

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write in advance of your meeting with United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his upcoming visit to the United States. The UAE has been a longstanding partner of the U.S. on a wide range of security issues in the region, including serving as a key actor working to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza. However, we are concerned that the UAE's support for the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan are at odds with efforts to stop the fighting in Sudan and urge you to reiterate your call for peace and urge the UAE to cease their support for the RSF in your upcoming conversations.

You have importantly acknowledged that the Sudanese people have “endured a senseless war that has created one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.”<sup>1</sup> According to the World Food Programme, over 25 million people, or half of Sudan’s population, are facing acute hunger and more than 10 million people have been displaced both internally and abroad since the beginning of the current conflict in April 2023.<sup>2</sup>

We are grateful that your Administration has advanced efforts to rally international partners, end hostilities, protect civilians, expand humanitarian access, elevate civil society voices, and support over \$1.6 billion in emergency assistance to Sudan in the last two years. We are concerned that the UAE’s actions in Sudan run counter to these actions and your stated goals of an end to the violence and freedom, peace, and justice for the Sudanese people.

Given the scale of these atrocities, we have been alarmed that arms and materiel originating from the UAE have been traced to the RSF in Sudan. In January 2024, the UN Panel of Experts on the Sudan, a five-member panel of researchers appointed by the UN Security Council, issued a report asserting the credibility of allegations that the UAE has provided military support to the RSF through Amdjarass, in northern Chad.<sup>3</sup> According to the report, these new types of heavy and sophisticated weapons by the RSF “had a massive impact on the balance of forces on the

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<sup>1</sup> White House, “Statement From President Joe Biden on Sudan,” The White House, September 18, 2024, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/09/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-sudan/>.

<sup>2</sup> “Sudan | World Food Programme,” n.d., <https://www.wfp.org/emergencies/sudan-emergency>.

<sup>3</sup> Laura Victoria Bernal Moncada et al., “Letter Dated 15 January 2024 From the Panel of Experts on the Sudan Addressed to the President of the Security Council,” United Nations, January 15, 2024, <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/005/64/pdf/n2400564.pdf>.

ground.”<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, a report from Amnesty International identified numerous types of Emirati armored personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles currently in use by the RSF.<sup>5</sup>

As you have noted, the RSF has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing in Sudan. It is essential that our partnership with the UAE be built on our many shared interests but also our shared values and vision for a stable Sudan. We ask that during your meeting with President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan you raise these concerning reports, urge them to cease support to the RSF, and reiterate shared goals for a secure, democratic Sudan with a civilian-led government.

Sincerely,



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



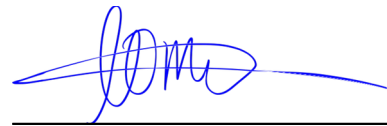
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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International, “Sudan: Constant Flow of Arms Fuelling Relentless Civilian Suffering in Conflict – New Investigation,” July 26, 2024, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/07/sudan-constant-flow-of-arms-fuelling-relentless-civilian-suffering-in-conflict-new-investigation/#:~:text=Amnesty%20International%20found%20that%20recently,some%20cases%20diverted%20into%20Darfur>.