

April 20, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20528

Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, and Secretary Blinken:

African Communities Together (ACT), Communities United for Status and Protection (CUSP), and National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC) write today in light of the rapid escalation of armed conflict in Sudan since April 15, 2023. Escalating violence, indiscriminate bombing, and heavy weapon attacks have been reported in Khartoum and other cities as a result of conflict between General Abdel-Fattah Burhan of the Sudanese Army, and General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group. Attacks against civilians intensified for the sixth day, and casualties have risen to over 330 deaths and over 3,200 civilians wounded.¹ Sudan's military called for RSF's surrender, threatening the attempts to ceasefire.² Following the violence, Secretary Blinken highlighted that the dangerous fighting "threatens the security and safety of Sudanese civilians and undermines efforts to restore Sudan's democratic transition," and called for an immediate end to hostilities.³ Today, U.S. officials announced that additional troops would be positioned in Djibouti to evacuate U.S. embassy personnel.⁴

We are writing to request an **18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status for Sudan** as the country conditions continue to persist and deteriorate, warranting an extension and redesignation of TPS. On April 19, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the designation of Sudan for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months effective until October 19, 2023. The designation allows eligible Sudanese nationals who have continuously resided in the United States since March 1, 2022, and who have been continuously physically present in the United States since April 19, 2022, to apply for TPS. With the expiry fast approaching, and the conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions exacerbated by the ongoing developments, the Biden administration must provide continued protection to the Sudanese nationals present in the United States. We urge Secretary Mayorkas to provide a redesignation and a generous cut-off date to expand eligibility for

¹ [Aljazeera. Sudan live news: UN chief appeals for 3-day Eid ceasefire](#)

² [Sudan army demands rivals' surrender as cease-fire runs out](#)

³ [Update on the Situation in Sudan - United States Department of State](#)

⁴ [U.S. preparing to position troops in case of Sudan embassy evacuation - POLITICO](#)

Sudanese nationals who arrived in the United States after March 1, 2022, in light of the renewed country conditions.

An extension and redesignation of TPS for Sudan is in the foreign policy interest of the United States. Secretary Blinken and other foreign counterparts have held high-level discussions sharing “deep concern about the fighting, the violence that’s going on in Sudan; the threat that that poses to civilians, that it poses to the Sudanese nation, and **potentially even to the region.**”⁵ The State Department has established a Sudan Military Conflict Task Force to develop a response to the escalating violence.⁶ On April 19, the State Department updated its travel advisory to “Level 4: Do Not Travel,” citing “violent, volatile, and extremely unpredictable” ongoing armed conflict.⁷ Congresswoman Sara Jacobs, who is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Africa, House Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed alarm “about the deteriorating situation in Sudan and the violence against civilians who are caught in the crossfire.”⁸ The U.S. Government acknowledges that the emergent conditions are a threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. A designation would not only be an appropriate use of the authority granted by Congress but a critical tool to meet the goals of your administration to enhance regional security and safety. **An extension and redesignation of TPS is necessary to safeguard vulnerable Sudanese in the United States and reaffirm U.S. commitment to establishing a policy to support the people of Sudan during this crisis.** The developments in the past week have threatened the safe return of Sudanese nationals. This is also a moment for the U.S. government to take action and provide permanent protection for Sudanese nationals in accordance with its commitments to the country.

Sincerely,

African Communities Together (ACT)

Communities United for Status and Protection (CUSP)

National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)

⁵ [Secretary Antony J. Blinken And U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly On the Situation in Sudan - United States Department of State](#)

⁶ [US State Departments Sets Up Special Task Force for Crisis in Sudan](#)

⁷ [Sudan Travel Advisory](#)

⁸ [Congresswoman Sara Jacobs Statement on Sudan Violence](#)