



[United States Officially Removes Sudan from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism](#)

The United States has officially delisted Sudan from its list of state sponsors of terrorism after 27 years. Sudan was originally placed on the list by President Clinton in 1993 due to the Sudanese government under despot Omar al-Bashir allegedly providing haven to terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda. However, Bashir was ousted in April 2019 after several months of popular protests against his ruthless rule, and U.S. officials have even acknowledged that the Sudanese government had been aiding in anti-terrorism efforts for years. Nevertheless, the United States had refused to delist Sudan from its list of state sponsors of terror which had grave consequences for the Sudanese economy. The decision to remove Sudan from the list was originally made in October when the Trump administration was seeking ways to induce Arab countries into normalizing relations with Israel. Sudan, which is desperate for economic relief and foreign aid in the face of mounting debt and inflation, agreed to normalize their diplomatic ties with Israel in exchange for the U.S. delisting them as a state sponsor of terror.

Since Omar al-Bashir was ousted from power in 2019, Sudan's transitional government under interim Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok has sought ways to secure his country's removal from the list of state sponsors of terror. A country's presence on the list means that the United States is compelled to oppose any international aid applied for by the country at international institutions. Because of this, Sudan has been diplomatically and economically isolated since President Clinton originally included it on the list of state sponsors of terror in 1993. As a result, Sudan's economy has been ravaged amid shortages of fuel, wheat, and other critical supplies. Inflation has also soared, with the Sudanese pound devaluing by 254% year-by-year according to a study completed in November. As a result of its delisting from the list of state sponsors of terror, Sudan is now eligible to receive \$1.5 billion annually from the International Development Association. The U.S. Import-Export Bank is also now able to provide guarantees to American investors from the private sector that could total up to \$1 billion.

Under Prime Minister Hamdok, Khartoum has negotiated with the United States to secure its removal from the list of state sponsors of terror so that it can diplomatically and economically reconnect with the international community. These negotiations did not yield success until the Trump administration began seeking ways to pressure Arab countries into normalizing diplomatic relations with Israel. Despite significant opposition among the Sudanese public to normalizing relations with Israel in the absence of fair concessions to the Palestinians, Hamdok's government believed it had no choice other than to do so in order to secure economic relief.

While Sudan's return to the international community will be a significant boost to its struggling economy, the way it secured its delisting from the state sponsors of terror list could have detrimental effects in the future. The Trump administration's coercion of the country to normalize relations with Israel despite significant public opposition could destabilize the fragile transitional government and lead to another military coup if Sudan's generals believe the public has lost faith in the government, as they did when ousting Omar al-Bashir.