

February 5, 2018

Senator Roger F. Wicker, Chairman
Representative Christopher H. Smith, Co-Chairman
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
234 Ford House Office Building, 3rd and D Streets SW
Washington, DC 20515

Re: The Detrimental Impact of Europe's Immigration Policies on Sudanese and other East Africans

Dear Senator Wicker and Congressman Smith,

We, the undersigned 134 Sudanese, scholars, human rights organizations and leading activists, write to request your urgent assistance in raising serious concerns with your colleagues in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe about the alarming impact on East Africans of efforts by E.U. countries to curb immigration. In addition to creating grave risks to personal health and safety for individuals fleeing from Sudan and other countries in Africa, these policies set a dangerous precedent that undermines international peace and security by ignoring basic human rights and international law; and tolerating genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes rather than holding accountable those responsible for mass atrocities.

Fundamental to addressing the immigration crisis in Europe is the imperative to address the root cause of immigration -- intolerable living conditions created by violent dictatorships in Sudan and other African countries. Desperate conditions have created a market for smugglers, which has resulted in countless deaths due to dangerous crossings of the desert and the Mediterranean Sea, widespread human trafficking including documented slave markets in Libya, and torturing immigrants in order to extort funds from family members who are forced to watch videos of loved ones enduring intolerable suffering.

In the case of Sudan, the European Union is funding the regime hoping to curb immigration; however in reality, it is funding the very source of violence and corruption that creates displacement and facilitates smuggling. Particularly shocking is the decision of French and Belgium officials to allow the notorious Sudanese intelligence service into their countries to identify Sudanese as part of a deportation process that has resulted in arrests, beatings and torture upon return to Sudan. These dangerous decisions of expediency that include forced return of refugees who will face persecution on account of their race, religion, and/or political opinion are blatant violations of international law that must be confronted if the U.S. and its allies are to enjoy peace and security. These goals can only be achieved by championing freedom, promoting and protecting basic human rights, and finally and foremost, securing justice for all.

Sincerely,

Act for Sudan, Eric Cohen, Co-Founder, Boston, MA

Abaunza Group, Bonnie Abaunza, Founder, Los Angeles, CA

Abdelbagi Jibril, Geneva, Switzerland

ACROSS, Elisama W. Daniel, Executive Director, Juba, South Sudan

Adil Abdel Aati, Candidate for Sudan Presidency 2020, Sudan of the Future Campaign

African Freedom Coalition, Al Sutton M.D., President, New York, NY

African Refugees and Victims Relief Fund, Ted Dagne, Silver Spring, MD

African Soul, American Heart, Debra Dawson, Executive Director, Fargo, ND

African United Democratic Party, Sibusiso B. Dlamini, Secretary General, Manzini, Swaziland

Ahmed H. Adam, Research Associate, School of Law, SOAS University of London, London, UK

Akulia Foundation, Lita Muki, Chairperson, Juba, South Sudan

Al Khatim Adlan Center for Enlightenment & Human Development (KACE), Albaqir al-Affif Mukhtar (PhD), Director, Uganda

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans (AFRECS), Richard Parkins, Executive Director

Andrew Natsios, Former U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan

Blue Nile Association for Peace and Development USA, Omer Abdelsawi Omer, Mulberry, FL

Bonglac Foundation for Research and Social Transformation, Thudan James Gai, Executive Director, Malakal, Upper Nile, South Sudan

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

Caroline Faria, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Christian Solidarity International-USA, The Rev. Heidi McGinness, Director of Outreach, Denver, CO

CLIP-Poverty, Samuel L. Geng, Team Leader, Juba, South Sudan

Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action, Roz Duman, Founder / Director, Denver, CO

DAAM (Sudanese Pro-Democracy Activists Abroad), Ali Abdelatif M. Hussein, UK

Darfur Action Group of South Carolina, Richard Sribnick, MD, President, Columbia, SC

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

Darfur Interfaith Network, Martha Boshnick, Co-Chair, Washington, DC

Darfur People's Association of New York, Motasim Adam, Secretary General, Brooklyn, NY

Darfur Solidarity Group, Sabir Abu Saadia, Executive Director, South Africa

Darfur Union in the UK, Elsadig A. Elnor, Chairman

Darfur Victims Organization for Rehabilitation and Relief, Ishag Mekki, London, UK

Darfur Women Action Group, Niemat Ahmadi, President, Washington, DC

David Alton, Professor the Lord Alton, Independent Crossbench Peer, London, UK

Dear Sudan Love Marin, Gerri Miller, Founder and Coordinator, Tiburon, CA

Dialogue on South Sudan/Sudan in Canada, David Mabior Atem Kuir, Chair, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Dr. A. M. Girshab, Human Rights Consultant, MENA Region, Khartoum, Sudan

Dr. Deborah Mayersen, Research Fellow, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW, Australia

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

Dr. Gibril Ibrahim, Chairperson, Justice and Equality Movement Sudan, Sudan

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

Dr. Robert K. Hitchcock, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Elhag Ali Warrag Sidahmed Warrag, Editor in Chief, Hurriyat Sudan, Egypt

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

End Impunity Organization (EIO), Angelina Daniel Seeka, Regional Director, Juba, Republic of South Sudan

Enough Project, Omer Ismail, Washington, DC

Equatorial South Sudanese Community Association, Dr. Jane Kani Edward, President, NJ

Eric Reeves, Senior Fellow, Harvard University's François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights, Northampton, MA

Euro-African Forum on Rights and Development, Saadeldin Ibrahim, Executive Director, Stockholm, Sweden

Face Past for Future Foundation (FP4F), Abdelrahman Gasim, Chairperson, Kampala, Uganda

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

Genocide Watch, Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, President, Philadelphia, PA

Global Partnership for Peace in South Sudan, Sarah Rial, Founder and Executive Director, Boston, MA

Hamid E. Ali, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Public Policy and Administration, The American University in Cairo, New Cairo, Egypt

Henry C. Theriault, Ph.D., President, International Association of Genocide Scholars, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Worcester State University, Worcester, MA

Human Rights and Development Organization Centre (HUDO), Bushra Gamar Hussein, Kampala, Uganda

Humanity Is Us, Kimberly Hollingsworth, Founder and President, New York, NY

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

Independent Movement Organization, Adil Taha, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Fairfax, VA

Institute for Sustainable Peace, Randall Butler, CEO, Boulder, CO

International Justice Project, Monica Feltz, Esq., LL.M., Executive Director, Newark, NJ

Investors Against Genocide, Susan Morgan, Co-founder, San Francisco, CA

Ipswich Community Action, Lakshmi Linda Sirois, Co-Founder and Facilitator, Ipswich, MA

Jews Against Genocide, Sharon Silber, Co-Director, New York, NY

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

Kentuckiana Taskforce Against Genocide, Robert Brousseau, Co-Founder, Louisville, KY

Ladu Jada Gubek, National Salvation Front (NAS) Diplomatic Representative to the United States of America and the United Nations, , Minneapolis, MN

Living Ubuntu, Barbara English, Executive Director, Newport Beach, CA

Local to Global Protection, Justin Corbett, Ste Foy Tarantaise, France

Manitoba Women for Women of South Sudan, Elizabeth Aluk Andrea, President, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur, William Rosenfeld, Director, Boston, MA

Melanie Nelkin, Human Rights Activist, Atlanta, GA

Mohaned Elnour, Human Rights Lawyer

Mr. and Mrs. Rudwan Dawod, Sudanese Human Rights Activists, Eugene, OR

Mustafa Sharif, PhD., College Station, TX

Najlaa Ahmed, Human Rights Advocate

Nasredeem Abdulbari, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

Nehemiah Initiative, Gavin Gramstad, Executive Director, Washington, DC

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

New York City Genocide Prevention Coalition, Staci M. Alziebler-Perkins, Convener, New York, NY

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

Nuba Christian Family Mission, Spence Flournoy, Director, Englewood, CO

Nuba Mountain Peace Coalition, Tito El Gassai, Representative, Dallas, TX

Nubia Project, Nuraddin Abdulmannan, President, Washington, DC

Nubian Language Society, Nubantood Khalil, Washington, DC

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

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

Partners in Progress, Michael Neumann, Executive Director, Pittsburgh, PA

People4Sudan, Valerie Delacretaz, Global Coordinator, Geneva, Switzerland

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

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

Professor Paul Slovic, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Rev. Dr. J. Austin Watson, United Methodist Church, Hendersonville, NC

Rev. Dr. Thomas Lubari, Advocacy for Human Justice and Environmental Safety, Jinja, Uganda / South Sudan

Rev. James Kwek, Coalition of Nuer Christians in North America, East London, Ontario, Canada

Richard Lawson, St. John's Cathedral, Denver, CO

Rights for Peace Foundation, Osman Habila, General Director, Kansas City, MO

Salmmah Women's Resource Centre, Fahima Hashim

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

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

Seed for Democracy for South Sudan, Hustin Laku, Sr., Chair, Hamilton, NJ

Seif Barsham, Activist, Boston, MA

Shine A Ray of Hope, Carmen Paolercio, Founder, New Rochelle, NY

Sister's Hope for South Sudan, Hanna Andrew K. Dijok, Executive Director, Washington, DC

Skills for Nuba Mountains, Lazim Suleiman Elbasha, Director, Kauda, South Kordofan/Nuba Mountains, Sudan

Society for Threatened Peoples - Germany, Ulrich Delius, Director, Göttingen, Germany

South Sudan Human Rights Commission, Amute Francis Lobalu, Senior Human Rights Officer, Juba, South Sudan

South Sudan Reborn Inc., Pa'gan Amum Okiech, Spokesperson

South Sudanese Global Community Network, Benjamin Taban Avelino, Sheffield, UK

St. James Social Justice and Peace Committee, Joyce Rothermel, Chair, and Dan Majewski, Wilkensburg, PA

STAND: The Student-Led Movement to End Mass Atrocities, Savannah Wooten, Student Director

Stop Genocide Now, Katie-Jay Scott, Redondo, CA

Sudan Democracy First Group, S. Ibrahim, Coordinator, South Africa

Sudan National Forum in California

Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, Eshraga Ahmed Khamis, Deputy of Executive Director, Blue Nile, Sudan

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

Sudanese Community Association of Illinois, Peter Magai Bul, Board Chair, Chicago, IL

Sudanese Community Church of Denver, Episcopal Church in Colorado, The Rev. A. (Oja) B. Gafour, PhD., Vicar, Denver, CO

Sudanese Community of Kentucky Inc, Abdulrahim Adam, President, Louisville, KY

The Baroness (Caroline) Cox, Independent Member, House of Lords, CEO, HART (Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust), London, UK

The Council of Dams Affected Communities, Ali Askouri, Chairman, London, UK

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

The MagkaSama Project, Max Dana, Founder, Paris, France

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

The Rev. David B. Carver, Moderator, Pittsburgh Presbytery International Partnership Ministry Team, Pittsburgh, PA

The Rev. Timothy Oslovich, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Vernon, CT

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

The Thirsts for Truth and Dignity Agency (TIFTA), Martha Nyanath Michael, Bentiu, Unity, South Sudan

Thomas Merton Center, Gabriel McMorland, Executive Director, Pittsburgh, PA

Unite for Darfur Organization, Bahar Arabie, Gaithersburg, MD

Use Your Voice to Stop Genocide RI, Sandra Hammel, Director, Portsmouth, RI

Victoria Sanford, PhD, Visiting Scholar, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University; Professor & Chair, Department of Anthropology, Lehman College Director, Center for Human Rights & Peace Studies, Doctoral Faculty, The City University of New York, New York, NY

Voice of Darfur Women, Mariam Suliman, UK

Waging Peace, Maddy Crowther, Co-Executive Director, London, UK

World Peace and Reconciliation (WR&P), Adeeb Yousif, President, Washington, DC

Yousif Bishara Gafour, Former Internal Auditor, Exxon Corporation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada