

A PETITION TO PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP FROM THE NUBA MOUNTAINS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AND SUDANESE AND AMERICAN FRIENDS

July 2020

The Honorable
Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We cordially and respectfully present this letter of petition to you as Sudanese Americans who have come to this great country seeking refuge over the past 30 years and American friends who believe in freedom and democracy for *all* Sudanese.

Most of us Sudanese have come to America because the former leaders of Sudan had killed or tortured our loved ones, and destroyed our homes and our ways of life. Many of us contribute to the economy and society of our new country as we raise our families with the freedoms that are sanctioned in the Constitution of the United States of America. We therefore write to you with the safety and well-being of our families, friends and fellow Sudanese in mind.

The former President of Sudan, Omar Bashir, has fallen because of the sacrifices that the people of Sudan, especially those in the marginalized areas, have made.

The ceasefire that the SPLM-North has declared since the fall of Bashir has enabled our people in war-affected areas to farm and work to provide for themselves. **For the first time in Sudan there is a real possibility for democracy and freedom regardless of religion or other differences.** The Transitional Government must seize this opportunity to ensure separation between religion and the state as well as a genuine respect for individual, social and political freedoms. Alternatively, the people of the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile should be able to practice their right to self-determination.

We had expected the current US Special Envoy on Sudan and his staff to engage with our desires and facilitate dialogue, but we have been disappointed thus far.

We recall that the same Envoy, originally appointed by the Obama Administration, had played what we believe was a similarly-biased role during the failed peace negotiations between the SPLM-North and the government of Bashir. Similarly, the Sudan Special Envoy and his staff continue to press for a peace agreement that does not reflect the aspirations of the people of the Nuba Mountains for a secular Sudan. The Envoy

expects the people within conflict areas in Sudan to succumb and accept Islamic Law, which has been used as a way to oppress the people within the marginalized areas.

It is for this reason we, Sudanese Americans and American friends, respectfully request that the US Government take these urgent measures to ensure positive outcomes for peace and prosperity in Sudan:

1. Dissolve the office of the US Special Envoy. It is not standing for American values to exert pressure against an oppressed people. A lack of clear commitment to secularism effectively means a continuation of the old regime's use of Sharia to oppress our people and the people of Sudan in the long-run.
2. Appoint a US ambassador to Sudan who is knowledgeable and sensitive to the complexities of the country and who will also uphold American values of freedom which Sudan's marginalized people also cherish
3. The US ambassador should be a diplomat who is unbiased, willing to listen and respect the positions of **all** sides. This person should understand the value of democracy and separation between the state and religion to assuring lasting peace in Sudan
4. Set clear goals for Sudan to have to meet in order to be taken off the State Sponsors of Terrorism list after the government is civilian, secular, and promotes policies that ensure freedom of religion, and when the Transitional Government signs a peace agreement with all armed opposition groups.

We believe the people of Sudan have accomplished much in a short time. We ask that you please consider these requests, so the people of Sudan can make larger strides towards equality, prosperity and freedom.

Thank you very much for listening to our cry for true freedom and democracy.

Sincerely yours,

Nuba Mountains International Association USA
And American friends of Sudan