

# Stealing an Election in Slow Motion: Time for Real Consequences

## Enough Project Activist Brief

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Free and fair elections in Sudan may soon be condemned to failure. As the National Congress Party (NCP) continues to obstruct preparations for the elections, the United States and other international donors have yet to impose consequences on the NCP for this obstruction. U.S. taxpayers may be poised to spend millions of dollars to legitimize one of the world's most oppressive regimes.

This is not a forgone conclusion if we act now. As U.S. citizens we have a special responsibility in this regard. Activist pressure helped convince the U.S. government to declare genocide was occurring in Darfur and divest millions from the Sudanese government. We now have an equal responsibility to ensure that Sudan's citizens have a chance to go to the polls for the first time in twenty-three years and vote for their president.

The conditions for holding free and fair elections are clearly outlined in the CPA, the peace deal that ended the North-South war. These conditions include passage of a new security law to reduce the government's powers of arbitrary arrest and detention, an independent electoral commission, clear steps to allow independent media coverage, and unrestricted access for international observer teams, among others. All of these conditions are currently being blocked by the NCP.

Until the NCP agrees to these conditions that will allow a credible election, the United States and other donors should suspend all electoral assistance. The risks of holding a non-credible election are enormous. It will fuel violence and divisions, particularly in the South and Darfur and it will undermine the CPA's aim of democratically transforming the country. Millions of Darfuris living in refugee and IDP camps will be disenfranchised in a process which, under current circumstances, provide false legitimacy to the president, an indicted war criminal, and the NCP; and prove to be a tremendous waste of American taxpayer money.

There *is* a path to peace for the parties in Sudan. The United States has a major role to play and the time to act is now.

*Action: Contact your Member of Congress today calling for immediate hearings on the Sudan elections. Demand genuine pressure on the NCP and others who obstruct peace.*