mountains, breaching the declared joint cease-fire.

Sudan has largely achieved what it wanted, with the easing of sanctions. On February 20, the US invited Ibrahim Ahmed Omer, Speaker of the Sudan National Assembly, to D.C., ostensibly to lobby Congress for further easing of sanctions. Khartoum now has little incentive to alleviate the critical humanitarian crisis that it has created— millions of people displaced, facing starvation and disease, with *complete* blockade of humanitarian aid. Thirteen international NGO's had been expelled from Darfur in 2009 as Khartoum's defiant response to the indictment of Al-Bashir by the ICC for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity.

It is now up to Congress to take the moral leadership with regard to this racist genocide. It must inform itself of the facts, including Sudan's disruptive role in the world, and hear the testimony of the Sudan opposition parties, who have bravely defended their people these many years. The demand for unfettered humanitarian access should be the priority, with restoration of the expelled NGO's.

We will follow up this letter, with a request to meet with you to discuss the situation, and to find the means to save these vulnerable millions of people.

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