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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 9, 2013

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The Honorable Barack H. Obama
The President
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I again write regarding your administration's misguided decision to invite Nafie Ali Nafie to the United States as part of a high-level Sudanese delegation.

There is a growing chorus of voices expressing deep disappointment and even outrage at what this decision communicates, especially to the untold number of people who have been tortured, beaten and even killed because of Nafie.

Consider the following:

- A number of prominent Holocaust and genocide scholars wrote you a letter decrying the proposed visit. They said, "We must make it clear to perpetrators of genocide that the United States will treat them as outlaws and bring them to justice, not treat as respected statesmen and bring them here for friendly visits." The letter concludes, "The victims of Darfur must not be abandoned as were the Jews of Europe."
- Noted Sudan researcher and analyst Eric Reeves recently wrote, "Nafie was head of Khartoum's ruthless security services, for example, when Khartoum orchestrated an assassination attempt against Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak...as head of security he [Nafie] presided over countless arrests, extra-judicial executions...and torture. Some have described his presence during torture session as surreally calm..." Reeves continues, describing Nafie as the senior Sudanese government official most responsible for charting "the ongoing course of the Darfur genocide following the death of Majzoub al-Khalifa in Juna 2007." He concludes by highlighting several of Nafie's own statements which betray his anti-Semitism. Nafie reportedly said, "Jewish and Western circles want to make Darfur a dagger in the heart of the country to hinder its march towards renaissance and progress."
- Sudan's Girifna movement, a pro-democracy group opposed to the current regime, wrote you saying, "The man the Obama administration will be speaking with has blood on his hands, quite literally. As one of the most brutal members of the National Islamic Front regime and head of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) in the 1990's,

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Nafie masterminded a savage campaign of torture and killing in compounds known as 'Ghost Houses... Thousands of people were tortured and hundreds disappeared in a campaign that saw the annihilation of voices of dissent.' They continued, "He himself is known to have tortured individuals directly."

- Rabbi David Kaufman, founder of Help Nuba, a Sudan advocacy organization recently wrote, "Sudanese Presidential Advisor Nafie Ali Nafie is also the former Chief of the National Intelligence and Security Services NISS and continues to be a leading figure, if not the leading figure, in control of the military and intelligence apparatus in Sudan. The appropriate comparison is with Heinrich Himmler, the Director of the SS in the Nazi regime. Would the United States have 'invited' Himmler to meet at the State Department during the Holocaust to talk about 'the humanitarian crises within Germany, after he played a leading role in the genocide? The question is absurd and thus must this action be so viewed."

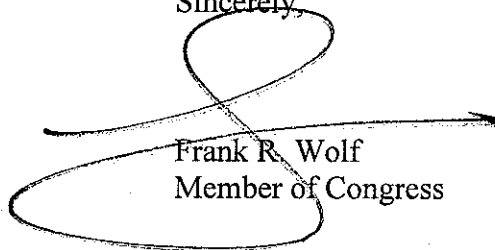
In short, your administration has embraced a man who is complicit, if not outright responsible, for the attempted assassination of a head of state, a known torturer and enemy of civil society, an architect of genocide and other atrocities, as well as an anti-Semite.

Your administration has rewarded Khartoum with the legitimacy that it craves absent any discernible progress on key human rights and humanitarian issues.

Your administration has stood not with the people of the Nuba Mountains or Darfur, all of whom have suffered greatly at the hands of the National Congress Party in Khartoum, but rather with a man who, in the words of many of these same people, has blood on his hands.

Your Sudan policy is in tatters, the special envoy position remains vacant and on your watch, the suffering in Sudan persists. Only the regime in Khartoum seems pleased with where things stand. Is that not telling?

Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress