

Petition for Recognition, Accountability, and Reparations for Crimes Against Humanity Arising from the Conversion of African Prisoners of War into Permanent Enslavement.

PETITIONERS

African/Black peoples, descendant communities, civil society organizations, and allies acting in the public interest.

RESPONDENTS

1. **The African Union (AU)**
2. **Arab States and Arab-Islamic successor authorities that exercised effective control over enslavement systems**

CORE STATEMENT

From the 7th century CE onward, African prisoners of war and forcibly detained civilians were systematically **converted into permanent, inheritable, and commodified property** by Arab and Arab-ruled authorities. This conversion—through sale, forced labor, sexual ownership, inheritance, and lifelong domination—constitutes **Crimes Against Humanity** under customary international law.

KEY FACTS (SUMMARY)

- Captured Africans were denied POW protections such as release or exchange.
- They were sold in markets, taxed by states, inherited as property, and transported across deserts and seas.
- Sexual exploitation and hereditary status were legally authorized.
- The system operated for over thirteen centuries until this very day and affected millions

LEGAL BASIS

- **Crimes Against Humanity** include enslavement: the exercise of powers attaching to the right of ownership over a person.
- The unlawful conversion of prisoners of war into permanent property status constitutes enslavement regardless of initial capture.

- Such crimes are **imprescriptible** and not subject to statutes of limitation.

RESPONSIBILITY

Arab States: Exercised effective control over markets, trade routes, fiscal systems, and legal regimes authorizing ownership and exploitation.

African Union: Holds legal personality and positive obligations to protect African peoples' rights to truth, dignity, and remedy. Continued silence and inaction constitute a **continuing internationally wrongful act**.

DEMANDS

Petitioners respectfully demand:

1. Formal recognition of these acts as **Crimes Against Humanity**.
2. Establishment of an independent **Truth, Accountability, and Reparations Commission**.
3. Diplomatic and legal engagement with responsible Arab states.
4. Reparative restitution and development measures for affected African regions.

DECLARATION

The issue is not lawful wartime capture, but the **systematic transformation of African prisoners into permanent objects of ownership**. Justice requires acknowledgment, accountability, and repair.

We therefore petition for immediate action.