

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Re: *Sudanese-American Victims' Compensation Fund*

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman \_\_\_\_\_:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I write as a U.S. citizen and/or lawful resident in your congressional district and state, [City]\_\_\_\_\_, [State]\_\_\_\_\_. I am writing to ask your assistance on an issue that has adversely impacted the Sudanese-American community, many of whom reside in your district.

My family and I are among the approximately 50,000 Sudanese living in the United States. Other large population centers exist in San Diego, Phoenix, Omaha, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Houston, and Portland, Maine. We arrived in the United States every year from 1983 onwards, in waves coinciding with the worst periods of violence. We came to America to escape extreme violence.

Sudanese-Americans suffered injuries caused by the worst excesses of the rogue terrorist state. Most of us were forced to flee our homes, often with nothing but the clothes on our backs. Many of us wandered in the bush for months or years, got separated from our families, and suffered starvation, extreme thirst, and attacks from military/security forces. Many of these deprivations continued in the refugee camps.

As you may be aware, the Department of Justice (DOJ) considered establishing a victims' fund for Sudanese-Americans who suffered these atrocities with remaining forfeited monies (estimated at approximately \$3.4 billion) from the criminal prosecution and May 1, 2015 sentencing of BNP Paribas S.A. ("BNPP") which pled guilty to conspiring to commit offenses against the United States in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), the Trading with the Enemy Act (TWEA), and the executive orders and regulations issued thereunder by illegally providing Sudan access to U.S. financial markets with which it committed notorious atrocities on its black civilian population. More than seventy-percent (70%) of BNPP's illegal transactions were for the benefit of the Sudanese government in violation of U.S. sanctions that the U.S. government intended to protect the Sudanese black civilians living in Darfur and southern Sudan.

The U.S. laws violated by BNPP were instituted by President Clinton in 1997 with Executive Order 13067 blocking assets of the Government of Sudan in the United States and prohibited certain transaction and trade with Sudan on the basis that "the policies and actions of the Government of Sudan, including continued support for international terrorism; ongoing efforts to destabilize neighboring governments; and the prevalence of human rights violations, including slavery and the denial of religious freedom, constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

Thousands in Sudanese communities across the country submitted inquiry forms to the DOJ website, usvbnpp.gov, and/or submitted a petition under the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act (CAFRA) of 2000, to implement remission and restoration procedures and to transfer forfeited property to victims and to “take any other action to protect the rights of innocent persons which is in the interests of justice. . .” be set aside for claims evaluation for the Sudanese community’s benefit.

However, in the December 2015 in the Omnibus Appropriations bill, Congress divested the DOJ of the BNPP forfeited assets in order to fund another mass compensation fund for victims of terrorism, including the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund and for compensating the former Iranian hostages. The BNPP forfeiture has been a great benefit to the United States. However, the Sudanese victims who are now U.S. citizens and residents, were the direct victims still in need of compensation of the BNPP crimes.

I ask your assistance to introduce and/or support legislation to provide some form of compensation for lawfully residing Sudanese Americans in the United States who arrived to the United States as refugees and human rights victims of the terrorist-sponsoring government of Sudan.

Sincerely,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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