

March 22, 2013

Mr. Donald Kaberuka
President, African Development Bank Group
15 Avenue du Ghana, P.O. Box 323-1002
Tunis-Belvédère, Tunisia

Dear Mr. Kaberuka,

We, the undersigned international NGOs and genocide scholars, are writing to protest the African Development Bank Group's plans to promote investments in Sudan at the upcoming donors' conference to be held in Doha, Qatar on April 7 – 8, 2013.

According to Eltigani Seisi Ateem, Chairman of the Darfur Regional Authority, the African Development Bank Group plans to champion the upcoming high-profile Donor Pledging Conference for Darfur. Instead, we ask that you revoke your support for this conference and your fundraising efforts that place your bank, and all international donors, squarely in the role of generating financial support for the genocidal Sudanese regime.

As you know, genocide continues in Sudan. The National Congress Party (NCP) regime in Sudan, led by a president indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, is causing the death, starvation, displacement, and destruction of livelihood of Sudanese civilians in Darfur, Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan and the Blue Nile state.

Among the issues of greatest concern are the fact that unlawful attacks against civilians continue in Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and the East even as the Government of Sudan continues to restrict movement and access for international humanitarian aid organizations operating throughout Sudan. Further key issues with South Sudan remain unresolved, including final definition and demarcation of the north-south border and the final status of the Abyei area. People across Sudan who protest the current regime are denied basic rights and face attack, arrest and torture.

Efforts to promote investments in Sudan are premature and put the international community at risk of funding a government that continues to perpetrate massive human rights violations against its own people. Such investments should not occur prior to a cessation of attacks on civilians, the granting of unhindered humanitarian access across Sudan, and a clear demonstration of progress on all remaining issues, including an inclusive constitutional review process followed by free and fair elections.

This letter has been formulated with extensive input from Diaspora Darfuri communities who remain closely in touch with their families in Darfur, as well as with civil society groups and NGOs who have been following the Darfur crisis for more than a decade. Input from these sources indicates that:

- Previous Darfur donors' conferences collected billions of dollars, but there are no signs on the ground today of how those billions of dollars were spent. Instead, the money, after falling in the hands of the central government, is used against the people of Darfur to fund aerial bombardments and militia attacks.

- Any money now collected in the name of Darfur for seemingly positive purposes (such as water, education, infrastructure) is at risk of serving as an elaborate scheme to divert money to fund the

ongoing wars in Darfur, Nuba Mountains, and Blue Nile. Darfuris will see very little of that money, if any.

- Qatar's influence should be used to reach Darfuris in the Diaspora, the main rebel factions, and the Internally Displaced Persons inside Darfur and refugees in Chad to reach a consensus of how to meet the demands of Darfuri people in providing security, protection, accountability, and a just and lasting peace.

In closing, without real on-the-ground progress in Sudan, Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur, Sudan's history of genocidal violence makes it extremely likely that this conference will help to fund more atrocities against civilians. Please revoke your support for any efforts raising funds that will help support genocide.

Sincerely,

Act for Sudan

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"Change the world. It just takes cents" TM

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