

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 16, 2013
To: Department of State CA/OCS/ACS/AF
From: Embassy Khartoum
Subject: Deaths: Disposition of Remains Report for Sudan

REF: 7FAM 251

The following is submitted to update the Disposition of Remains Report of 2009 in order to provide current information on Sudanese law and prices on the disposition of remains. All values are indicated in USD (United States Dollars). It is important to note that since 1997 the United States Government has maintained economic and financial sanctions against Sudan, which limits the ability of U.S. financial institutions to interact with Sudanese entities. It is suggested that any transfer of funds to pay for burial or other costs be done via a Department of State's Consular Affairs Citizen Services trust account as outlined at www.travel.state.gov.

A. Maximum Period Before Interment

Sudanese law does not place a time limit for burial, but three days is the reasonable period expected to finalize all proceedings including embalming, coffin arrangements, and subsequent burial or shipping. Sudanese practice is to bury the deceased as soon as possible. Muslims are buried in shrouds and non-Muslims in coffins. The only facility for storage is the government mortuary attached to Khartoum Teaching Hospital. The facility is capable of storing up to 20 bodies. Storage costs \$100.00 per day.

B. Embalming

Embalming must be arranged with the pathologist who is connected with the Ministry of Health. The quality of preparation is adequate, but a mortician should examine the body on arrival in the United States to determine whether additional preparation is required for an open casket funeral. The cost of embalming and related charges is approximately \$3,000.00

C. Cremation

Cremation is allowed, but there are no formal facilities available in Sudan for that purpose. The Sudanese Indian community has performed cremations from time to time, but Indian tradition is to spread the ashes, rather than place them in an urn. Prices and specific practices are not set and must be negotiated.

D. Caskets and Containers

The Khartoum Teaching hospital sometimes has caskets, which are adequate for export of remains. The cost of a coffin is approximately \$800.00. A local carpenter also has been known to make coffins acceptable for international shipment. The cost of one of those coffins may be as much as \$500.00, but the price varies depending on actual cost for materials and time.

Coffins for local interment are available for approximately \$350.00

E. Export of Remains

Local requirements for the export of human remains include:

1. Embalming
2. Transport authorization from the Ministry of External Relations
3. Letter from next of kin authorizing Embassy to make arrangements for shipment of remains.
4. Medical report of death (4 copies)
5. Copy of official death certificate from Sudanese Civil Authorities
6. Mortuary Certificate
7. Medical embalming certificate
8. Customs Clearance
9. Ministry of Health clearance

Costs

All costs are denominated in USD. The current consular rate of exchange is Sudanese Pound 5.8 Sudanese Pounds to USD 1.00. As mentioned above, it is difficult to transfer funds directly to Sudan. American citizens should visit www.travel.state.gov to obtain information concerning monetary transfers via a Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs trust account.

| | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Local interment without embalming | \$650.00 |
| a) Casket for local burial (negotiable) | \$350.00 |
| b) Casket for burial in U.S.A | \$580.00 |
| c) Charge for burial plot/grave preparation (negotiable) | \$150.00 |
| d) Donation for clergyman performing ceremony (suggested) | \$150.00 |
| 2. Embalming: | \$3,000.00 |
| 3. Local interment with embalming | \$3650.00 |
| 4. Preparation for shipment including container, embalming, documentation, casket, and delivery to airport. | \$3,800.00 |

If death occurs outside of Khartoum, an additional charge must be added to estimates of mileage and transportation costs between Khartoum and the major cities of Sudan. All costs are in USD.

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|------------|----------|
| Dongola | \$246.00 |
| El Fasheer | \$576.00 |
| El Obeid | \$270.00 |
| Port Sudan | \$520.00 |

The above estimates are figured on the basis of expenses of transporting a body to Khartoum. All transport is by air, as land transport is impractical. Final preparations for shipment will be made in Khartoum.

6. Airfreight

Average weight of casket and containers required for export of remains is 250 KGS. Below are approximate prices in USD for air shipment from Khartoum to various points in the continental United States:

| <u>Khartoum to:</u> | <u>USD RATE/KG</u> | <u>USD TOTAL</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Boston, MA | \$14.85 | \$3,713.00 |
| Chicago, IL | \$16.10 | \$4,025.00 |
| Dallas, TX | \$16.65 | \$4,163.00 |
| Los Angeles, CA | \$17.50 | \$4,375.00 |
| New York, NY | \$15.00 | \$3,750.00 |
| Washington, DC | \$15.50 | \$3,875.00 |

7. Total Cost

Below are the approximate prices for preparation and freight of shipment of remains from Khartoum to several U.S. cities. All costs are in USD and have been provided by a local cargo carrier.

| <u>Khartoum To:</u> | <u>USD TOTAL</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Boston, MA | \$7,513.00 |
| Chicago, IL | \$7,825.00 |
| Dallas, TX | \$7,963.00 |
| Los Angeles, CA | \$8,175.00 |
| New York, NY | \$7,550.00 |
| Washington, DC | \$7,675.00 |

F. Exhumation and shipment

Non-Sudanese are rarely interred in Sudan; their remains are generally transported out of the country. Exhumation is permitted only once six months have passed since burial. A court order is required before exhumation can occur. Since exhumation is rarely performed in Sudan, there are no established prices for the service. Costs will vary depending on the cemetery.

Useful Contacts

1. Dr. Ogail Swaraeldahab
 Director of Mortuary, Khartoum Teaching Hospital
 Mobile: 09-123-00998 - 0916935302

2. Dr. Sabir Makki
 A/Director Mortuary, Khartoum Teaching Hospital
 Mobile: 09-122-24956

3. Lufthansa Cargo
 Khartoum International Airport
 Tel: 183-787560/781700
 Mobile: 09-123-49073 (Adil)

4. K.S Ganbert & sons (Sudan) LTD.
 Gamhuria Av. -Khartoum- Sudan.
 Tel: 183-771312.
 General Manager: Kastaki Ganbert.
 e-mail : kastaki@ganbert.com
 Tel: 09123-02294.

5. Mr. Abdelrahim Hamed Mohamed
Casket Maker/Carpenter
Mobile: 09-126-05500

Last updated : January 16, 2013