Possible titles and subtitles for our petition

**Stop US Normalization with Sudan**

**The US Must Not Normalize Relations with a Genocidal Regime and a Terrorist Sponsoring Government like Sudan**

[Your Name]

[City], [State] [Postal Code]

 Phone: [Your Phone]  Fax: [Your Fax]

E-Mail: [Your E-Mail]

Date: [Insert date here]

The Honorable [Name of Elected Representative]

[Address of Elected Representative’s Office]

\*\*You get find the contact information for your elected representative at [Congress.org](http://congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials)

Dear (*Representative or Senator xxxxx* ] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

**I am/ We are** writing to express **(my/our)** concern about the lack of US action regarding the ongoing genocide in Darfur and the extreme incidence of human rights abuses across Sudan. **I am/ We are** particularly concerned about the US government’s recent partial lifting of sanctions on Sudan, and possible intention to lift Sudan’s name from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. **I/We** strongly condemn the normalization of relations with President al-Bashir’s regime as they have continued to commit the most heinous crimes against the people of Sudan and to threaten US national security. **I/We** urge you to be our voice and ask the Trump Administration to take strong measures against Sudan and to hold President al-Bashir’s regime accountable.

In 2003, President al-Bashir launched a genocidal attack against the people of Darfur. This mass affront to human rights norms rightly shocked the conscious of the international community; in 2004 the Bush Administration declared the situation a genocide. Since then, millions of Darfuris have been forced to flee their homes, hundreds of thousands have been killed, and those who remain in Darfur are subjected to brutal attacks and are deprived of access to humanitarian assistance. Rape, arbitrary arrests of civilians, and torture have all been used as weapons of war and continue to devastate the lives of innocent civilians in Darfur. President al-Bashir stands accused by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of the world’s worst crimes - genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. President al-Bashir’s regime has reportedly used chemical weapons against the people of Darfur as recently as September 2016. Although documented by credible sources, including Amnesty International, such reports have not been investigated or condemned by the US government.

In addition to all the injustices and horrors being committed against the Darfuri people, the security of the US is at stake. There are credible allegations that President al-Bashir’s government supports terrorist groups across the Middle East and Africa. The United States has recognized this threat by placing Sudan on the State Department list of State Sponsors of Terrorism. This classification prevents the Sudanese Government from receiving foreign aid and military equipment. The Government of Sudan continues to support terrorist organizations and to terrorize its own citizens. As Sudanese-American relations come under review, there should be absolutely no consideration of removing al-Bashir’s government from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

Given the current conditions on the ground, lifting additional sanctions will only help the regime gain access to more financial resources, which will help them purchase more weapons, as well as help the al-Bashir Administration continue to support terrorist groups.

Besides the threat to international security, if the US lifts further sanctions, it would be a clear affront to human rights’ norms. Lifting sanctions on Sudan will not only legitimize President al-Bashir and enable him to continue the slaughter of his citizens but will send a message to other criminals around the world that they will not be held accountable. Before sanctions can be lifted criminal must be held accountable, and the people of Darfur must be assured of their safety, freedom from fear, and the ability to return to their places of origin.

It is morally imperative that the United States Government develop strong policy on Sudan that uphold American values and promote accountability, respect for human rights and the dignity of the Sudanese people. Without clearly defined metrics to examine Sudan’s human rights record and strong measures to prevent Sudan from collaborating with terrorist groups, the Sudanese Government will not cease its criminal activities at home nor across the region.

Accordingly, we urge you to stand with the genocide victims in Sudan, uphold US legal and human rights’ norms, and diminish the threat of terrorism by demanding that US government implement the following recommendations:

* Maintain the designation of Sudan as a State Sponsor of Terrorism
* Maintain the existing US sanctions on Sudan until al-Bashir ceases attacks on civilians
* Integrate targeted sanctions and impose a travel ban on officials responsible for committing crimes in Darfur and across Sudan
* Support accountability and the implementation of the ICC-backed arrest warrants against criminals in Sudan.
* Pressure Sudan to allow unimpeded humanitarian access to Darfur, the Nuba Mountains, and the Blue Nile Region
* Pressure al-Bashir’s Government to disarm militias committing atrocities in Darfur
* Lead the UN Security Council in providing adequate civilian protection in Sudan
* Provide support to the historically excluded and victimized communities in Sudan to rebuild their lives and bring sustainable peace in Sudan.
* Implement strong US policy on Sudan which promotes accountability, democracy, human rights

We greatly appreciate your commitment to human rights at home and internationally as well as your dedication to the ongoing fight against terrorism and the protection of American security. Your leadership and voice are needed to save lives in Sudan, particularly in Darfur. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The undersigned

In partnership with Darfur Women Action Group

[www.darfurwomenaction.org](http://www.darfurwomenaction.org)