

**5 August 2014**  
**For Immediate Release**

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**Sudanese Groups and American Activists Ask US-Africa Summit to Address the Welfare of the People of Sudan**

*Issued letter to President Obama and African Leaders; Rally at Sudan Embassy*

(Washington, DC) As President Obama hosts the US-Africa Leaders Summit this week, 64 Sudanese diaspora groups and activist organizations based in the US released a letter calling on the assembled leaders to make ending genocide, ethnic cleansing and mass atrocities in Sudan a true priority.

The White House appropriately did not invite Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir to the Summit. Bashir is subject to arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The letter requests the US administration and the African leaders to include the welfare of the Sudanese people in their work during the Summit.

Members of the Sudanese diaspora state, "The Sudanese people are eager to contribute to the world's security and prosperity, not just to be a place for crisis and poverty. The new leaders and generations are keen to establish and forge a real partnership with the United States and other peace-loving nations, especially in Africa, and to work together to build a better world—one in which genocide is never considered a legitimate policy option, and where Sudan is not a safe haven for terrorist organizations."

Members of the Sudanese diaspora and activist community will rally today at the Embassy of Sudan (2210 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC) beginning at 2pm EDT. Participants will march to Lafayette Park, across from the White House, arriving at approximately 5pm. For on-site interviews, please contact Elizabeth Blackney at [541.390.1913](tel:541.390.1913). Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/sgeP6>

Full letter and signatures attached below.

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August 4, 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20600

Presidents and Prime Ministers of the African Nations  
invited to the U.S.-Africa Summit  
c/o Each Nation's Embassy  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama and Leaders of African Nations:

The undersigned representatives of the Sudanese diaspora communities and American organizations throughout the United States write to you upon the occasion of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. The US administration appropriately did not invite Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, who is subject to arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, to the Summit.

The White House states on its website that the Summit will "highlight America's commitment to Africa's security, its democratic development, and its people. ... The theme of the Summit is 'Investing in the Next Generation.' Focusing on the next generation is at the core of a government's responsibility and work, and

this Summit is an opportunity to discuss ways of stimulating growth, unlocking opportunities, and creating an enabling environment for the next generation.”

In the interest of Sudan’s next generation, which currently cannot foresee growth, opportunities or an enabling environment, we provide current information about the multiple crises in Sudan. **We respectfully request that you – the US administration and the African Leaders – will include the welfare of the Sudanese people in your work during the Summit.**

The Government of Sudan’s wars against its citizens that began 25 years ago -- when the National Congress Party (then known as the National Islamic Front) took over by coup -- continue today. The protracted crisis throughout the country is spreading again and claims more lives each day. The conflicts in Darfur, the Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Abyei, Nubia, Khartoum and East Sudan have no realistic prospect of resolution.

Specifically:

- In 2011, the Government of Sudan renewed its ethnic cleansing campaigns in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan and Blue Nile areas, with ground attacks, frequent indiscriminate bombings and killings, resulting in near starvation conditions for hundreds of thousands, and one million people displaced internally or across the border.
- Security in Darfur has deteriorated significantly, in villages and in IDP camps, and aid workers have been attacked and killed.
- In 2013 alone, 460,000 Darfuris were displaced, and in the first six months of 2014, another 390,000 have been newly displaced (each, according to U.N. estimates).
- In September and October 2013, Sudanese government security forces violently cracked down on popular, peaceful protests prompted by economic austerity measures in Khartoum, Omdurman, and other towns across Sudan. They used excessive force, including live ammunition, against the protesters, killing at least 170 people, including children, and wounding hundreds more.
- In 2014, the Government of Sudan expelled the ICRC and ACTED from Darfur. In May 2014, the Government of Sudan bombed the only hospital in the Nuba Mountains, and in June 2014 bombed a Doctors Without Borders hospital in South Kordofan.
- In 2014, Sudanese government-supported Rapid Support Forces (formerly Janjaweed) in military uniforms are deployed in Darfur and the Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan. Dozens of Darfuri villages were destroyed, and tens of thousands of newly displaced civilians have been prevented from entering Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps.
- “Genocide by attrition” (starvation, thirst, disease and lack of humanitarian aid) continues in the IDP camps in Darfur, in the Nuba Mountains, and in Blue Nile. Delivery of humanitarian aid is restricted or entirely blocked by the Government of Sudan.
- Civil liberties—freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, and the rights of women – continue to be denied by the Sudan government and its security forces across Sudan.
- President al-Bashir has cultivated Sudan’s relationship with Iran, facilitating shipments of weapons to Hamas and Hezbollah; he has “meddled” in the affairs of South Sudan, Libya, Chad, and the Sahel region; and Sudan provides safe haven for Mali jihadists.

The Government of Sudan, under the National Congress Party, has never honored an agreement it has made, including the CPA and any other negotiated with the assistance of the African Union. It uses the negotiation and signing of such agreements to buy time to continue its deadly military campaigns against the Sudanese people. Its current already discredited “national dialogue” is another example of both this delaying tactic and its “divide and rule” method of staying in power. Treating the Government of Sudan as a legitimate diplomatic partner has failed repeatedly and cannot succeed. The current regime is a source of destabilization and terror in the East and North African regions and poses a threat and danger not only to

the Sudanese people, but also to regional and international peace and security.

The Sudanese people are eager to contribute to the world's security and prosperity, not just to be a place for crisis and poverty. The new leaders and generations are keen to establish and forge a real partnership with the United States and other peace-loving nations, especially in Africa, and to work together to build a better world—one in which genocide is never considered a legitimate policy option, and where Sudan is not a safe haven for terrorist organizations. We need the help of the US administration and the African Leaders.

We continue to hope that the US administration will live up to President Obama's past promises and its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide with a revised and effective foreign policy on Sudan. We believe the US administration could play a vital role together with the African Leaders.

We, therefore, respectfully request the US administration and African Leaders promptly take the following actions:

1. Make ending genocide, ethnic cleansing and mass atrocities in Sudan a true priority by (a) preventing aerial attacks on civilians either by imposition of a no-fly zone over Darfur, the Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, destruction of the Government of Sudan's aerial assets or by other means to eliminate aerial attacks against civilians, and (b) working with the UN Security Council and Department for Peacekeeping Operations to create, monitor and maintain effective forces on the ground in Sudan to protect civilians and to facilitate the delivery of sufficient humanitarian aid to all civilians in need.
2. Use all available and necessary means to persuade the Government of Sudan to permit immediate and unconditional access for international humanitarian aid personnel and supplies to vulnerable and displaced populations. If the Government fails to do so, the US administration and African Leaders must lead international and regional efforts to provide such assistance wherever needed in Sudan without its government's consent.
3. In all bilateral and/or multilateral exchanges involving Sudan, including at or through the UN, prioritize the immediate and permanent disbanding and disarming of the Rapid Support Forces/Janjaweed and any other similar militia. In addition, the US administration and African Leaders should work to ensure that militia leaders are brought to justice in the appropriate forum(s).
4. Use all available and necessary means to persuade the Government of Sudan to release immediately all political prisoners and detainees and all individuals detained or imprisoned because of their ethnicity or religion.
5. Ensure a comprehensive and high quality investigation and report into the allegations of misconduct against UNAMID, especially those relating to the mission's failure to fulfill its mandate and to truthfully report facts on the ground in Darfur.
6. Pressure the Government of Sudan to comply with civil rights norms under regional and international conventions, particularly those of freedom of assembly, association, press, religion and speech, and the prohibition and prevention of violence against women and girls.
7. The US administration should fully and immediately engage with the representatives of the Sudanese people, including the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF), the National Consensus Forces (NCF), other political parties, internally displaced persons, refugees, and women's, youth, and student groups to facilitate and support them in forging a true national dialogue and agreeing on peaceful means of change in effecting an inclusive, peaceful democratic transition in Sudan.
8. The US administration should lead the effort at the UN Security Council to establish a Commission of Inquiry to investigate crimes in Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan and Blue Nile, as well as the recent actions of the reconstituted Janjaweed/Rapid Support Forces in Darfur and beyond.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our urgent requests.

Sincerely,

**Act for Sudan**

Martina Knee, Co-Founder  
San Francisco, CA

**Activists Without Borders**

Zainalabdin Altayeb Osman  
New Haven, CT

**Ahmed. H. Adam**

Visiting Scholar, Co-chair of the Two Sudans Project  
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**African Freedom Coalition**

Al Sutton, MD, Founder  
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**Beja Organization for Human Rights and  
Development**

Ibrahim Tahir, President  
Washington, DC

**Blue Nile Association for Peace and Development**

Omer Abdelsawi, Member/Board of Directors  
Mulberry, FL

**Brooklyn Coalition for Darfur & Marginalized  
Sudan**

Laura Limuli, Coordinator  
Brooklyn, NY

**Carl Wilkens Fellowship**

Katie-Jay Scott, Program Facilitator  
Redondo Beach, CA

**The Center for Democracy and Peace**

Sabri El Shareef  
New Jersey, NJ

**Christian Solidarity International-USA**

Rev. Heidi McGinness, Director of Outreach  
Denver, CO

**Community Empowerment for Progress  
Organization-CEPO-South Sudan**

Edmund Yakani, Executive Director  
Juba, SOUTH SUDAN

**Darfur Action Group of South Carolina**

Dr. Richard Sribnick, Chairman  
Columbus, SC

**Darfur and Beyond**

Cory Williams, Co-Founder  
Phoenix, AZ

**Darfur Human Rights Organization of the USA**

Abdelgabar Adam, President /Founder  
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**Darfur Interfaith Network**

Martha Boshnick, Co-Chair  
Washington, DC

**Darfur People's Association of New York**

Mohamed Ebead, President  
Brooklyn, NY

**Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc.**

Blanche Foster, Acting Executive Director  
Newark, NJ

**Darfur Women Action Group**

Niemat Ahmadi, Founder/President  
Washington, DC

**Dear Sudan, Love Marin**

Gerri Miller, Founder and Coordinator  
Tiburon, CA

**The Democratic Alliance**

Kamal Alhassan  
Denver, CO

**Genocide No More--Save Darfur**

Marvin Steinberg, Coordinator  
Redding, CA

**GeNoticed/GirlHQ**

Elizabeth Blackney, Founder  
Virginia Beach, VA

**Georgia Coalition to Prevent Genocide**

Melanie Nelkin, Chair  
Atlanta, GA

**Grifna, USA**

Rudwan Daud, Executive Officer  
Eugene, Oregon

**Humanity Is Us**

Kimberly Hollingsworth, Founder  
New York, NY

**The Institute on Religion and Democracy**  
Faith J. H. McDonnell, Director, Religious Liberty  
Program & Church Alliance for a New Sudan  
Washington, DC

**International Justice Project**  
Katie Flannery, Program Director  
Newark, NJ

**Investors Against Genocide**  
Eric Cohen, Chairperson  
Boston, MA

**Jewish World Watch**  
Michael Jeser, Executive Director  
Los Angeles, CA USA

**Jews Against Genocide**  
Eileen Weiss, Co-Director  
New York, NY

**Joining Our Voices**  
Slater Armstrong, Founder/Director  
Baton Rouge, LA

**Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)**  
Shakir Abdulrasool, President  
Louisville, KY

**Living Ubuntu**  
Barbara English, Executive Director  
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**Martin Technical Services' Access Coalition Project**  
Deborah Martin, MA, LMFT, Director  
Nashville, TN

**Massachusetts Coalition for Darfur**  
William Rosenfeld, Director  
Boston, MA

**Never Again Coalition**  
Lauren Fortgang and Diane Koosed, Co-Chairs  
Portland, OR

**New York Coalition for Sudan**  
Neiki Ullah, Communications Director  
New York, NY

**Nuba Mountains Advocacy Group USA**  
Gogadi Amoga, Founder/ Co-Chair  
Batavia, OH

**Nuba Christian Family**  
George Tutu, Chair  
Denver, CO

**Nuba Mountains International Association USA**  
Komi Alaiaiser, President  
Lorton, VA

**Nubia Project**  
Nuraddin Mannan, President  
Washington, DC

**People4Sudan**  
Zeinab Blandia, Interim CEO  
Brooklyn, NY

**Persecution Project Foundation**  
Brad Phillips, Founder and CEO  
Culpeper, VA

**Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition**  
David Rosenberg, Coordinator  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih**  
Recipient, 2012 U.S. Secretary of State's  
International Women of Courage Award  
Philadelphia, PA USA

**The San Antonio Coalition Against Genocide**  
Susan Smylie, Coordinator of Advocacy  
San Antonio, TX

**San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition**  
Mohamed Suleiman, President  
San Francisco, CA

**Society for Threatened Peoples**  
Sharon Silber, US Director  
New York, NY

**South Sudan Girls Education Project**  
Gisma Kueng, President  
Buffalo, NY

**Stop Genocide Now**  
Gabriel Stauring, Executive Director  
Redondo Beach, CA

**Sudan Advocacy Action Forum**  
Dr. Eleanor Wright, Moderator  
Birmingham, AL

**Sudan Federal Democratic Alliance**  
Bashir Ishaq, Executive Officer/ Representative  
Washington DC, USA

**Sudan Liberation Movement**  
Hassan A. Ahmed, General Secretary  
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**Sudan Liberation Movement- SLM (MM)**

Gouma Hari, Chair- North America  
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**Sudan National Democratic Alliance**

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**Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM-N)**

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**Sudan Unlimited**

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**The Sudanese American Society**

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**Sudanese Kush Liberation Movement**

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**Sudanese Marginalized Forum USA**

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**Sudanese Opposition's Forces Alliance in the United States**

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**Umma Party (SRF)**

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**Unite for Darfur Organization**

Bahar Arabie, CEO  
Gaithersburg, MD

**Voices for Sudan**

Jimmy Mulla, Founder/ President  
Washington, DC

cc: Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson, African Union Commission  
Senators Robert Menendez and Bob Corker, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
Representatives Ed Royce and Eliot L. Engel, House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Representatives Michael Capuano, Barbara Lee, Michael McCaul, and Frank Wolf,  
Co-Chairs, Congressional Caucus on Sudan and South Sudan