



Open Statement to the NBA, Boston Celtics, Denver Nuggets,  
and Related Players and Sponsors

## **NBA: CANCEL EXHIBITION GAMES IN THE UAE**

UAE is supporting mass atrocities against civilians in Sudan.

We, the undersigned organizations and concerned citizens, call upon the National Basketball Association (NBA) to cancel its exhibition games between the Boston Celtics and Denver Nuggets scheduled for October 4 and 6, 2024, in Abu Dhabi. The UAE has been supplying weapons to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which is responsible for committing crimes against humanity, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing in Darfur, Sudan.

Millions of people in Sudan today are facing famine, mass atrocities, and the largest forced displacement and humanitarian crisis in the world. Fighting between the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) since April 2023 has led to tens of thousands of deaths. A new round of RSF attacks on civilians in Darfur in recent days is putting many more at immediate risk, leading to a global outcry. On September 17, President Biden called upon the RSF to, "stop their assault that is disproportionately harming Sudanese civilians" and "for all parties to this conflict to end this violence and refrain from fueling it."

External actors including Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the UAE have been enabling the fighting by supplying financial, material, and diplomatic support to the two sides.

The UAE's involvement has been particularly egregious, as it has enabled mass atrocities through direct supply of weapons. Several independent journalistic and human rights investigations have implicated the UAE in this provision of weapons and the UN Panel of Experts on Sudan has found these charges credible, citing on-the-ground witnesses.

**Rather than partnering with a country enabling atrocities, the NBA, the Celtics, the Nuggets, NBA players, and sponsors should act and speak out against the UAE's negative role in Sudan and stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan.**

**Signed,  
Your Name**

