

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On your watch, how will the United States champion freedom, peace, justice and democracy in Sudan? As a Senator and as Vice President, you were involved in advocating for and implementing U.S. policy on Sudan. Now, as President, the leadership to guide Sudan policy is yours, and it comes at an extraordinary moment of opportunity, created heroically by the people of Sudan. We, the undersigned, Sudanese and human rights activists and organizations, urge you to prioritize a full-court press with regard to U.S. engagement at this critical and historical time in Sudan. We recommend the appointment of an Ambassador to Sudan to support normalization of relations with the U.S. and the appointment of a Special Presidential Envoy to prioritize and support Sudan's difficult and delicate transition from a dictatorship to a democracy, including but not limited to the full implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement, supporting transitional justice and the return of refugees and IDPs, strengthening institutions and civil society, and helping Sudan prepare for and conduct free and fair elections.

We do not need to explain to you the magnitude of what the people of Sudan have accomplished through a brilliantly coordinated, inclusive and country-wide non-violent revolution. As a Senator, you witnessed the coup by General Omar al Bashir in 1989 and the subsequent tragic deaths of over 2.5 million southern Sudanese and the displacement of more than 4 million people. You were a strong supporter of the 2002 Sudan Peace Act which provided a framework for peace negotiations that yielded the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, ending a 22-year civil war and providing for democratic transformation for Sudan and a referendum for southern Sudan and Abyei if unity was not made attractive. You were among the loudest to protest the attacks, later identified as genocide, in Darfur by the Sudan regime and its Janjaweed militia. Subsequently, you proposed a number of measures, including a no-fly zone, to protect millions of innocent men, women and children who were subjected to violent deaths, wide-spread rape, complete destruction of homes and property, and forced displacements. You understood Bashir's propensity for dishonoring agreements, and when free and fair elections did not occur in Sudan, you, as the Vice President, pledged U.S. support for the right of southern Sudanese to vote in a referendum for independence. Later in 2013, as South Sudan and the Bashir regime struggled with issues of separation and attacks by the regime were ongoing in Darfur, the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile, you affirmed the Obama Administration's "commitment to a durable and lasting peace between and within Sudan and South Sudan." You have helped shape U.S. policy on

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.

February 1, 2021

Page 2

Sudan for decades, and you are the right person to lead effective U.S. engagement in Sudan at this critical time.

As you stated in an April 2007 hearing on Darfur, the U.S. policy on Sudan requires “a comprehensive approach to what is a complex problem...that will require the kind of resources, coordination, and sustained engagement at the highest levels.” This remains true today. The recently passed Sudan Democratic Transition, Accountability, and Fiscal Transparency Act of 2020, helps to identify that comprehensive approach. It outlines an ambitious agenda for the Sudanese transitional government and for U.S. engagement in support of the transition, and it includes mechanisms to assess the progress of both. Implementation of the Act and support for the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement require the sustained engagement and resources of the U.S. that you called for in 2007 due to the complexities of Sudan, the short timeframe to achieve significant outcomes, and the fragility of the state. Sudan remains vulnerable, in large part, due to the ongoing presence of the National Congress Party and other negative forces that are still very much engaged throughout Sudan and are seeking to undermine the movement for freedom, peace and justice and the new civilian-led transitional government.

At an April 2008 hearing on Darfur, you earnestly asked, “what will it take to change the circumstances on the ground?” The people of Sudan, those who fought against oppression and those, especially youth and women, who peacefully protested, showed us what it would take. Now, they need your support to help secure what they have achieved at great cost and to avoid a return to dangerous leadership, violent conflict and humanitarian crises that ultimately undermine U.S. and international security. The people of Sudan must be able to hold free and fair elections so that they can recover and build their country. The U.S. must not make the mistake again of under-investing in this process. You were right in your response to the Council on Foreign Relations that “the United States cannot afford to miss this moment to engage with African youth and to offer them a window into the American model of democracy.” Sudan can be YOUR model for this type of U.S. engagement in Africa and the remarkable achievements of the Sudanese people should be showcased at the planned Global Summit for Democracy.

Thank you for your thoughtful assessment and consideration of this urgent matter. The expertise you have acquired over the years on Sudan and your commitment to promoting democracy and human rights worldwide combined with the extraordinary removal of a brutal dictatorship by the Sudanese people suggests that you are the President for this moment in time. Please do not miss this opportunity to effect the change in Sudan that you have worked towards for decades. Please commit the necessary personnel and financial resources to support the people of Sudan in their determination for freedom, enduring peace and restorative justice. Please do not wait. The situation is urgent, and the opportunities are great. Please appoint a U.S. Ambassador and a Special Presidential Envoy for Sudan.

Sincerely,

Ambassador and former U.S. Congressman Tony Hall

Andrew Natsios, Former U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and former Administrator of USAID

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.

February 1, 2021

Page 3

Mike Capuano, former Member of Congress and founder of the Congressional Caucus on Sudan and South Sudan

Frank Wolf, Member of Congress 1981-2014, retired

Allan Reed, Retired Senior Foreign Service Officer, USAID (retired), San Francisco, CA

Prof. Mukesh Kapila, Former Head of the UN in Sudan, Professor of Global Health and Humanitarian Affairs, University of Manchester

Aicha Elbasri, Journalist, former UNAMID Spokeswoman

Richard Newfarmer, Retired World Bank Staff, Washington, DC

Ambassador Ibrahim Taha Ayoub

Dr. Akec Khoc, Former Charge D'Affaires of Sudan before Independence of South Sudan

The Baroness Cox, Independent Member, House of Lords, UK Parliament, London

David Alton, Professor the Lord Alton of Liverpool, Independent Crossbench Member of the House of Lords, London

James R. Hiskey, Senior Fellow and Co-founder C S Lewis Institute, Formerly CSLI, Annapolis, MD

Eric Reeves, Fellow, Rift Valley Institute

STAND: The student-led movement to end mass atrocities

Pam Omidyar, Founder and Board Chair, Humanity United, Washington, DC

Ian Schwab, Director of Regional Policy and Advocacy, The Sentry

Ruth Messinger, Former CEO, American Jewish World Service, New York, NY

Gloria White-Hammond, Executive Director, My Sister's Keeper, Boston, MA

Ted Dagne, CEO, African Refugees and Victims Relief Fund

Mohy Omer, Policy Analyst, Sudan Taskforce, Washington, DC

Jalelah Ahmed, Human Rights Activist and Legislative aide for the City of Alexandria, Washington, DC

Abdelrahman Al Gasim, External Relations Secretary, Darfur Bar Association

Rudwan Dawod, Secretary General, Sudan of the Future, Eugene, OR

David Deng, Independent Researcher, Nairobi

Fareed Zein, Board Chairman, Sudanese American Public Affairs Association, Inc. (SAPAA)

Sally Elatta, CEO, AgilityHealth, Founder, Sudan NextGen

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.

February 1, 2021

Page 4

Elhag ali Warrag, Chairperson, The Democrat Newspaper

Ellen Wicker Cummings, Founding Member and Former President, Abukloi Foundation, Rumbek

Dr. Jacqueline Wilson, JHW Consulting

Peter Moszynski

Carne Ross

Executive Committee of the Association of Sudanese American Professors in America (ASAPA.online)

Ali Abdel Gadir Ali, Retired Professor of Economics, Cairo, Egypt

Fatah Arman, PhD, Pennsylvania State University

Peter W. Van Arsdale, Director (retired), African Initiatives, Josef Korbel School of Internat'l Studies, University of Denver, Denver, CO

Sabah Carrim, Scholar in Genocide Studies, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

G. Jan Colijn, Dean Emeritus, Stockton University, Galloway, NJ

Atta H. El-Battahani, Professor of Political Science, University of Khartoum

Ellen J. Kennedy, Executive Director, World Without Genocide at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, MN

Michael Kevane, Associate Professor, Dept. of Economics, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA

Mohamed Y. Khalifa, Linguist & Human Rights Activist, Cambridge, MA

Khalid Kodi, Artist, Educator and Activist

Thomas Kühne, Ph.D., Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University, Worcester, MA

Ibrahim Sadiq Malazada (PhD), Lecturer, Sociology Department, Soran University, Kurdistan Region

Dr. Victoria Sanford, Founding Director, Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies, Lehman College, City University of New York, Bronx, NY

Paul Slovic, Professor, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Dr. Gregory H. Stanton, Founding President, Genocide Watch, McLean, VA

Henry C. Theriault, Ph.D., President, International Association of Genocide Scholars

Ernesto Verdeja, Executive Director, Institute for the Study of Genocide, New York, NY

Dr. Paul R. Williams, Rebecca I. Grazier Professor of Law and International Relations, American University

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.

February 1, 2021

Page 5

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

Mark Brecke, Documentary Filmmaker & Photographer

Matthew Kohn, Filmmaker, New York, NY

Thomas Lubari, Director, Advocacy for Human Justice and Environmental Safety, Juba,

Martha Michael, Executive Director, Bonglac Foundation for Research and Social Transformation (BOFRAST), Bentiu, Unity

Sam Lony, Executive Director, CLIP Poverty, Juba, Central Equatoria

Ali AM Hussein, Coordinator, DAAM-UK

Saifeldin A. Nemir, Darfur Development Agenda, Manchester, England

Mabior David Atem, Founder and Chair, Dialogue on South Sudan/Sudan, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Montasir Nasir Waren, Founder and Executive Director, NHRMO - Sudan Liberated Areas

Abdel Mutaal Girshab, Director General, Regional Centre for Training and Development of Civil Society RCDCS, Khartoum, Sudan

Hala Al-Karib, Regional Director, The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa - SIHA Network, Omdurman, Sudan

Dr. Abdelmoneim Girshab, ID Medical, London

Mamer Kuer Ajak, Director of Forums, Africa Civil Society Forum, Washington, DC

Zainelabdeen Eltayeb Osman, President, American African Foundation Against Torture, Schenectady, NY

Laura Limuli, Coordinator, Brooklyn Coalition for Darfur & Marginalized Sudan, Brooklyn, NY

Frances Minichiello, Leads Task Force Darfur Africa, Brooklyn Peace, Brooklyn, NY

Linda Farb, Board Chair, Coalition Against Global Genocide, Westminster, CO

Roz Duman, Founder/Executive Director, Coalition Against Global Genocide (CoAGG), Denver, CO

Lakshmi Linda Sirois, Founder of Save Darfur North Shore, Co-Founder of Ipswich Community Action, Ipswich, MA

Gene Binder, Member Steering Committee, Concerned Citizens for Change, Bronx, NY

Regina Mason King, Member, Concerned Citizens for Change, Bronx, NY

Cory Williams, Co-Founder, Darfur and Beyond, Phoenix, AZ

Bakheit Shata, Director, Darfur Community NE, Omaha, NE

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.

February 1, 2021

Page 6

Elizabeth Blackney, Chief Communications Officer, Every Woman Treaty

The Rev. David B Carver, Pastor, First U.P. Church of Crafton Heights, Pittsburgh, PA

Marv Steinberg, Coordinator, Genocide No More - Save Darfur, Redding, CA

Theresa Samuel-Boko, Acting Director, Global Partnership for Peace in South Sudan, Boston, MA

Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim (Elgadi), Secretary, Group Against Torture in Sudan – GATS, Amherst, MA

Nahid Abunama-Elgadi, Group Against Torture in Sudan-GATS, San Francisco, CA

Rabbi David Kaufman, Help Nuba, Des Moines, IA

Marilyn Griep, Co-Founder, Idaho Darfur Coalition, Boise, ID

Randall Butler, Institute for Sustainable Peace, Boulder, CO

Serena Oberstein, Executive Director, Jewish World Watch, Los Angeles, CA

Robert K. Hitchcock, Kalahari Peoples Fund, Austin, TX, Albuquerque, NM

Ariik Nyok, MPA, Founder and Executive Director, Learning Victory, Inc., Long Island City, NY

Sister Marilyn Lacey, Founder and Director, Mercy Beyond Borders, Santa Clara, CA

Lauren Fortgang, Director, Never Again Coalition, Portland, OR

Helga Moore, Member, New Jersey Peace Action

Eileen Weiss, Co-Founder, New York Coalition for Sudan, New York, NY

George Tuto, Director, Nuba Christian Family Mission, Denver, CO

Tito ElGassai, Representative, Nuba Mountains Peace Coalition, Dallas, TX

Nuraddin Abdulmannan, President, Nubia Project, Washington, DC

Nubantood Khalil, Chairman, Nubian Language Society (NLS), Washington, DC

Mark C. Hackett, Executive Director, Operation Broken Silence, Memphis, TN

Terry Nickelson, Executive Director, Our Humanity in the Balance, Deming, NM

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

Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Chair, Redstone Presbytery Mission Committee, Greensburg, PA

Dr. Mustafa Sharif, Founder and Chairperson, RehabNOVA International, College Station, TX

Karen Richards, Director, San Diego Lost Boys of Sudan Charitable Corporation, San Diego, CA

Hustin Laku, Sr., Seed for Democracy for South Sudan

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.

February 1, 2021

Page 7

Reverend Ronald D. Culmer, Rector, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, Pleasanton, CA

Stop Genocide Now, Redondo Beach, CA

Emad Bukhari, Founder, Sudan For All, Phoenix, AZ

Mahdi Elkhalfifa, President, Sudan Human Rights Network

Saadia Al Khalifa, Sudan National Democratic Forum, CA, Oakland, CA

Cody U. Watson Jr., Sudan Network / Frontier Fellowship, Birmingham, AL

Tom Prichard, Director, Sudan Sunrise, Fairfax, VA

Esther Sprague, Founder and Director, Sudan Unlimited, San Francisco, CA

Mohamed Abubakr, President, The African Middle Eastern Leadership Project (AMEL), Washington, DC

Nell Okie, Director, The Elsa-Gopa Trust, Madison, CT

The Right Reverend Alan Scarfe, Bishop of, the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, Des Moines, IA

William Tuoy-Giel, Executive Director, The Nile Institute for Peace and Development (NIPD), Phoenix, AZ

Rev. Heidi McGinness, Unflinching Hope World Wide, Omaha, NE

Seifeldin B Kudi, Human Rights Activist, Boston, MA

Rev. Dr. J. Austin Watson, retired United Methodist Church

Rasheed Ali, Cyprus, CA

Ellen Ratner, Founder, GEMS Foundation, South Sudan

Hussein Khalid, Executive Director, HAKI Africa, Mombasa, Kenya

Society for Threatened Peoples (German Branch)

Max Dana, Founder, The MagkaSama Project, Paris

Claire Vera, Nuba Now

Miriam Struyk, Director of Programs, PAX for Peace

Rebecca Tinsley, Founder, Waging Peace, London

Letter organized by Esther Sprague, Sudan Unlimited, esprague11@yahoo.com