



One Hundred and Nineteenth Congress
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

April 27, 2026

Josh D’Amaro, Chief Executive Officer
The Walt Disney Company
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521

Dear Mr. D’Amaro,

We are writing as Co-Chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to ask that the Walt Disney Company take a position of moral leadership and cancel its plans to create a theme park resort in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), in response to the UAE government’s role in abetting genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing in Sudan by arming one faction in that country’s civil war.¹

Sudan is not just another country facing turmoil. President Trump said that Sudan “has become the most violent place on earth and ... the single biggest Humanitarian Crisis.”² The scale of suffering, hunger and displacement in Sudan is massive.

As determined by the U.S. government,³ the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and the RSF is responsible for genocide. While other countries also provide arms and other support to the warring parties, the UAE’s direct arming of the genocidal RSF has been particularly egregious. Multiple independent reports, U.S. intelligence reports, and Members of Congress have confirmed that the UAE has been supplying weapons to the RSF.⁴ The consequences of this were

¹ <https://thewaltdisneycompany.com/news/disney-announces-abu-dhabi-theme-park/>

² <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/trump-says-he-will-work-sudan-saudis-request-2025-11-19/>

³ <https://2021-2025.state.gov/genocide-determination-in-sudan-and-imposing-accountability-measures/>

⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/05/sudan-advanced-chinese-weaponry-provided-by-uae-identified-in-breach-of-arms-embargo-new-investigation/>; <https://www.wsj.com/world/how-u-a-e-arms-bolstered-a-sudanese-militia-accused-of-genocide-781b9803>; <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/news/press-releases/van-hollen-jacobs-confirm-uae-providing-weapons-to-rsf-in-sudan-in-contradiction-to-its-assurances-to-us>

seen most recently in El Fasher where tens of thousands of people are believed to have been killed amid widespread sexual and ethnically targeted violence.⁵

Given this context, the fact that the Walt Disney Company is working with a UAE company to co-develop a Disney-branded theme park in the country and previously opened two Disney stores in Dubai in 2025, is very troubling. This partnership serves to give the UAE government public relations cover to obscure and whitewash its role in fueling the genocide and crimes against humanity in Sudan.

Disney has built its global reputation on values of imagination, inclusion, and integrity. We do not believe that the Walt Disney Company's branding relationship in the UAE is consistent with its stated commitment to social responsibility, and that it threatens to overshadow them. We note calls by a global coalition, No Business with Genocide, for Disney to cancel its theme park in the UAE.⁶

We urge you to reconsider your investments in the UAE and instead use Disney's offices to express concern to the UAE about its material support for the RSF and to use the league's public platform to express solidarity with the Sudanese people. Further, we urge that the Walt Disney Company align its global business practices with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.⁷

We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss this matter. Thank you for your attention to our request.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Co-Chair, TLHRC



Christopher H. Smith
Co-Chair, TLHRC

⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/meeting-summaries/2025/11/human-rights-council-calls-urgent-inquiry-recent-alleged-violations?sub-site=HRC>

⁶ <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/disney-dont-support-genocide-in-sudan/>

⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/reference-publications/guiding-principles-business-and-human-rights>