

U.S. Sanctions Target Food and Agriculture

On May 29, President George Bush announced unilateral economic sanctions on three named Sudanese individuals and 31 companies. The sanctions ban Sudan from doing business with any U.S. company or bank. These latest 31 firms bring the total of Sudanese companies listed by the U.S. for sanctions, to 132, since Washington started the process in 1997. Eight of the 31 companies are farm- or food-related:

- Arab Sudanese Blue Nile Agricultural Company
- Arab Sudanese Seed Company
- Arab Sudanese Vegetable Oil Company
- Guneid Sugar Company Limited
- New Halfa Sugar Factory Company Limited
- Sennar Sugar Company Limited
- Sudanese Sugar Production Company Limited
- Sudan Gezira Board

The Gezira Board is involved in one of the most productive and vital agriculture regions in all of Africa. Four other companies deal with sugar—the mainstay of caloric intake in the diet of the poor in Sudan.

Two other companies are pharmaceuticals:

- Wafra Pharma Laboratories
- Alfarachem Company Limited

Also on the list are four infrastructure enterprises:

- Sudan Advanced Railways
- Advanced Engineering Works
- Advanced Mining Works Company Limited
- Sudan Telecommunications Company Limited (handling cell phone operations in Sudan; foreign-owned)

Five petrochemical companies have been newly listed. The complete list is available from the U.S. Treasury Department. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson gave as the reason for the broad sweep of companies hit: “These companies have supplied cash to the Bashir regime, enabling it to purchase arms and further fuel the fighting in Darfur.”—*Doug DeGroot*