

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 20, 2024

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By ESEC at 3:34 pm, Jun 24, 2024

Dear President Biden,

We are writing to encourage your Administration to adopt a program for humanitarian parole for Sudan similar to the ones you've rightly done for Afghanistan and Ukraine. The humanitarian parole program for Afghanistan and the Uniting for Ukraine policy have shown laudable creativity in adapting to serious humanitarian and human rights crises, and have reaffirmed the generosity and welcoming spirit of the American people, and the United States' role as a leader in the world when it comes to providing safe refuge for those fleeing persecution and violence.

The horrific civil war in Sudan rises to this level. The violence between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces militia has led to the world's highest number of displaced people, including millions of internally displaced people and millions more refugees fleeing into neighboring countries. The level of violence, which the State Department has determined includes war crimes and crimes against humanity, is staggering. In Darfur, many observers have suggested that genocide is once again taking place. Much of the country is on the verge of famine. According to USAID estimates, almost 25 million people still in Sudan are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. This is more than 10 million more people than OCHA estimates need humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.

The scale of the suffering in Sudan alone is enough reason to use every tool available to us to provide relief. But there are also important second-order benefits to doing so. The massive refugee flows out of Sudan have put significant burdens on its neighboring countries, including Chad, Egypt, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, all of which are already dealing with their own financial or humanitarian crises. The United States can provide tangible support to both the Sudanese civilians enduring this unimaginable hardship, and those countries in the region, by adopting a robust humanitarian parole program.

Establishing a parole program like the ones conducted for Afghans and Ukrainians would also establish legal and safe pathways to Sudanese refugees otherwise vulnerable to human trafficking and smuggling operations.

The United States has both the capacity and the generosity of spirit to provide refuge for Sudanese civilians who have been put in an impossibly perilous situation through no fault of their own. As you have repeatedly demonstrated during your Presidency, we are able to open our doors to those fleeing the world's most brutal conflicts, and we recognize it as a central American value.

We stand ready to assist in any way we can in formulating plans for the creation of a Sudanese humanitarian parole program, and we thank you for your kind and prompt attention.

Sincerely,



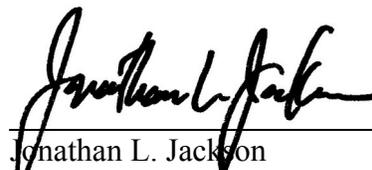
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Africa



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



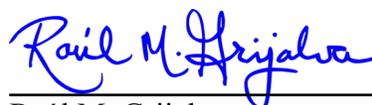
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
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Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

August 13, 2024

The Honorable Ilhan Omar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Omar:

Thank you for your June 20, 2024 letter to President Biden. Your letter was referred to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and I am responding on behalf of the Department.

In your letter, you urge the Administration to create a parole program for Sudan similar to the programs created for Afghanistan and Ukraine. Under section 212(d)(5)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A), the Secretary of Homeland Security can, at their discretion, parole a noncitizen into the United States temporarily under such conditions as they may prescribe on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Parole authority extends only to noncitizens who are applicants for admission. An applicant for admission includes “an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or who arrives in the United States (whether or not at a designated port of arrival and including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters).” *See* INA 235(a)(1), 8 U.S.C. 1225(a)(1).

DHS is monitoring the conflict and humanitarian crisis in Sudan and continues to evaluate the department’s humanitarian programs and policies, including parole. We acknowledge your suggestion for a parole process for individuals in Sudan and will take it under advisement.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ur M. Jaddou" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director