

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Blinken:

We are deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in Sudan. We write to you to urge you to do everything possible to provide assistance to U.S. citizens in Sudan.

The United Nations' World Health organization estimates at least 420 people have been killed,¹ including three World Food Programme workers² and an American citizen.³ More than 3,700 people have been injured since fighting between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) began.⁴ Most of those people have been civilians. Those who are sheltering in place to avoid the violence are likely to run out of food and water soon, if they haven't already.⁵

Approximately 16,000 Americans live in Sudan.⁶ As you know, the situation on the ground is incredibly unstable and confusing, including possible disinformation about RSF assisting in evacuating Americans.⁷ Now that the United States has evacuated its embassy staff there's even more uncertainty for the Americans left behind.⁸

¹ ABC News, "Sudan conflict sparks mass exodus of foreigners as locals remain trapped in crossfire," Morgan Winsor, April 24, 2023, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/sudan-conflict-sparks-mass-exodus-foreigners/story?id=98794155>.

² The Independent, "Sudan's temporary ceasefire collapses – with areas set to run out of food and water within days," Bel Trew, April 19, 2023, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/sudan-war-khartoum-rsf-ceasefire-b2322041.html>.

³ CBS News, "Sudan fighting rages despite ceasefire calls as death toll climbs over 400," Haley Ott, April 21, 2023, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/sudan-crisis-2023-fighting-continues-ceasefire-calls-death-toll-over-400/>.

⁴ ABC News, "Sudan conflict sparks mass exodus of foreigners as locals remain trapped in crossfire," Morgan Winsor, April 24, 2023, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/sudan-conflict-sparks-mass-exodus-foreigners/story?id=98794155>.

⁵ The Independent, "Sudan's temporary ceasefire collapses – with areas set to run out of food and water within days," Bel Trew, April 19, 2023, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/sudan-war-khartoum-rsf-ceasefire-b2322041.html>.

⁶ NBC News, "At least 1 American killed in Sudanese conflict, State Department says," Abigail Adams, Ryan Nobels, and David K. Li, April 21, 2023, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/1-american-killed-ongoing-sudanese-conflict-state-department-says-rcna80830>.

⁷ ABC News, "Sudan rivals pledge evacuation help, US diplomats airlifted," Associated Press, April 22, 2023, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sudans-army-evacuations-diplomats-expected-begin-98772396>.

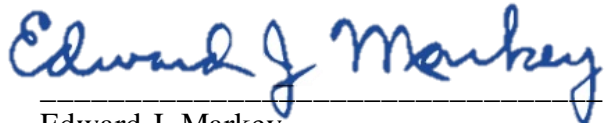
⁸ U.S. Department of Defense, "U.S. Forces Evacuate Americans from Khartoum Embassy," Jim Garamone, April 23, 2023, <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3371442/us-forces-evacuate-americans-from-khartoum-embassy/>.

Many Americans are now “really desperately” wanting to get home.⁹ We appreciate your work to bring this conflict to an end, including securing a temporary ceasefire.¹⁰ We also appreciate the support and communication we’ve received from the State Department regarding the safety and whereabouts of U.S. nationals in Sudan, including Massachusettsans. But your efforts must include providing all possible support to U.S. citizens in Sudan who want to leave. We urge you to develop and implement a plan to do so immediately and invite the State Department to brief our offices as soon as possible.


Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



James McGovern
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

⁹ WBUR, “Ashland mother and daughter trapped in Sudan as violent military conflict continues,” Amy Sokolow and Derek J. Anderson, <https://www.wbur.org/news/2023/04/22/ashland-mother-and-daughter-trapped-in-sudan-as-violent-military-conflict-continues>.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of State, “Secretary Blinken’s Diplomacy to Arrange an Eid al-Fitr Ceasefire in Sudan,” press release, April 20, 2023, <https://www.state.gov/secretary-blinkens-diplomacy-to-arrange-an-eid-al-fitr-ceasefire-in-sudan/>.