

JUSTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCY REVIEW

Crisis Assistance Request Form - Sudan, OMB Number 1405-XXXX.

Beginning April 15, 2023, Khartoum, Sudan saw gunfire because of tensions between Sudan's military and the Rapid Support Forces paramilitary. Due to reports of heavy gunfire in several locations in Khartoum, U.S. Embassy Khartoum were ordered to shelter in place, while U.S. citizens in country were also encouraged to do so. On the same day airports throughout Sudan suspended commercial flights due to the violence, including in Metropolitan Khartoum (Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North) and other cities across Sudan.

On April 16, due to continued gunfire in Khartoum and surrounding areas, the U.S. embassy strongly advised all U.S. citizens to continue to shelter in place until further notice. The Department of State will continue to provide messaging to U.S. citizens in Sudan, and needs to gather information from those seeking assistance in the event there are plans developed for a U.S. government-coordinated evacuation of U.S. citizens.

As reflected in a April 15 press statement from the Secretary of, the Department "it was essential for the parties to immediately end hostilities without pre-condition. I urge General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan and General Mohamed Hamdan Degalo to take active measures to reduce tensions and ensure the safety of all civilians. The only way forward is to return to negotiations that support the Sudanese people's democratic aspirations. We continue to remain in close touch with our Embassy in Khartoum and have full accountability of our personnel. We also have been communicating with American citizens who may be in the region about safety measures and other precautions."

With respect to U.S. citizens in Sudan, the Department's primary role is to keep the U.S. citizen community informed of safety and security developments. The Secretary's press statement and most recent alert advises U.S. citizens who wish to travel out of affected areas and require assistance to contact the U.S. embassy in Khartoum so that the Department may better understand and effectively communicate with them about individual consular assistance they

may need. In order to more effectively assist U.S. citizens directly impacted by this conflict, the Department intends to make available an online assistance request form that will be located at <https://cacms.state.gov/s/crisis-intake>.

The Department will use this online form to acquire the most current and accurate data possible to inform our consular assistance efforts. It will allow us to build a true and timely picture of how many U.S. citizens plan to remain in Sudan and any who may need reimbursable loan assistance to depart affected areas and/or return to the United States. The online form helps avoid unstructured requests for assistance, such as those that arrive via e-mail messages or via social media. These ad hoc efforts may not include important information, such as family size and their biodata, and which often require entry into other systems to facilitate responses. The proposed online assistance request form is integrated with other elements of the Department's evolving information technology platform used in crisis-management situations, enhancing the efficient handling of individual cases.

The Department has therefore determined that:

1. This collection is necessary without allowing for the time normally associated with a routine submission for review under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collection allows the Department to build a more accurate picture of how many U.S. citizens plan to remain in Sudan and and support options available.
2. This collection is essential to the mission of the Department of State, which has no higher priority than the safety and welfare of U.S. citizens overseas. The purpose of the collection is to enable the Department to better communicate with U.S. citizens and LPRs who are in need of assistance in departing Sudan, violence and a breakdown in basic government services affecting U.S. citizens and others visiting or residing in impacted areas.
3. The use of normal clearance procedures would prevent the Department from obtaining this information on a timely basis, amid threats of additional violence that are unpredictable and may further deteriorate with little notice.

Due to the ongoing crisis, the Department of State requests OMB's formal emergency review and approval of this information collection.



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April 20, 2023

Department of State.