



One Hundred and Nineteenth Congress
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

April 27, 2026

David Zaslav, President and CEO
Warner Bros. Discovery
4000 Warner Boulevard
Burbank, CA 91522

Dear Mr. Zaslav,

We are writing as Co-Chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to ask that the Warner Bros. Discovery take a position of moral leadership and closing its indoor theme park on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and by ending all engagement with private entities, such as Emirates NBD and Etihad, that enable its continued operation. We make this request in light of 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://www.wbworldabudhabi.com/en/park-overview>

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, it is deeply troubling that Warner Bros. Discovery continues to partner with the United Arab Emirates and to advance this relationship through its indoor theme park on Yas Island. This partnership risks providing the UAE government with public-relations cover, allowing it to obscure and effectively entertainment-wash its role in fueling genocide and crimes against humanity in Sudan.

Warner Bros. has built its global reputation on values of imagination, inclusion, and integrity, collaboration, and innovation. We do not believe that the presence of Warner Bros.'s theme park in the UAE is consistent with its stated commitment to social responsibility, and that it threatens to overshadow them.

We urge you to reconsider your theme park presence and investments in the UAE and instead use Warner Bros.'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 Warner Bros. Discovery to align its global business practices with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.⁶

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