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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3311

August 21, 2019

Secretary Steven Mnuchin  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

Below is a collection of findings that qualify Sudanese General Mohamad Hamdan Dagalo, commonly referred to as “Hemeti,” for sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Act (GMA).

The GMA designation requires at a minimum, complicity with a serious human rights violation. Substantial evidence makes clear that General Dagalo is largely responsible for numerous, severe human rights abuses during the Darfur Genocide and that he has continued to orchestrate violations of human rights to the present.

This letter will explicitly address the recent atrocities in Khartoum committed by militants under General Dagalo’s command, which alone surpass the threshold of complicity. These actions follow General Dagalo’s history of human rights abuses across Sudan, notably his involvement in the state violence in the Darfur region, and further violence in the ongoing conflict in Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

General Dagalo is the leader of the Rapid Support Force (RSF), a government-sponsored militia first formally assembled in 2013. Under his command, the RSF became notorious for mass rape, extrajudicial murders, and destruction of private property. As the current head of the RSF, and as someone with a continued role in government, General Dagalo wields considerable political and military power in Sudan. Hemeti’s concentration and abuse of power has stoked pro-democracy protests in Khartoum.<sup>1</sup>

On June 3, 2019, RSF forces under General Dagalo’s command deliberately fired upon civilian protesters engaging in a peaceful sit-in in Khartoum. There were more than 100 deaths and many more injuries, with scores of corpses reportedly dumped into the Nile River to conceal the massacre. General Dagalo defended his troops’ operations, citing “unspeakable provocations” by the protesters.<sup>2 3</sup> Further, reports of rapes and gang rapes of female protesters and female medical personnel in nearby hospitals followed this massacre.<sup>4</sup> The RSF has consistently appeared on the United Nations Secretary-General’s annual report on conflict-related sexual violence, and these recent occurrences demonstrate the continuation of this trend.<sup>5</sup>

During the Darfur Genocide, Hemeti served as chief of the Janjaweed militias—those responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians, forceful displacement of families, systematic mass rape and sexual assault, torture, and numerous other egregious actions.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-48512465](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-48512465)

<sup>2</sup> [www.nytimes.com/2019/06/15/world/africa/sudan-leader-hemeti.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/15/world/africa/sudan-leader-hemeti.html)

<sup>3</sup> [www.cnn.com/2019/06/05/africa/sudan-death-toll-intl/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2019/06/05/africa/sudan-death-toll-intl/index.html)

<sup>4</sup> [news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1040471](http://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1040471)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/features/darfur/fiveyearson/report4.html>

It is in the United States' national interest to place economic sanctions on General Dagalo. Doing so broadcasts U.S. condemnation of General Dagalo's human rights violations, deters would-be perpetrators, sends a pointed message to the acting Sudanese government to avoid destabilizing attacks on demonstrators, and signals U.S. support of a democratically-elected, civilian-led government and the ongoing government-building process. It would be a significant step in the effort to mitigate and deter further human rights violations in Sudan. Additionally, we should work to protect the U.S. financial system from abusive actors such as Hemeti that take advantage of the system.

While a new power sharing agreement emerged this month, the long time frame for the agreement's implementation, the military's influence on the new sovereign council, and the poor history of Hemeti's respect for civilian rule warrant close monitoring. Several international actors, including foreign lobbying firms and governments, and lobbying firms employing former U.S. officials, have expressed support for General Dagalo.<sup>7</sup> General Dagalo is also actively seeking support from Western leaders and senior Russian officials.<sup>8</sup>

With the ultimate goal of supporting civilian-led, democratic governance in Sudan, I encourage your consideration of sanctions under the GMA to discourage potential abuses and dissuade certain actors from supporting General Dagalo in ways that undermine the achievements of the nascent civilian government.

General Dagalo's actions deserve condemnation to mitigate against further human rights abuses and to dissuade international actors who may support any effort to undermine democratic good governance in Sudan. Thank you for your consideration of my letter – I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo; Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Sigal Mandelker; Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy; Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale; Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control Andrea Gacki

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<sup>7</sup> [foreignpolicy.com/2019/06/28/seeking-to-secure-power-sudans-military-rulers-hire-lobbying-help-hemeti-lobbying-influence-dagolo-hemeti-rsf/](https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/06/28/seeking-to-secure-power-sudans-military-rulers-hire-lobbying-help-hemeti-lobbying-influence-dagolo-hemeti-rsf/)

<sup>8</sup> [efile.fara.gov/docs/6200-Exhibit-AB-20190617-8.pdf](https://efile.fara.gov/docs/6200-Exhibit-AB-20190617-8.pdf)