

## **Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act of 2013**

### **Summary of Legislation**

**Purpose:** The “Sudan Peace, Security and Accountability Act of 2013” would create a comprehensive U.S. strategy to end serious human rights violations in Sudan, provide genuine accountability for persons who have committed or assisted in serious human rights violations, support Sudanese aspiration for democratic reforms, encourage other governments and persons to end support of and assistance to the government of Sudan, and to reinvigorate genuinely comprehensive and sustainable peace efforts that can end Sudan’s multiple crises.

**Background:** 2013 marks ten years from the start of crimes in Darfur that the U.S. government found to constitute genocide. Previous legislation was passed to address the genocide in Darfur, but abuses have continued and expanded to other areas of Sudan. Aerial bombardment of civilian areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states and continued blocking of humanitarian relief by the Government of Sudan has led to over 900,000 Sudanese in need of humanitarian aid. Violence and aid restrictions also remain in Darfur where some 130,000 people have been newly displaced in the first months of 2013 alone. Reports by the UN and independent monitors have documented ongoing abuses by the Government of Sudan and those it supports that “may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity”.

#### **Highlights of legislation:**

- Requires the Administration and all relevant agencies to work together and create a comprehensive strategic plan to end serious human rights violations, provide genuine accountability for crimes committed in Darfur and other parts of Sudan, support the path for democratic transformation, and create peace throughout all of Sudan;
- Demands free and unfettered access for international humanitarian aid and, absent such agreement, requires the Administration to seek other mechanisms to mitigate the effects of lack of such humanitarian aid;
- Promotes free and transparent democratic reform in Sudan, including exploring technical support and funding for civil society and others seeking sustainable democratic change;
- Increases engagement with other stakeholders with influence in Sudan;
- Creates a broad-reaching sanctions regime to target any government or individuals whose support assists the Sudanese government in committing serious human rights violations or who fail to execute international arrest warrants against Sudanese officials;
- Seeks more effective enforcement of existing sanctions including adequate resources and personnel and extends to all of Sudan existing sanctions regimes included in prior enacted legislation that were specific only for “Darfur”; and
- Provides genuine accountability for crimes committed in Darfur and encourages other countries to expand international accountability efforts to include crimes committed in other regions in Sudan.