

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 17, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Mullin and Secretary Rubio:

We write to urge you to issue an 18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Sudan. The ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis in Sudan continue to place its citizens at severe risk. An extension would protect current Sudanese TPS holders from returning to Sudan amid ongoing violence, and a redesignation would offer protected status to Sudanese nationals who arrived after August 16, 2023.

After war erupted in April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), DHS extended and redesignated Sudan for TPS, citing ongoing armed conflict, widespread violence, severe humanitarian conditions, mass displacement, and serious human rights abuses. DHS again extended Sudan's TPS designation in 2025 after determining that these conditions continued to prevent the safe return of Sudanese nationals.¹

The armed conflict between the SAF and the RSF has intensified and expanded, causing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Fighting has spread across much of the country, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths, the displacement of millions of people, widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, severe food insecurity, and credible reports of war crimes and other serious human rights violations.² The U.S. government has determined that the RSF and SAF have committed war crimes and that the RSF is responsible for crimes against humanity and genocide. Secretary Rubio has further recognized the genocide in Sudan and joined G7 countries in warning against further atrocities in El Obeid in July 2026.

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (2025, January 17). *Extension of the designation of Sudan for Temporary Protected Status*. *Federal Register*, 90(11), 5944–5953.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/17/2025-00770/extension-of-the-designation-of-sudan-for-temporary-protected-status>.

² Ferragamo, M. (2026, April 14). *Sudan's humanitarian crisis, explained*. Council on Foreign Relations.
<https://www.cfr.org/articles/what-extent-sudans-humanitarian-crisis>.

Humanitarian access remains severely restricted, and large areas of Sudan continue to be unsafe for civilians, making the return of Sudanese nationals unsafe under current conditions. Sudan continues to face catastrophic humanitarian conditions – including the risk of famine in several areas – that have been compounded by climate shocks, widespread food insecurity, and the destruction of critical infrastructure. Since the outbreak of the war in April 2023, hospitals, schools, water systems, roads, and electrical infrastructure have been damaged or destroyed, severely limiting access to basic services and humanitarian assistance.³

More than 30 million people – two-thirds of Sudan's population – are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 15 million children. More than 8 million people are internally displaced, making Sudan the world's largest internal displacement crisis. Millions more have fled to neighboring countries as refugees.⁴ Humanitarian organizations continue to warn that funding shortfalls, ongoing insecurity, and restrictions on aid delivery are preventing life-saving assistance from reaching millions of people in need.⁵ These overlapping crises – ongoing armed conflict, mass displacement, widespread hunger, disease outbreaks, climate-related disasters, and the collapse of essential services – have significantly worsened since Sudan's most recent TPS designation and continue to make the safe return of Sudanese nationals impossible.

The posture of the State Department demonstrates the dangers of the war in Sudan. The U.S. Department of State currently maintains a Level 4: Do Not Travel advisory for all of Sudan, warning U.S. citizens not to travel to the country due to ongoing armed conflict, civil unrest, crime, kidnapping, terrorism, landmines, and serious health and security risks.⁶ The State Department also notes that the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum has suspended operations since April 2023 and that the U.S. government cannot provide routine or emergency consular services to U.S. citizens in Sudan.⁷ These conditions underscore the continued instability throughout the country and further demonstrate that Sudan remains unsafe for the return of Sudanese nationals.

At the beginning of this administration, approximately 1.2 million foreign nationals were protected under TPS, including 1,790 individuals from Sudan. These individuals make significant contributions to the U.S. economy and the communities they call home. They are taxpayers, consumers, entrepreneurs, and essential members of the workforce. According to the American Immigration Council, TPS holders collectively generated more than \$10.3 billion in household income, held nearly \$8 billion in spending power, and contributed over \$2.2 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2021 alone.⁸ Beyond these measurable economic contributions,

³ USA for UNHCR. (2025, April 9). *Sudan crisis explained*. <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/sudan-crisis-explained/>.

⁴ International Rescue Committee. (2026, July 6). *Crisis in Sudan: What is happening and how to help*. <https://www.rescue.org/article/crisis-sudan-what-happening-and-how-help>.

⁵ UNICEF. (2026, May 15). *Risk of famine persists as nearly 19.5 million people face acute food insecurity in Sudan*. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/risk-famine-persists-nearly-195-million-people-face-acute-food-insecurity-sudan>.

⁶ U.S. Department of State. (2026, May 15). *Sudan travel advisory*. Travel.State.Gov. <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/sudan.html>.

⁷ U.S. Embassy Sudan. (2026, May 15). *Travel advisory: Sudan (May 2026)*. <https://sd.usembassy.gov/travel-advisory-sudan-may-2026/>.

⁸ Aho, K. (2023, October 23). *Spotlight on the economic contributions of TPS holders*. American Immigration Council. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/economic-contributions-tps-holders/>.

TPS holders strengthen local economies by purchasing homes, renting apartments, starting businesses, and filling critical labor shortages across a range of industries.⁹ Although Sudanese TPS beneficiaries represent only a portion of the overall TPS population, they likewise contribute to the U.S. workforce and economy while lawfully employed under TPS.

In light of these circumstances, we strongly urge you to extend and redesignate Sudan for TPS. The ongoing armed conflict, catastrophic humanitarian crisis, and widespread human rights abuses make the safe return of Sudanese nationals impossible at this time, meeting the legal standard for extension and redesignation of TPS under Sec. 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. TPS for Sudanese nationals in the United States remains both a humanitarian necessity and a prudent policy to ensure that individuals are not forced to return to conditions that continue to threaten their safety and well-being.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



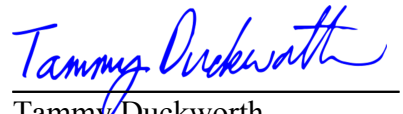
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

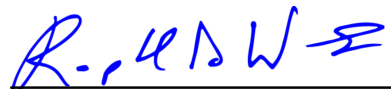


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

⁹ FWD.us. (2026, April 21). *Temporary Protected Status protects families while also boosting the U.S. economy.* <https://www.fwd.us/news/temporary-protected-status-report/>.



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator