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RIGHTS GROUPS ASK QATAR AND AFRICAN BANK TO CANCEL DARFUR DONORS' CONFERENCE
Donations will "help to fund more atrocities against civilians," say groups

March 22, 2013 – As Qatar prepares for a donors conference in Doha on April 7 – 8 to promote investments in the Darfur region of Sudan, human rights organizations, genocide scholars and Sudan advocates around the world sent open letters to the [Emir of Qatar](#), Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and the [President of the African Development Bank Group](#), Donald Kaberuka, asking that the conference be cancelled. The letters state, "Efforts to promote investments in Sudan are premature and put the international community at risk of funding a government that continues to perpetrate massive human rights violations against its own people. Such investments should not occur prior to a cessation of attacks on civilians, the granting of unhindered humanitarian access across Sudan, and a clear demonstration of progress on all remaining issues, including an inclusive constitutional review process followed by free and fair elections." (FULL TEXT AND SIGNATORIES BELOW)

The letters have 84 signatories including international rights organizations, Sudanese diaspora organizations, genocide scholars and other notable human rights advocates. Among those signing are Dr. Mukesh Kapila, former UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan and now a Special Representative for Aegis Trust; Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih, U.S. Department of State 2012 International Women of Courage Award Winner; Baroness Caroline Cox, Independent Peer in the House of Lords of the UK Parliament and CEO of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust; and Mia Farrow, Actor.

The letters were coordinated by [Act for Sudan](#), a bipartisan, interfaith alliance of American and Sudanese grassroots advocacy groups, with extensive input from Diaspora Darfuri communities who remain closely in touch with their families in Darfur, as well as with civil society groups and NGOs who have been following the Darfur crisis for more than a decade.

"Genocide continues in Sudan," the letters state. "The National Congress Party (NCP) regime in Sudan, led by a president indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, is causing the death, starvation, displacement, and destruction of livelihood of Sudanese civilians in Darfur, Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan and the Blue Nile state."

The letters note that "previous Darfur donors' conferences collected billions of dollars, but there are no

signs on the ground today of how those billions of dollars were spent. Instead, the money, after falling in the hands of the central government, is used against the people of Darfur to fund aerial bombardments and militia attacks.”

Instead, the letters recommend that “Qatar’s influence should be used to reach Darfuris in the Diaspora, the main rebel factions, and the Internally Displaced Persons inside Darfur and refugees in Chad to reach a consensus of how to meet the demands of Darfuri people in providing security, protection, accountability, and a just and lasting peace.”

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Act for Sudan is an alliance of American citizen activists and Sudanese U.S. residents who advocate for an end to genocide and mass atrocities in Sudan. Act for Sudan is dedicated to advocacy that is directly informed by the situation on the ground and by Sudanese people who urgently seek protection, justice, and peace. For more information please visit www.actforsudan.org.

FULL TEXT OF LETTER TO QATAR

March 22, 2013

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani
Emir of Qatar
Embassy of the State of Qatar
2555 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani,

We, the undersigned international NGOs and genocide scholars, are writing to protest Qatar’s hosting of the upcoming donors’ conference to be held in Doha on April 7 – 8, 2013. We object to any form of financial support by Qatar for Sudan since such support places your country, as well as all international donors, squarely in the role of helping to fund the genocidal Sudanese regime.

As you know, genocide continues in Sudan. The National Congress Party (NCP) regime in Sudan, led by a president indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, is causing the death, starvation, displacement, and destruction of livelihood of Sudanese civilians in Darfur, Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Among the issues of greatest concern is the fact that unlawful attacks against civilians continue in Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and the East even as the Government of Sudan continues to restrict movement and access for international humanitarian aid organizations operating throughout Sudan. Further key issues with South Sudan remain unresolved, including final definition and demarcation of the north-south border and the final status of the Abyei area. People across Sudan who protest the current regime are denied basic rights and face attack, arrest and torture.

Efforts to promote investments in Sudan are premature and put the international community at risk of funding a government that continues to perpetrate massive human rights violations against its own

people. Such investments should not occur prior to a cessation of attacks on civilians, the granting of unhindered humanitarian access across Sudan, and a clear demonstration of progress on all remaining issues, including an inclusive constitutional review process followed by free and fair elections.

This letter has been formulated with extensive input from Diaspora Darfuri communities who remain closely in touch with their families in Darfur, as well as with civil society groups and NGOs who have been following the Darfur crisis for more than a decade. Input from these sources indicates that:

- Previous Darfur donors' conferences collected billions of dollars, but there are no signs on the ground today of how those billions of dollars were spent. Instead, the money, after falling in the hands of the central government, is used against the people of Darfur to fund aerial bombardments and militia attacks.

- Any money now collected in the name of Darfur for seemingly positive purposes (such as water, education, infrastructure) is at risk of serving as an elaborate scheme to divert money to fund the ongoing wars in Darfur, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile. Darfuris will see very little of that money, if any.

- Qatar's influence should be used to reach Darfuris in the Diaspora, the main rebel factions, and the Internally Displaced Persons inside Darfur and refugees in Chad to reach a consensus of how to meet the demands of Darfuri people in providing security, protection, accountability, and a just and lasting peace.

In closing, without real on-the-ground progress in Sudan, Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur, Sudan's history of genocidal violence makes it extremely likely that this conference, and any related financial support, will help to fund more atrocities against civilians. Please cancel the conference and withhold any financial assistance that will help support genocide.

FULL TEXT OF LETTER TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP BANK

March 22, 2013

Mr. Donald Kaberuka
President, African Development Bank Group
15 Avenue du Ghana, P.O. Box 323-1002
Tunis-Belvédère, Tunisia

Dear Mr. Kaberuka,

We, the undersigned international NGOs and genocide scholars, are writing to protest the African Development Bank Group's plans to promote investments in Sudan at the upcoming donors' conference to be held in Doha, Qatar on April 7 – 8, 2013.

According to Eltigani Seisi Ateem, Chairman of the Darfur Regional Authority, the African Development Bank Group plans to champion the upcoming high-profile Donor Pledging Conference for Darfur. Instead, we ask that you revoke your support for this conference and your fundraising efforts that place your bank, and all international donors, squarely in the role of generating financial support for the genocidal Sudanese regime.

As you know, genocide continues in Sudan. The National Congress Party (NCP) regime in Sudan, led by a president indicted by the International Criminal Court for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, is causing the death, starvation, displacement, and destruction of livelihood of Sudanese civilians in Darfur, Nuba Mountains/South Kordofan and the Blue Nile state.

Among the issues of greatest concern are the fact that unlawful attacks against civilians continue in Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and the East even as the Government of Sudan continues to restrict movement and access for international humanitarian aid organizations operating throughout Sudan. Further key issues with South Sudan remain unresolved, including final definition and demarcation of the north-south border and the final status of the Abyei area. People across Sudan who protest the current regime are denied basic rights and face attack, arrest and torture.

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In closing, without real on-the-ground progress in Sudan, Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur, Sudan's history of genocidal violence makes it extremely likely that this conference will help to fund more atrocities against civilians. Please revoke your support for any efforts raising funds that will help support genocide.

SIGNATORIES TO BOTH LETTERS

Act for Sudan

Martina Knee, Co-Founder
USA

Ahmed Adam

Visiting Scholar at Columbia's Institute for the
Study of Human Rights
New York, NY, USA

Aegis Trust

Dr. Mukesh Kapila, Special Representative
London, UK

Africa Action UK

Paul Muortat, Chairman
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African Freedom Coalition

Al Sutton, Founder
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African Soul, American Heart

Debra Dawson, President
Fargo, ND, USA

Armenian Assembly of America

Bryan Ardouny, Executive Director
Washington, DC, USA

Armenian National Committee of America

Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
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**Arry Organization for Human Rights and
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Blue Nile Association of North America

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"Change the world. It just takes cents" TM

Sara Caine Kornfeld, Founder/Educator
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**Church Alliance for a New Sudan, The Institute
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**Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness
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**Community Empowerment for Progress
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Connecticut Coalition to Save Darfur

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**Damanga Coalition for Freedom and
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Darfur Community Organization

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Darfur Culture

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Darfur Human Rights Organization of the USA

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Darfur Interfaith Network

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Darfur International School

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Darfur Leaders Network (DLN)

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Darfur People's Association of New York

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Darfur Solidarity USA

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Darfur Union, UK & Ireland

Hussain Begira, Chairperson
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Darfurian Association of Greater Houston

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Dear Sudan, Love Marin

Gerri Miller, Founder and Coordinator
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Dr. Herbert Ekwe-Ekwe

Visiting Professor, Universidade de Fortaleza,
Author of Biafra Revisited (Dakar and Reading:
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Genocide No More

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Harry Potter Alliance

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Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

Baroness Caroline Cox, Independent Peer,
House of Lords, UK Parliament and CEO
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Humanity is Us

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Idaho Darfur Coalition

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Joining Our Voices

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Kentuckiana Interfaith Taskforce On Darfur (KITOD)

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Kurdistan Without Genocide

Ali Mahmud, Director
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Never Again Coalition

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New York Coalition for Sudan

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New York Darfur Vigil Group

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Nuba Mountain Peace Coalition

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Nuba Now

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Nubia Project

Nuraddin Abdelmannan, President
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Operation Broken Silence

Mark C. Hackett, CEO, Executive Director
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Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition

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Eric Reeves

Sudan Researcher, Author of *Compromising with Evil: An Archival History of Greater Sudan, 2007 - 2012* (eBook, 2012)
Northampton, MA, USA

Hawa Abdallah Mohammed Salih

U.S. Department of State 2012 International
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San Antonio Coalition Against Genocide

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San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition

Mohamed Suleiman, President
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Shine a Ray of Hope

Carmen Paolercio, Coordinator
New Rochelle, NY, USA

Society for Threatened People

Sharon Silber, US Representative
New York, NY, USA

South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network

Savior Woodcan, Secretary
Juba, South Sudan

Southern Sudan Project

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Stop Genocide Now

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Sudan Advocacy Action Forum

Dr. Eleanor Wright, Moderator
Birmingham, AL, USA

Temple Ahavat Achim Darfur Social Action Committee

Professor Lakshmi Sirois, Chair
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Dr. Samuel Totten

Professor Emeritus, University of Arkansas,
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Documentary History of the Darfur Genocide
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Unite For Darfur

Bahar Arabie, CEO, Author of Darfur, Road to
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**United Sudanese and South Sudanese
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Voices for Sudan

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Waging Peace

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