



March 27, 2024

U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Honorable Senators,

The [Alliance for Peacebuilding](#) (AfP), a leading nonpartisan network of 200+ organizations working in 181 countries to prevent and reduce violent conflict and build sustainable peace, and the undersigned organizations, write with deep concern about the ongoing and [increasing atrocities](#) in Sudan. On December 6, 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a [determination](#) that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and allied militia had engaged in crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, and that both the RSF and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) committed war crimes since the conflict began on April 15, 2023. While a positive step, Congress must act to immediately protect civilians and support U.S. and global efforts to stop and prevent further violence and humanitarian impact and promote peace, justice, and accountability. We urge you to join the [bipartisan resolution](#) recently introduced by [Senators Risch, Cardin, Scott, and Booker](#) recognizing the actions of the RSF and allied militias in Darfur against non-Arab communities as acts of genocide as an official co-sponsor.

Since the conflict began, many of the attacks on civilians and communities are occurring based on [ethnicity](#) and echo those of the [genocide](#) that began over 20 years ago. As early as June 2023, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for the Prevention of Genocide [warned](#) about the dire risk of genocide in Darfur specifically. To date, multiple independent reports and monitors, including the U.S.-funded [Sudan Conflict Observatory](#), have verified the use of targeted attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, such as [hospitals](#) and [schools](#), [widespread sexual and gender-based violence](#), and [ethnic-based killings](#). In El-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, a United Nations panel of experts [reported](#) the RSF killed between 10,000 and 15,000 Masalit civilians in 2023 alone.

Furthermore, the conflict has created the [world's largest displacement crisis](#), with over nine million Sudanese internally-displaced and nearly two million taking refuge in neighboring countries. Today, [more than 25 million people](#) require direly needed humanitarian aid, [over 20 million](#) are facing acute food insecurity, and [6.3 million](#) are on the brink of famine.

In July 2004, Congress led the way, passing a [concurrent resolution](#) recognizing the ongoing crimes in Darfur as genocide, prompting the Administration to [follow suit](#) that September. These actions helped mobilize the international community to address the crisis. Congress must again take up the plight of the Masalit and other non-Arab ethnic people in Sudan, call the RSF's actions in Darfur what they are—genocide—and galvanize the wider U.S. Government into action. Congress must condemn the atrocities in Sudan and direct the U.S. Government to take concrete steps to protect civilians and prevent further atrocities in line with the [Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act](#), the [U.S. Strategy to Anticipate, Prevent, and Respond to Atrocities](#), the recently released [U.S. Strategy and National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security](#), and other U.S. prevention-oriented laws and policies.

Although there should not exist a hierarchy of international crimes, support for this resolution will demonstrate the Senate's recognition of the gravity and increasingly dire situation in Darfur. As the conflict approaches the solemn one-year anniversary, we urge you to sponsor the resolution, as well as to hold a public hearing to shine a light on the U.S. response. Furthermore, we ask Congress to provide robust support for civilian protection, humanitarian aid, monitoring, documentation, and other efforts to promote justice and accountability, and an inclusive peace process and democratic transition—particularly for local civil

society groups and frontline responders. Through this leadership, Congress can once again help change the trajectory of the conflict in Sudan, support the people of Darfur, and save lives.

For any questions, please contact Megan Corrado (mcorrado@allianceforpeacebuilding.org).

Sincerely,

Alliance for Peacebuilding

Pathfinders4Peace

American Friends Service Committee

Pax Christi USA

American University

Peace and Conflict Studies – University of North Carolina - Greensboro

Beyond Conflict

Peace Direct

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness

Darfur Women Action Group

Education for Global Peace

The Sentry

Friends Committee on National Legislation

STAND: The Student-led Movement to End Mass Atrocities

The Fund for Peace

Sudan Peace & Security Monitor

Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Sudan Unlimited

Humanity United Action

Sudanese American Public Affairs Association (SAPAA)

International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)

Sudanese Women Rights Action

Journal of Social Encounters

TSI & SHRN

Karuna Center for Peacebuilding

The United Methodist Church — General Board of Church and Society

Minnesota Peace Project

Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

United Nations Association of the National Capital Area

Never Again Coalition

U.S.-Educated Sudanese Association (USESAs)

No Business With Genocide

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

NoirUnited International