**Tips for writing a letter to your Representative or Senator**

* **Keep it brief: your letter should not exceed 1 ½ pages.**
* **Explain why it matters.**
* **Coordinate letter writing with other people who also feel passionate about the cause.**
* **Specify particular actions that can be taken to address the issue.**

**Sample Letter**

[Your Name]

[City], [State] [Postal Code]

 Phone: [Your Phone]  Fax: [Your Fax]

E-Mail: [Your E-Mail]

Date: [Insert date here]

The Honorable [Name of Elected Representative]

[Address of Elected Representative’s Office]

\*\*You get find the contact information for your elected representative at [Congress.org](http://congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials)

Dear [*Representative or Senator xxxxx* ] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to express concern about the lack of US action regarding the ongoing genocide in Darfur. I am particularly concerned about US government’s intentions to lift sanctions against Sudan. I urge you to be our voice and ask the Trump administration to maintain these sanctions.

In 2004, the Bush Administration declared the situation as genocide. Since then, millions of Darfuris have been forced to flee their homes, hundreds of thousands have been killed, and those who remain are subjected to brutal attacks and deprived of access to humanitarian assistance. Rape, arrests, and torture have and continue to devastate the lives of innocent civilians in Darfur. President al-Bashir stands accused by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of the world’s worst crimes - genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. President al-Bashir’s regime has reportedly used chemical weapons against the people of Darfur as recently as September 2016. Although documented by credible sources, including Amnesty International, the occurrence has not been investigated.

In addition to all the injustices and horrors being perpetuated against the Darfuri people, the security of the US is at stake. There are credible allegations that President al-Bashir’s government sponsors terrorist groups across the Middle East and Africa to destabilize the region, threatening our national security.

Given the current conditions on the ground, lifting sanctions will only help the regime gain access to more financial resources, which will help them purchase more weapons. Also, rescinding sanctions will help the al-Bashir administration continue to support terrorist groups.

Besides the threat to international security, if the US lifts sanctions, it would be a clear affront to human rights’ norms; lifting sanctions on Sudan will not only legitimize President al-Bashir and enable him to continue the slaughter of his citizens but will send a message to other criminals around the world that they will not be held accountable. Before sanctions can be lifted the people safety, freedom from fear and threats to their lives as well as assurance of return to their places of origin must be afforded to the people of Darfur.

Accordingly, we urge you to stand with the genocide victims in Sudan and uphold US legal and human rights’ norms as well as diminishing the threat of growing terrorism by demanding that US government implement the following recommendations:

* Maintain the existing US sanctions on Sudan until al-Bashir ceases attacks on civilians
* Integrate targeted sanctions and impose a travel ban on officials responsible for committing crimes in Darfur and across Sudan
* Support the implementation of the arrest warrants against Sudanese criminals wanted by the ICC.
* Pressure al-Bashir’s government to disarm militias committing atrocities in Darfur
* Lead the UN Security Council in providing adequate civilian protection in Sudan
* Provide exception for Darfur genocide victims and other crises affected refugees from Sudan to be admitted to the US
* Provide support to the historically excluded and victimized communities in Sudan to rebuild their lives and bring sustainable peace in Sudan.

We greatly appreciate your commitment to human rights at home and internationally as well as your ongoing fight against terrorism and international instability. Your leadership and voices are needed to save lives in Sudan and particularly in Darfur. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The undersigned

In partnership with Darfur Women Action Group

[www.darfurwmenaction.org](http://www.darfurwmenaction.org)