

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2023

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Street, Al Bateen
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Dear Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan:

We write to express our concern with the United Arab Emirates' support to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan, and urge the UAE to reconsider its policy towards Sudan.

The conflict in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has gone on for far too long and at great cost. Over 12,000 people have been killed, more than 5 million people have been internally displaced, and 1.4 million people have fled the country. Civilians have borne the brunt of this needless and unconscionable conflict, leading to the world's largest displacement crisis.

For the past several months, we have watched with horror as the RSF and allied militias have systematically destroyed certain communities, attacking non-Arab Muslim ethnic groups, and targeting men and boys of Masalit ethnicity. They have terrorized women and girls through sexual violence across Sudan, attacking them in their homes, kidnapping them from the streets, or targeting those trying to flee to safety across the border. These patterns of violence echo the genocide in which members of the RSF, including its leader, General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo "Hemedti", participated in two decades ago.

In light of these atrocities, on December 6, Secretary Blinken announced that based on careful analysis of the law and available facts, members of the RSF and allied militias have committed crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, and members of the SAF and RSF have committed war crimes in Sudan.

That is why we are gravely concerned over reports that the United Arab Emirates is providing material support, including arms and supplies, to the RSF, and we urge the end of any such assistance. As you know, the provision of arms into Darfur would be a violation of the UN Arms Embargo for Darfur established under UNSC Resolution 1591. This violation would be a grave reputational risk for the UAE and put the longstanding close partnership with the United States into question.

We share UAE concerns about the possible return of Bashir-era officials to power – and we supported the Biden Administration’s recent designation of Islamist spoilers and former Bashir officials. However, continued military support to the RSF only deepens the conflict along tribal and ethnic lines and adds to the risk of state collapse or division. A divided Sudan could lead to regional instability and a widening of the conflict, which is not in anyone’s interests.

Members of Congress are paying attention to the UAE’s actions in Sudan. Most importantly, we are concerned that the UAE is at odds with the efforts of Sudanese civilians, the region, and the broader international community to stop the fighting. Support to the RSF deepens the conflict, emboldens and abets human rights abuses, invites intervention from other regional players, and alienates the Sudanese people – who will not accept an RSF victory.

We hope that our two countries share a desire for a stable and unified Sudan, a civilian government, and preventing the return of Bashir-era Islamists. In pursuit of this goal, we urge the UAE to end its support to the RSF and work with the United States and international community toward a solution that leads to an end to this conflict that is in the best interest of the Sudanese people.

Sincerely,



Sara Jacobs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Africa
House Foreign Affairs Committee



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



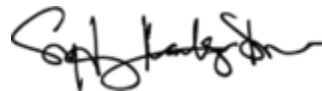
Colin Allred
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



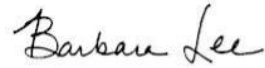
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
State, Foreign Operations, and
Related Programs Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee