



The Honourable Marc Miller  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

October 29, 2024

**RE: Expedition of Applications for temporary immigration measures for Sudanese Canadian family members**

Dear Minister Miller,

I am writing today to urge you to expedite the temporary immigration measures for Sudanese refugees, on behalf of the Sudanese Canadian Association of Waterloo Region, and my constituents in Kitchener Centre with Sudanese-national family members.

I first wrote a letter to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship in May of 2023, expressing concern over the immigration measures for Sudanese-Canadians and their families. In this letter, I called for the prioritization and expedition of processing of Sudanese private refugee sponsorship applications. Since then, problems with the IRCC's temporary immigration measures have been brought to my attention. The IRCC reported they received 7300 applications, all of which are currently being processed. As of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, no approvals have been granted.

The temporary program could and should have provided temporary residency to reduce barriers in order to expedite the process. Instead, the IRCC chose to create a permanent residency program, adding steps and putting people's lives at risk with unnecessary delays. What leaders in my community are saying is that they want to see similar treatment for individuals impacted by conflict in Sudan as they've seen from other countries where civilians are also disproportionately at risk such as in Ukraine, which saw much faster processing times.

Expanding the definition of "family member" for those eligible for temporary immigration measures to include siblings, a measure which I called for in May 2023, was a step in the right direction in allowing for more Sudanese-Canadians' loved ones to benefit from Canada's much-needed assistance.

While these applications remain unprocessed, the situation in Sudan has escalated. An estimated 20 000 people have been killed since the conflict began. Just this week, 45 were killed in an airstrike in Darfur. 17 of these people were children.

Members of and organizations within my community continue to confide in me their frustrations with the temporary immigration measures. Many have family members who were told they would be able to come to Canada starting in 2024, but still have unprocessed applications. As Sudanese-Canadians increase their calls for action in the face of the government's inaction, I am bringing this recommendation forward once more. The processing of Sudanese refugee applications must be prioritized and expedited.

I urge the IRCC to prioritize and expedite the processing of Sudanese applications under the temporary immigration measures to directly assist Sudanese-national family members. Prompt action will ensure that Sudanese refugees can achieve the safety and security they need, and we hope that you take this into consideration.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this ongoing crisis and to work with you to more effectively tailor IRCC's temporary immigration measures to the needs of Sudanese-Canadians and their families. Thank you for the work you do in service of Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morrice".

Mike Morrice  
MP for Kitchener Centre