

Salam Sudan Foundation*

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*[Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere].
Martin Luther King, in a letter from his Birmingham (Alabama) Jail.*

*[And ye shall know the truth,
And the truth will make you free].
John 8:32, The Bible.*

*[Let there arise out of you
A band of people
Inviting to all that is good,
Enjoining what is right,
And forbidding what is wrong:
They are the ones
To attain felicity].
Al-Imran 104, The Qur'ran.*

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20220

March 30, 2001

America's Renewal and Leadership for a World of Justice and Peace

The Honorable George W. Bush,

From a universal, inclusive, spiritual, God-centered and truth-yearning perspective, we believe that oftentimes, political Washington's cynicism, lack of an enlightened long term global vision, ignorance of and stereotyping of other cultures, haste, absence of humility and a dominant hawkish culture of violence characterized many of the previous administrations' foreign policy both in discourse (talking down to other nations) and action (gingerly showering missiles on others on the basis of questionable intelligence).

We also believe that although chauvinism, narrow-mindedness, egocentrism, myopia and ignorance are the root cause of all fundamentalisms, the above American style of conducting international relations contributed, in no small measure, to perpetuating the

ugly-American image and perception of this land and its good people in many parts of the world, fueling hatred and terrorism against its vital national interests worldwide.

Despite its previous problems with slavery, and current problems of racism, the many errors of judgment of a number of your predecessors, and the objective limitations that are the lot of all human endeavors. The land of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Malcolm X, we believe, represents the world's most youthful, fascinating and inspiring ongoing experiment in democratic governance.

As a unique microcosm of the whole wide world, America has the most colorful, diverse and dynamic culture as well as economy. America is also the world's number one in technology, finance, agriculture, mass media and defense.

In a world characterized by the eternal struggle between good and evil, between mediocrity and excellence and the prevalence of a culture of injustice, violence, corruption and selfishness, the land of Jefferson, despite such laws as secret evidence and racial profiling and regrettable police practices which we applaud your declaration to end, should remain a hospitable home, refuge and a haven for the persecuted.

With this in mind, it became our home of choice for which we are immensely grateful and of which we are extremely proud.

The challenge of the new millennium to the America of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, the Party of Lincoln and your presidency is, we believe, daring a new paradigm in international relations based on a more compassionate, inclusive, universal and enlightened dialogue of the World's diverse cultures, civilizations and religions. This is our vision for peace in the world. This is our vision for American renewal at home and American leadership for a global and humane renewal abroad. This is our American dream.

We believe and have been advocating for the last 30 years that American ideals of liberty, democracy and human rights stand to win more by persuasion and an enlightened compassionate-leadership-by-example approach to foreign policy rather than by the globally perceived methods of coercion, cynicism, and a techno-management approach of politics as usual and superficial misleading intelligence.

To move America from the de facto Superpower that it is today, to the undisputed, respected leader of a World renewal that ought to be her mission, America, we believe, should continue the task of putting its house in order by moving seriously to fixing the many ailments bedeviling it starting by better ballot counting machines. That America can then lead by example and action not by mere rhetoric.

The nation should showcase the ideals of justice, peace, democracy, human rights and sustainable and equitable social and economic development within its own borders, which will enhance its role as the best messenger and advocate for these ideals globally.

That America would be the true expression of the goodness inherent in the American people that elected you to lead America and the World at this vital milestone in humanity's history.

As you know, Mr. President, all the scriptures warn us to guard against the evil of arrogance and teach us the goodness of humility. The day this strong and mighty America is no more perceived as arrogant but coming across as a nation of renewal, that is humble and respectful to other cultures, the sun will set on hatred, violence, war and terrorism.

This is why we need to make humility an American value. Herein lies America's challenge. Herein lies America's promise to itself and to humanity. Herein lies your chance for a great legacy.

We applauded you, Mr. President, when you stated during the presidential campaign that while America must be strong, it must also be humble. As immigrants who, like the forefathers, came to this land to avoid persecution, and who cherish the spiritual and human values of our Nile Valley culture of origin, and eager to share the best of it, we believe that while arrogance is a sign of weakness humility is a sign of strength.

We also believe that spirituality, faith and humility are great assets for authentic leadership. And that while the freedom of expression and religious practice in America has no parallel; our real challenge is to make humility an American virtue.

What we respect about you, Mr. President, and made us confident that you have the makings of a great leader, is that, you are a man of faith and unlike many politicians you sound true, inclusive to all Faiths, and eager to lead this nation to the higher values of honor, integrity and civility enshrined in the scriptures.

This could open the way for moving America and Washington from a predominant culture of political warmongering and violence to a more humane culture of justice, compassion and peace. What better legacy for a man of faith!

Finally, we wish your administration, America and the world the best under your strong yet humble, firm yet compassionate, and daring yet wise leadership.

God bless you, Mr. President, and God Bless America's and the World's renewal.
In justice and peace,

Yours respectfully,

Hashim El-Tinay
Founder and President

**[Salam Sudan Foundation is an independent, non-profit and nonpartisan organization. It is dedicated since 1982 to advocating a universal culture of justice, peace, democracy and human rights through research, education, communication and a dialogue of cultures, civilizations and religions].*