



## STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN



[ Your Name]  
[City], [State] [Postal Code]  
Cell Phone: [Your Phone]  
E-Mail: [Your E-Mail]

Date: [Insert date here]

The Honorable [Name of Elected Representative]  
[Address of Elected Representative's Office]

\*\*You can find the contact information for your elected representative at [Congress.org](http://Congress.org).

Dear [Representative or Senator xxxxx],

[I am/we are] writing to express [my/our] grave concern about the violence against peaceful protesters in Sudan. For years, many members of Congress spoke out against the genocide in Darfur and called for justice against Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. Now that the people are on the verge of real change and need the support of the world community, too many are silent. We need you to stand with the people of Sudan.

### Background

In 1989, al-Bashir came to power by coup and initiated dictatorial rule and political Islam to control and oppress the Sudanese people. In its 29 years in power, the government has continued its effort to destroy the people of Sudan.

- Since 2002, the government has orchestrated a scorched-earth policy against the indigenous people of Darfur, resulting in genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- In 2004, the Bush Administration declared the situation a genocide. Since then, millions of Darfuris have been forced to flee their homes. Over 400,000 have been killed, and, as of today, over 3 million people have been displaced. Fifteen years later, Darfuris are still subjected to brutal attacks and deprived access to humanitarian assistance. Rape has been used as weapon of war, and arrests and torture have devastated, and continue to devastate, the lives of innocent civilians in Darfur.
- In 2009, President al-Bashir was indicted by the International Criminal Court for committing crimes in Darfur. He has yet to face justice. President al-Bashir's regime has reportedly used chemical weapons against the people of Darfur as recently as September 2016.
- The government has also attacked South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions, displacing nearly a million people.

In the midst of this violent crises, approximately 10 million people who worked as producers, such as farmers and herders, have been displaced. Most Darfuris as well as the people of South Kordofan and the Blue Nile states have had to flee and have become refugees without any ability to grow food or work. Since the farmers and herders have been displaced, the remaining Sudanese population has been forced to become urban consumers. Furthermore, members of the Sudanese government, rife with corruption, have been using the country's resources for their own self-enrichment. The military's budget has been increased and is used to buy weapons for the murder of civilians. As a result, Sudan's economy has collapsed, while the human rights situation is rapidly deteriorating. The Sudanese people are experiencing historical hardship, including severe

lack of food, commodities, fuel, and other materials necessary for survival. Subsequently, the Sudanese have taken to the streets to demand a change in government. In response to peaceful protests against these injustices, al-Bashir's regime has used tear gas and live ammunition against protesters (including children), as well as killing and abducting students.

### **Current Demands**

The protesters' demands are legitimate and just. We, therefore, urge you to stand with the people of Sudan. Please publicly condemn these attacks on protesters and demand that the Sudanese government stop this violence against its own citizens. Given the history of crimes against humanity by Omar al-Bashir and his administration, we call-upon the United States government to press him to respect and adhere to the aspirations and needs of the Sudanese people which are as follows:

- Al-Bashir must peacefully step down and surrender power to a multi-party government
- Creation of a technocratic, multi-party interim government to lead the country for 4-5 years
- The peaceful resolution by the interim government of the long-standing crisis in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile and the granting of voluntary return of refugees to their lands of origin
- Improvement of human rights and economic conditions across Sudan
- Compensation for lost property and personal losses
- Creation of a Sudanese constitution, agreed upon by all Sudanese people, that will guarantee basic freedoms and a dignified life for all
- Open and improved regional and international relations with mutual interest
- Institutional reform and infrastructure development
- Implementation of a fair and free internationally monitored election at the end of the interim period.

We greatly appreciate your commitment to human rights at home and internationally. Your leadership and voice are needed to save lives in Sudan and 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)