



In April, Sudan's President, Omar al-Bashir, launched a "Decisive Summer" military campaign throughout Sudan's marginalized regions. In Darfur, South Kordofan/Nuba Mountains, and Blue Nile, the regime has escalated bombing attacks, rebranded and legitimized the brutal Janjaweed militias as "Rapid Support Forces" that operate throughout Sudan, and continued to deny humanitarian aid workers access to many parts of the country. Violence against civilians across Sudan has escalated to levels unseen since the height of the Darfur genocide in 2003-04.

At the same time that ongoing devastation in Sudan is largely ignored by the media, neighboring South Sudan faces its own crisis. Less than three years after gaining independence from Sudan, a power struggle within the ruling political party mutated into an armed conflict, killing thousands and displacing 1.5 million. Despite an agreement to end the conflict, clashes persist and state collapse is still possible. Now many South Sudanese are streaming across the border into Sudan, and the violence is affecting the hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees who have sought shelter in South Sudan, where famine is now looming. Genocidal targeting is threatening both countries, and the intensifying crises are involving neighbor states and contributing to international insecurity.

The U.S. cannot positively influence outcomes in Sudan and South Sudan without significantly enhancing its efforts in the areas of accountability and consequences, diplomacy and peacemaking, and aid and protection of the most vulnerable.

Congress can make a difference in Sudan and South Sudan by supporting:

1. **Enhanced U.S. leverage and increased capacity for sanctions on both Sudan and South Sudan** by allocating additional resources to the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control for investigation and enforcement. **Highlight how Sudan's gold exports are fueling its wars** and that a significant portion of gold being sold abroad is linked to recent deadly conflicts over gold in North Darfur, by calling for the amendment of existing Executive Orders on Sudan to include gold sanctions, and encouraging the global gold industry to label gold exported from Sudan as "conflict-affected."
2. **Continued work by the State Department to build the capacity of institutions and opposition forces, including the SRF**, that promote free, transparent and democratic reform in order for these groups to participate more effectively in negotiations, advocacy, and a credible national dialogue process.
3. **Full and unimpeded access for international humanitarian aid organizations** throughout Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Abyei, and other parts of Sudan. **Prioritize the protection of civilians** by supporting a restructured and better equipped UNAMID peacekeeping force focused on protection of civilians in Darfur; and call for an investigation of charges of UNAMID's failure to document and address attacks on civilians.
4. **Accountability** by working with the UN Security Council to expand the International Criminal Court's mandate beyond Darfur to include atrocities committed in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Abyei and other parts of Sudan, and by directly encouraging neighbor states to arrest Bashir and others wanted by the ICC.

Please urge the Administration to prioritize these recommendations, and please support efforts to modify and move forward the important legislation, H.R. 1692: Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act of 2013.

Congress has the opportunity to take strong action to support peace for the people of Sudan and South Sudan.