

September 23, 2017

Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary General,

Today you and your colleagues at the UN will hear from the Sudan government, represented by Ibrahim Ghandour, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Ghandour has been part of the government since President Bashir staged a coup in 1989, serving as an advisor to the only sitting head of state indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

While the international community seems intent on turning a blind eye to the ongoing atrocities and intentional neglect of the people of Sudan by the government, as evidenced by Europe's employment of Sudan's brutal Rapid Support Forces to prevent people who are trying to escape tyrannical governments from reaching their shores; the United States' push to normalize relations for the sake of the war on terror – a short-sighted and misguided approach based on sacrificing the lives of the Sudanese people; and the intentional abrogation of international law and agreements by states who welcome instead of arrest Bashir; we would like to highlight and remind the United Nations of some, not all, of the ongoing crimes committed by the Sudan government since the last UN General Assembly that highlight its insidious and unchanging nature:

- Repeated use of chemical weapons in Jebel Marra as reported by Amnesty International.
- The arbitrary arrest, detention and severe torture of peaceful protesters in November 2016.
- Attacks in West Darfur between 31 December 2016 – 5 January 2017 and on April 9, 2017 that killed innocent civilians and demolished homes and markets.
- Attacks in North and Central Darfur from 28 May through 15 June 2017 that killed innocent civilians while others were abducted and their whereabouts are still unknown, and villages were burnt to the ground.
- SAF soldiers fired at an open market in Central Darfur, killing eleven people, including 4 children, on June 29, 2017.
- Ongoing indiscriminate aerial bombardment of South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur and repeated flights over these areas intended to further traumatize civilian populations.
- Human rights defenders, students groups and political opposition have been targeted, arbitrarily arrested, detained and tortured by the government.
- Press censorship is ongoing and religious minorities such as Christians are intimidated and arrested, their property confiscated and places of worship destroyed.

- The delivery of humanitarian aid by trusted sources has been blocked to areas in Darfur, the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile where civilians are in danger of starvation or severe malnutrition and are in desperate need of medical attention.
- The government refuses to acknowledge and effectively address the deadly cholera epidemic that is spreading throughout Sudan.
- While the government seeks debt relief, it spends the majority of its budget on the military, most recently purchasing fighter planes upon the temporary lifting of U.S. sanctions and release of assets which are used against the people of Sudan.
- The government is supporting illegal wars in Yeman and Libya and is supporting Islamic terrorism in general.
- The government allows Khartoum to serve as a hub for illegal arms and ammunition trade that further destabilizes South Sudan, the region, the continent and beyond.
- The indigenous Beja tribe of Eastern Sudan is so severely marginalized by the regime that they face near extinction.
- The decision by the government to build dams in north Sudan will wipe out the ancient Nubian civilization.
- The government repeatedly fails to implement the agreements it signs or to engage seriously in negotiations to end conflict in Sudan. Instead it is a violent kleptocracy where a small ruling group maintains power indefinitely through various forms of corruption and violence.
- And yesterday, September 22, 2017, government forces opened fire on peaceful protestors and genocide survivors at Kalma camp in Darfur for protesting a visit by Bashir who has stolen their land, displaced them from their homes, killed and brutalized family and friends, and basically destroyed their communities and all hope of a future.

The people of Sudan deserve the right to live dignified lives in their own country, not relegated to IDP and refugee camps or living abroad as asylees. Therefore, we ask two things of you and the UN General Assembly: (1) recognize and address the threat of the Sudan government to national and international peace and security; and (2) enforce the ICC arrest warrant against Bashir and other members of the government. How you address the crisis in Sudan informs the decisions and actions of dangerous criminals and state actors worldwide.

Sincerely,

Concerned Sudanese American Citizens

Contact Info: Omer G. Ismail, 703-608-0808, omergismail@gmail.com

cc: UN General Assembly