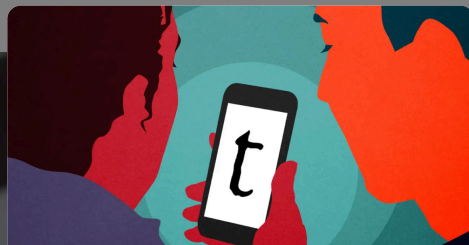


NEWS | WAR & PEACE

GOP Blocks Bill to Ban Arms Sales to UAE Until It Stops Arming Sudan Genocidares

Darfur's governor said this week that 27,000 people were killed in the days following RSF's el-Fasher siege last month.

By Sharon Zhang, TRUTHOUT
November 21, 2025



truthout ×

Sign up for our free newsletter

Critical news and analysis on politics and social transformation, sent straight to your inbox .

SUBSCRIBE

I'M NOT INTERESTED

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) arrives for a closed briefing for members of the Senate Armed Services Committee at the U.S. Capitol on July 29, 2025 in Washington, D.C.. The subject of the briefing was U.S. strikes on Iran conducted on June 22, 2025.

WIN MCNAMEE / GETTY IMAGES

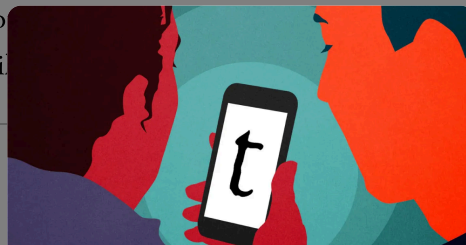
Truthout is an indispensable resource for activists, movement leaders and workers everywhere. Please make this work possible with a quick donation (https://support.truthout.org/-/XXQLBDSX/&utm_source=truthout&utm_medium=bc&utm_campaign=304025).

On Thursday, Senate Republican Joni Ernst (Iowa) blocked an attempt to pass a bill aimed at using U.S.’s leverage to bring an end to the genocide in Sudan by suspending arms shipments to the United Arab Emirates.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Maryland) called for unanimous consent on [his bill](#)

<https://x.com/ChrisVanHollen/status/1991546835089932550>), the [Stand Up for Sudan Act](#) (https://sarajacobs.house.gov/imo/media/doc/stand_up_for_sudan_act.pdf), to bar the U.S. from selling or issuing a license for weapons until the White House certifies that the UAE is “not providing materiel support to the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan.”

The move comes three weeks after the Rapid Support Forces, known as the RSF, took over [the Sudanese military’s last major outpost](#) (<https://truthout.org/articles/460-killed-in-horrific-massacre-in-sudan-hospital-who-says-amid-rsf-takeover/>) in North Darfur, the capital city of el-Fasher. The paramilitary group executed civilians to kill, conducting field executions and invading a hospital, ki



Get our free emails

Visit truthout.org/subscribe

truthout
**Sign up for our
free newsletter**

Critical news and analysis on politics and social transformation, sent straight to your inbox .

I'M NOT INTERESTED

UN officials estimate that 2,000 people [minnawi-says-rsf-killed-27000-sudanese-el-fasher](#)), have been killed in three days following the massacre, researchers found. Researchers also found mass graves in Sudan’s el-Fasher to clean up massacre expert, T

“They turned the city into a killing field based on their ethnicity,” [said Van Hollen](#) (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2025/11/04/senate-republicans-block-bill-to-ban-arms-sales-to-uae-until-it-stops-arming-sudan-genocidaires/>)

“This could have been prevented. We have more now to stop the ongoing genocide, the senator from Ohio. We have not effectively used our leverage and influence to end the war. Because throughout this conflict, we, the United States, have continued to send weapons to the United Arab Emirates, the UAE, who we know are arming the murderous RSF.”

Ernst objected to the bill. In [remarks](#) (<https://www.c-span.org/congress/?chamber=senate&date=2025-11-20>), Ernst suggested that the potential threat from Iran that would spawn out of suspending weapons to the UAE was more pressing than the ongoing genocide in Sudan.

“Applying a blanket ban on the export of U.S. defense articles to the UAE leaves our partners in the region unequipped to deter any act of aggression and sends a message of weakness to our adversaries, like Iran and its terrorist proxies,” Ernst said, calling instead for diplomatic solutions for “stabilizing Sudan.”

Stories out of Sudan have been horrific. Survivors of the el-Fasher takeover say that they are being hunted down (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/11/1/thousands-missing-new-horrors-emerge-after-rsf-taking-of-sudan-el-fasher>) by the RSF after fleeing the city — with tens of thousands fleeing, but only a small fraction of them making it to the next town over, humanitarian officials have reported (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166388>).

UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher said (<https://x.com/UNReliefChief/status/1991094394665959426>) this week that Sudan is “now the epicenter of human suffering in the world,” and an “absolute horror show” as a result of the siege.

Van Hollen condemned Ernst’s move as “shameful.” (<https://x.com/ChrisVanHollen/status/1991707387003367486>). “If the UAE is telling us the truth when they say that they’re not sending any of their weapons to the RSF to help fuel the genocide in Sudan, why do my colleagues protest so loudly against this measure?” he asked, pointing out that arms transfers wouldn’t be affected if the UAE were not actually

“I’m very disappointed that our colleagues are using American influence to try to stop a genocide.”

Ernst’s objection comes despite widespread

Department (<https://2021-2025.state.gov/genocide->

declared a genocide in January. The Biden

jacobs-confirm-uae-providing-weapons-to-rsf-in-sudan-in-contra-

that has been supported by. (<https://www.wa>

(<https://www.wsj.com/world/how-u-a-e-arms-bolstered-a-sudan>

[gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWETsqdOCeZapuj_eVnNaHKXfBeGE](https://www.wsj.com/world/how-u-a-e-arms-bolstered-a-sudan)

[FDoePsGtByvPxcVzr2d--DcEguwqBvlMiXjxRCbXGLLLTb-E](https://www.wsj.com/world/how-u-a-e-arms-bolstered-a-sudan)

The Trump administration has also called

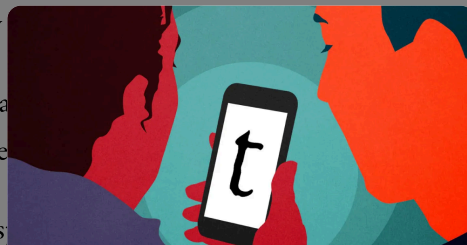
“Something needs to be done to cut off their advances,” said Secretary of State

[world/middle-east/rubio-emphasizes-importance-sudan-ceasefire-call-with-uae-counterpart-2025-11-14/](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/rubio-emphasizes-importance-sudan-ceasefire-call-with-uae-counterpart-2025-11-14/)), per *Reuters*.

Rubio suggested that this would include the UAE. “We know who the parties are that are involved ... that’s why they’re part of the Quad, along with other countries involved,” he said, likely referring to the

(<https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/sudan-united-states-egypt-saudi-arabia-united-arab-emirates/all-eyes-quad-how-us-and-its-partners-can-push-peace-sudan>), U.S., Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

President Donald Trump has also signaled interest in ending the slaughter.



truthout

**Sign up for our
free newsletter**

Critical news and analysis on
politics and social transformation,
sent straight to your inbox .

I'M NOT INTERESTED

“Tremendous atrocities are taking place in Sudan. It has become the most violent place on Earth and, likewise, the single biggest Humanitarian Crisis,” Trump said (<https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115577964949117047>) in a post on Truth Social on Wednesday, after his meeting with Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. “We will work with Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and other Middle Eastern partners to get these atrocities to end, while at the same time stabilizing Sudan.”

Trump ignores the fact that his administration has put (<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2025/3/5/sudanese-starve-as-soup-kitchens-close-down-and-warring-parties-block-aid>), millions of peoples’ lives at risk with his dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which last year provided 44 percent of Sudan’s humanitarian aid budget.



Truthout is funded almost entirely by individual donors. We are not beholden to any mainstream narrative. But independent journalism is essential to holding power to account and cutting against the grain of political repression under Trump.

We rely on your support to survive. Please consider a **monthly donation.**

truth to power and cut against the grain of political repression under Trump. **tax-deductible one-time or**

truthout Sign up for our free newsletter

Critical news and analysis on politics and social transformation, sent straight to your inbox.

I'M NOT INTERESTED

This article is licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>), and you are free to share and republish under the terms of the license.



SHARON ZHANG ([HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/ZHANG_SHARON](https://twitter.com/zhang_sharon))

Sharon Zhang is a news writer at *Truthout* covering international affairs, politics, and labor. She has a master’s degree in environmental studies. She can be found on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/zhang_sharon) (https://twitter.com/zhang_sharon) and [Bluesky](https://bsky.app/profile/sharonzhang.bsky.social) (<https://bsky.app/profile/sharonzhang.bsky.social>).

© 2026 Truthout