

Debate Pack

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By Louisa Brooke-Holland
(subject specialist),
Tim Robinson (compiler)

Human rights and religious minorities in Sudan

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1 Background

A debate on human rights and religious minorities in Sudan is scheduled for Thursday 23 February 2023 in Westminster Hall, from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. The debate will be led by Jim Shannon MP.

1.1 Human rights and religious minorities in Sudan

New agreement for a civilian-led government

Sudanese politics remains in flux following the overthrow of long-time leader President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. A civilian-led coalition government lasted until October 2021, when the military, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, took over in a coup. A [state of emergency imposed following the coup was lifted](#) in May 2022.

In December 2022 the [military leadership signed an agreement](#) with some civilian leaders to a two-year civilian-led transition.

The [UK Government welcomed the signing of the political framework agreement](#), describing it as an “an essential first step toward establishing a civilian-led government and defining constitutional arrangements to guide Sudan through a transitional period culminating in elections.”

But the Government also [warned of the severe consequences of delaying a final agreement](#) to form such a government, describing the need to address Sudan’s urgent humanitarian and economic challenges.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, also welcomed the signing of the framework agreement. Referencing a recent trip to Sudan, he said he was “[touched by the will of the Sudanese people to envision the future of the country anchored in human rights and justice.](#)”

However, the agreement is opposed by several groups, and it is unclear when or if a new transitional government will be established.

FCDO Human Rights and Democracy Report 2021

The UK Government says the coup “[put many of the gains on human rights made since the 2019 revolution at risk.](#)” The FCDO documents the deterioration of human rights in its [human rights and democracy report 2021](#), published in December 2022.

The FCDO notes that following the coup, Sudanese people’s rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, association and expression were “severely limited”,

and many of the media freedoms gained since the 2019 revolution “were reversed.”

On human rights, the FCDO noted that while the former civilian-led government took some positive steps on human rights reforms, overall progress on delivering justice and accountability for past human rights violations and abuses was limited. The Government commits to urging the Sudanese authorities to “[continue the former civilian-led government’s previous human rights trajectory to ensure hard-won gains are not lost.](#)”

UN Human Rights Council action

Following the coup, the [UK led a Human Rights Council Special Session](#) on the situation in Sudan in November 2021. The Council adopted a resolution calling for the protection of human rights and the appointment of an expert to monitor the situation of human rights in Sudan. Adama Dieng was subsequently designated the expert.

Dieng [visited Sudan in February and June 2022](#). While he welcomed the lifting of the state of emergency, he said “more bold and concrete actions are needed to improve the human rights situation and build confidence”. He described as “unacceptable” the 99 people killed and more than 5,000 injured “[as a result of excessive use of force by the joint security forces responding to protests.](#)”

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted a report to the UN Human Rights Council’s 50th session in June and July 2022 ([A/HRC/50/22](#)). The report covers the period from 25 October 2021 (the coup) to 10 April 2022.

The report documents the excessive use of force by security forces in response to peaceful protests against the coup. 93 people had been killed and over 5,000 persons injured “as a result of unnecessary and disproportionate use of force”, as of 10 April 2022. The report also documents the arbitrary arrest and detention of 1,293 people linked to the coup or protests against the coup during the reporting period, including the arrest of 157 children. The report also documents human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, against women and girls. The report also noted [the broader restrictions imposed](#) since October 2021:

Since the coup, the curtailing of the rights to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly and association has severely restricted the space for private and public expression and exchange of information and ideas, also affecting the enjoyment and exercise of other rights.

Radhouane Nouicer replaced Dieng as the designated UN expert on the situation of the human rights in Sudan on 16 December 2022. During a visit to Sudan in early 2023, Nouicer called for accountability for abuse, saying “[the immunity from prosecution of members of the security forces implicated in human rights violations must be lifted](#)”.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights [will update the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council](#) on 3 March 2023. A [comprehensive report will be submitted to the Council](#) in June 2023.

Further information from the [Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights](#) is available from the OHCHR website.

Sudan was re-elected to the Human Rights Council in October 2022. When asked about impact on the credibility of the Council of Sudan's election by Lyn Brown MP, Andrew Mitchell, the Minister for Development, said the Government hopes Sudan will use its presence as "[an opportunity to demonstrate to the international community its commitment to international human rights law and to bringing those responsible for human rights violations to justice.](#)"

Reports on abuses of human rights and religious freedom

[Human Rights Watch's World Report 2023](#) notes that widespread abuses and attacks against civilians in Darfur continue. Security forces have been used across the country to suppress protests against the coup, with [at least 117 people killed](#) in the year since the October 2021 coup.

Rebecca Tinsley, of the human rights group Waging Peace, describes how Christians are "[once more being persecuted by the Khartoum military junta.](#)" Writing in the Church Times, Tinsley says the removal of Bashir in 2019 appeared to bring hope of an end to the persecution of Christians in Sudan, with the transitional government vowing to abolish laws discriminating against Christians. However, Tinsley reports that since the 2021 coup, church property has been attacked and confiscated, and leaders harassed and detained. Further reports are available from the [Waging Peace website](#).

Lyn Brown MP [raised the case of the reported ill-treatment of two Sudanese teenagers](#), Mohamed Adam and Ahmed al-Nanna, detained by security forces in February 2023, a year after [their case was raised by Amnesty International](#). Andrew Mitchell said "[reports of individuals being subjected to ill-treatment, including as part of judicial proceedings, is extremely troubling.](#)"

Humanitarian situation

[According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(UNOCHA\)](#):

- 15.8 million people need assistance in 2023
- 3.7 million internally displaced people, including over 350,000 displaced in 2022
- 45% of funding required (\$862 million of £1.9 billion)
- Malaria, hepatitis, measles and dengue fever outbreaks were reported in 2022

In December 2022 the UN and humanitarian partners launched the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, aiming to respond to the needs of 12.5 million people at a cost of \$1.7 billion. More details are available in the [2023 Humanitarian Responses Plan](#).

Legacy of past conflicts

Sudan continues to address the legacy of the conflict in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and the civil war in South Sudan.

2023 is the 20th anniversary of the start of the conflict in Darfur, and the [APPG on Sudan and South Sudan is holding an inquiry into Darfur](#), chaired by Lord Alton of Liverpool.

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Press releases

[The UK urges the Sudanese authorities to enhance their cooperation with the International Criminal Court: UK Statement at the UN Security Council](#)
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
25 January 2023

President, I thank the Prosecutor for the thirty-sixth report on the Situation in Darfur, pursuant to Resolution 1593 and for his presentation today.

We welcome the swift progress made in the trial of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman as a historic step towards seeking accountability for survivors and affected communities in Darfur after many years. In this light, the UK would like to commend the ICC's tireless commitment for more than 17 years to help deliver justice for the people of Darfur.

The trial of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman has enabled victims and witnesses to courageously tell their stories and to demonstrate to other victims that justice can be delivered. Such progress is an example of how strong cooperation with the ICC can translate into meaningful action.

It is therefore deeply disappointing that sufficient cooperation has been lacking from the Sudanese authorities, despite their reassurances to the Chief Prosecutor during his visits to Sudan.

Stronger engagement would demonstrate that the Sudanese authorities are serious about delivering their commitments on transitional justice, as outlined in the 2020 Juba Peace Agreement and the initial Framework Agreement signed 5th December 2022.

The UK urges the Sudanese authorities to immediately enhance their cooperation with the Court, in three areas in particular:

Firstly, we call on the Sudanese authorities to provide prompt access to Sudan, including unimpeded access to documentary archives and witnesses relevant to the Court's investigations.

Secondly, a permanent presence is vital for the Office of the Prosecutor to deepen its engagement with affected communities. We therefore urge the Sudanese authorities to help facilitate the establishment of a field office in Khartoum, and to remove the unnecessary bureaucratic impediments preventing Court staff from being granted multiple-entry visas to Sudan and to give access to ICC staff to Darfur.

Thirdly, the UK calls on the Sudanese authorities to respond swiftly to the Court's outstanding requests for assistance, noting that 34 requests currently remain outstanding, with no responses received in the current reporting period.

Finally, Mr President, we welcome and encourage the continuation of cooperation between the Court and third States, which has proved vital, particularly in the absence of sufficient cooperation from the Sudanese authorities.

The UK would like to reiterate our support to the Court in delivering justice for the people of Darfur. In this respect, we call for action to deliver on the four ICC warrants which remain outstanding in the Darfur situation, and we continue to call for the surrender of Mr Banda, who remains a fugitive from justice.

Urging all Sudanese parties to unite behind a civilian-led government

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

7 December 2022

Thank you President. And thank you also to SRSR Perthes for his briefing today and for the continued herculean efforts of UNITAMS. I also welcome the presence of the Permanent Representative of Sudan in our meeting

President, first, I would like to welcome the signing of the political framework agreement as an important step toward a return to a civilian-led transitional government in Sudan.

The efforts by all parties involved to agree on genuinely civilian-led transitional governance arrangements are commendable.

But, there is much more to be done. We now urge all Sudanese parties to urgently unite behind a final agreement to form a civilian-led government.

The United Kingdom condemns the killing of two more protestors in the reporting period and calls for the security forces to exercise maximum restraint and to respect the right to peaceful protest.

Second, we should be clear that the consequences of delay in reaching a final agreement would be severe.

Approximately one third of Sudan's population is projected to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023. A concerted effort to finalise negotiations is essential to address Sudan's urgent humanitarian and economic challenges.

A civilian-led transitional government can put the country on the road to recovery and allow for the full resumption of international support. The United Kingdom is working with partners to coordinate significant economic support to a civilian-led transitional government once it is formed.

Third, as SRSG Perthes told us, the security situation across Sudan also remains fragile. We reiterate our deep concern about the significant violence in Blue Nile State and West Kordofan.

We urge the Sudanese authorities to implement the security arrangements of the Juba Peace Agreement, engage with the impacted communities to restore peace, and fulfil their responsibility to protect civilians.

To conclude, President, the United Kingdom commends the compromises made by all parties to agree the initial political framework.

We call for an inclusive dialogue on the outstanding issues to commence without delay, and support a strong role for UNITAMS, along with the AU and IGAD, in facilitating these Sudanese-led negotiations.

The United Kingdom is committed to supporting Sudan's journey to democracy, and the realisation of the Sudanese people's calls for freedom, peace and justice.

And we hope that the Council will be able to give collective public expression to the latest developments in a Press Statement shortly.

[Constitutional arrangements in Sudan: Quad and Troika joint statement, December 2022](#)

**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
5 December 2022**

Statement from Norway, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the UK and the USA:

“Members of the Quad and Troika (Norway, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States) welcome the agreement of an initial political framework. This is an essential first step toward establishing a civilian-led government and defining constitutional arrangements to guide Sudan through a transitional period culminating in elections. We commend the parties' efforts to garner support for this framework agreement from a broad range of Sudanese actors and their call for continued, inclusive dialogue on all issues of concern and cooperation to build the future of Sudan.

“We urge all Sudanese actors to engage in this dialogue urgently and in good faith. We acknowledge the military has made clear it is ready to step back from politics and engage constructively in the ongoing dialogue. We call on all parties to put Sudan’s national interest above narrow political ends. We also fully support the UNITAMS-AU-IGAD (the Tripartite Mechanism) role in facilitating these negotiations and call on all parties to do the same. Quad and Troika members support this Sudanese-led process and condemn spoilers attempting to restrict political space and undermine Sudan’s stability and democratic transition.

“A concerted effort to finalize negotiations and reach agreement quickly to form a new civilian-led government is essential to address Sudan’s urgent political, economic, security, and humanitarian challenges. This is the key to unlocking the resumption of international development assistance and deeper cooperation between the government of Sudan and international partners. We are working with partners to coordinate significant economic support to a civilian-led transitional government to help address the challenges facing the people of Sudan.”

Calling on the Sudanese to immediately enhance their cooperation with the International Criminal Court

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

24 August 2022

Mr President, I thank the Prosecutor for the thirty-fifth report on the Situation in Darfur, pursuant to Resolution 1593.

I also thank the Prosecutor for his briefing to this Council, and welcome this being delivered during the Prosecutor’s second visit to Sudan, as a sign of the Court’s unwavering commitment to help deliver justice for the people of Darfur.

In this light, the UK welcomes the progress made in the trial of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman, in which 28 witnesses have provided evidence since April. It is testament to the victims’ courage and patience for them to tell their stories after two decades, and represents a vital step towards seeking accountability for all survivors and affected communities in Darfur.

This historic moment demonstrates how enhanced cooperation can translate into meaningful action in the pursuit of justice. It is our sincere hope that this initial step begins to deliver justice for the people of Darfur, and helps to break the cycle of impunity that exists across Sudan.

However, Mr President, it is regrettable that sufficient cooperation has been lacking from the Sudanese authorities since last October’s military coup. This

puts at risk the progress that the previous Government of Sudan had been able to make with the Court.

The UK therefore urges the Sudanese authorities to immediately enhance their cooperation with the Court.

Firstly, we call for the Sudanese authorities to engage in helping to facilitate the establishment of a field office in Khartoum. A permanent presence is vital for the Office of the Prosecutor to continuously deepen its engagement with affected communities and to facilitate stronger cooperation with the Sudanese authorities.

Secondly, the UK urges the Sudanese authorities to respond swiftly to the Court's outstanding requests for assistance, noting the Court have only had a response to two of the seventeen requests they have made in the last six months. We also urge the Sudanese authorities to provide unimpeded access to the documentation and witnesses that the Court have identified.

Finally, Mr President, the UK would like to commend the ICC's tireless efforts in delivering justice for the people of Darfur, and reiterate our support to the Court in this endeavour. In this respect we call for action to deliver on the four ICC warrants which remain outstanding in the Darfur situation, and we continue to call for the surrender of Mr Banda, who remains a fugitive from the Court.

Troika Statement on Sudan on the occasion of Eid al-Adha
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
13 July 2022

“The members of the Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States) and the European Union extend our warm wishes to the Sudanese people at the conclusion of Eid al-Adha.

“Eight months after the military takeover we note the announcement by Sovereign Council Chair General Burhan that the military forces will cease participation in political talks. We acknowledge the stated intention of the military forces, upon agreement among civilian parties to form a transitional government, to withdraw from the political scene. The military and security forces should be held to this commitment. They must also end violence against civilians and hold to account those responsible for unlawful killings and other human rights violations and abuses.

“We encourage all political actors committed to the democratic transition to engage swiftly in an inclusive dialogue to form a civilian-led transitional government. This process must deliver an agreement that defines: a clear timeline for free and fair elections; procedures for selecting a transitional

prime minister and other key officials; and a dispute resolution mechanism to help avoid future political crises.

“A transitional government must be civilian-led, and have broad-based, nation-wide support. There must also be full clarity on, and oversight of, the military’s role and responsibilities. Such matters cannot be defined unilaterally by the military; they require dialogue and transparency to help avoid future disputes.

“We commend the tripartite initiative of the United Nations, African Union, and Intergovernmental Authority on Development to facilitate such an inclusive dialogue and support their continued efforts.

“Nearly three years since Sudan began its transition to democracy, we deeply regret the continued loss of life, and reversal of important economic and political progress. We commend the devotion of the Sudanese people to a more peaceful and just future and honor the sacrifices of those who have lost their lives in support of democracy. The Troika and the European Union look forward to supporting a transitional civilian government that enjoys popular support, reflecting the hope and aspirations we share with the Sudanese people.”

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PQs

Sudan: Development Aid

23 Jan 2023 | 123971

Asked by: Chris Law

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how much Official Development Assistance he plans to allocate to Sudan in (a) 2022, (b) 2023 and (c) 2024.

Answering member: Mr Andrew Mitchell | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The FCDO is committed to transparency with the public and predictability with our partners. We will update on planned Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocations for this Spending Review period in due course.

Mohammed Adam and Ahmed al-Nanna

12 Jan 2023 | 114605

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if his Department will make representations to their counterparts in Sudan about the cases and reports of ill-treatment of Mohamed Adam and Ahmed al-Nanna.

Answering member: Mr Andrew Mitchell | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK welcomed the progress on political reforms made in Sudan under Prime Minister Hamdok's government, including the ratification of the UN Convention against Torture. Since the military coup on 25 October 2021, these gains have been put at risk. Reports of individuals being subjected to ill-treatment, including as part of judicial proceedings, is extremely troubling. The UK has condemned the human rights violations that have taken place since the coup and have raised these issues in international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council and directly with the Sudanese authorities. We continue to call for those responsible for human rights violations to be held to account.

Sudan: Democracy

30 Dec 2022 | HL4174

Asked by: The Earl of Sandwich

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the latest agreement between the Army and civilian organisations in Sudan, and (2) whether this agreement will support the development of a democratic government in that country.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Minister for Africa and Development joined the other members of the Quad (KSA, UAE and US) and the Troika (US and Norway), as well as the Friends of Sudan in welcoming the signing of an initial framework agreement on 5 December as an essential first step towards establishing a civilian-led government in Sudan. We urge all Sudanese actors to engage constructively in the ongoing dialogue to secure a democratic transition. The UK supports the role of the tripartite mechanism (UN-AU-IGAD) in facilitating negotiations and calls on parties to do the same. A concerted effort by all parties to reach a final political agreement is crucial to address Sudan's current economic, political and humanitarian challenges.

Sudan: Humanitarian Aid

22 Dec 2022 | HL4175

Asked by: The Earl of Sandwich

To ask His Majesty's Government whether the international community, including the UK, retain any recognised role in Darfur, Sudan, as a humanitarian shield for the local population; and if not, what protection remains for non-governmental organisations in that country.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK continues to provide support to those affected by the ongoing violence in Darfur and has provided over £250 million in humanitarian assistance to Sudan over the past five years; much of which has been allocated to Darfur. The UK works closely with the UN mission in Sudan (UNITMAS) to support its mandated tasks. This includes assisting the Sudanese authorities to implement the Juba Peace Agreement and their National Plan for the Protection of Civilians to help establish a secure environment and address instability in regions such as Darfur. We have consistently sought to maintain attention on the humanitarian situation in Darfur; by raising this issue at the UN Security Council and advocating for the Sudanese military to allow unfettered humanitarian access to allow support to reach those in need.

Sudan: Sexual Offences

09 Dec 2022 | HL3842

Asked by: Baroness Goudie

To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they have had at the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative regarding sexual violence in (1) Sudan, and (2) South Sudan.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK Government are working in both Sudan and South Sudan to address Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). The Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) International Conference was an important opportunity to raise awareness and work together on these issues. The Government of South Sudan was represented at the conference, endorsed the CRSV Political Declaration and made a national commitment to prevent CRSV in South Sudan. South Sudan's Defence Minister and several civil society actors participated in panels on CRSV prevention, reparations and peacebuilding. The Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict met the South Sudanese Ministerial delegation to press for urgent action to address CRSV in South Sudan.

Sudan: Democracy

29 Nov 2022 | 92198

Asked by: Harriet Baldwin

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will take steps to set out a (a) strategy and (b) timetable to work with (i) Sudan and (ii) the wider international community to help Sudan transition to democracy.

Answering member: Mr Andrew Mitchell | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Working with international partners, including the Troika (UK, US and Norway), we are supporting Sudanese efforts to resolve the current political crisis through the establishment of a civilian-led government. We continue to urge Sudanese actors to swiftly reach an agreement on this. This message was delivered by the UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan, and the UK Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea during a visit to Khartoum in September, as well as by the British Ambassador to Sudan. However, the UK's strategy and possible timeframes on working with Sudan and the international community must be guided by the wishes of the Sudanese people, it is essential that Sudan's journey to a democratic transition is Sudanese-led.

Sudan: UN Human Rights Council

29 Nov 2022 | 92148

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the impact on the credibility of the UN Human Rights Council of the election of Sudan to that body on 11 October 2022; and what recent discussions he has had with the African Union on consistency between nominations to the UN Human Rights Council, African Union policy on the suspension of Sudan from its membership and African Union policies on human rights, impunity and elected civilian governance.

Answering member: Mr Andrew Mitchell | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK condemns the human rights violations that have taken place in Sudan since the coup and have consistently called for Sudanese authorities to end violence against protestors and to fulfil their obligation to protect civilians. We hope that Sudan uses its re-election to the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) on 11 October as an opportunity to demonstrate to the international community its commitment to international human rights law and to bringing those responsible for human rights violations to justice. The UK continues to support the HRC in its work to promote and protect human rights across the globe.

Sudan: Violence

21 Nov 2022 | HL3237

Asked by: Baroness Cox

To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Sudan regarding recent outbreaks of violence in the Blue Nile State.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We condemn the recent violence in the Blue Nile State and have met with national authorities to urge de-escalation and to allow unfettered humanitarian access; a message our Ambassador to Sudan reiterated in a tweet on 21 October. On 27 October, the UK along with partners, also secured an Any Other Business (AOB) discussion on the violence in the UN Security Council to highlight the responsibility of the Sudanese authorities to protect civilians. During initial violence in Blue Nile State in July, the UK provided around £550,000 humanitarian support to those affected in the region through our partners, including the multi-donor Sudan Humanitarian Fund. We continue to monitor the situation closely and press Sudanese authorities to deliver their obligation to protect civilians.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

21 Nov 2022 | 84849

Asked by: Tim Farron

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help mitigate the conflict in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states in the Republic of Sudan.

Answering member: Mr Andrew Mitchell | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We condemn the recent violence in the Blue Nile State and South Kordofan. We have met with the Sudanese authorities and urged them to allow unfettered humanitarian access; a message our Ambassador to Sudan reiterated in a tweet on 21 October. On 27 October, the UK along with partners, also secured an Any Other Business (AOB) discussion on the recent violence in the UN Security Council, to highlight the responsibility of the Sudanese authorities to protect civilians. During initial violence in Blue Nile State in July, the UK provided approximately £550,000 in humanitarian support to those affected in the region through our partners, including the multi-donor Sudan Humanitarian Fund. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and press Sudanese authorities to deliver their obligation to protect civilians.

Sudan: Humanitarian Aid

15 Nov 2022 | HL3094

Asked by: Baroness Goudie

To ask His Majesty's Government what humanitarian support they have provided to combat violence against women and girls in Sudan.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK continues to call for sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in Sudan to end. We have raised our concerns at human rights violations in international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council and Security Council, and directly with the Sudanese authorities. The UK has also provided significant support to the Sudanese led-movement to end female genital mutilation (FGM). Working with UN partners at the community level in Sudan, the UK has helped to change behaviours towards FGM by facilitating community dialogue, working with religious leaders and providing training for medical professionals.

Sudan: Demonstrations

28 Oct 2022 | 71013

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of protesters a) injured and b) killed during anti-coup protests in Sudan in the last 12 months; and what steps he is taking to hold those responsible to account.

Answering member: Leo Docherty | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK has repeatedly condemned the actions of the Sudanese security forces against protestors. The Sudan Central Doctors Committee has confirmed that 119 protestors have been killed since the military coup on 25 October 2021, with many more injured. We have called for those responsible for abuses to be held accountable. On 24 October 2022 the UK, with partners, released a statement urging the security forces to refrain from using violence against protestors ahead of the one year anniversary of the coup. We continue to call on the Sudanese authorities to fulfill their obligation to protect the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly across Sudan. The UK's Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan delivered this message directly to the Sudanese authorities most recently on 27 September 2022 in Khartoum. We continue to call for an end to the political crisis through the establishment of a civilian-led government in Sudan.

Sudan: Torture

29 Sep 2022 | 51562

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he is taking to support Sudan in ensuring that the criminal justice system in that country conforms to Article 15 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; whether his Department will monitor the Sudanese authorities' progress in ensuring evidence obtained by torture and other ill-treatment is excluded from all judicial proceedings in Sudan; and what steps he is taking to sanction those responsible for the torture of civilians in Sudan.

Answering member: Gillian Keegan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK welcomed the good progress on political reforms made in Sudan under Prime Minister Hamdok's government, including the ratification of the UN Convention against Torture. Since the military coup on 25 October 2021, however, these gains have been put at risk. The reports of protestors being subjected to torture and ill-treatment, including as part of judicial proceedings, is extremely troubling. The FCDO have repeatedly condemned

the actions of Sudan's security forces against protestors following the coup. We continue to raise this issue with the Sudanese authorities and at international fora, including the UN Human Rights Council and call for all violence against protestors to stop and for those responsible for abuses to be held accountable.

Darfur: Detainees

22 Sep 2022 | 47487

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's policies of reports that 197 people have been detained by the Rapid Support Forces in West Darfur.

Answering member: Gillian Keegan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We have raised our concerns with the Sudanese authorities, most recently during a visit to Khartoum by the Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan, as well as at the UN Security Council. We will continue to press the Sudanese authorities to deliver their obligation to protect civilians, and push for those responsible for abuses to be held to account. The UK supports the International Criminal Court Prosecutor in his important work to investigate human rights abuses in Darfur, and regularly raises human rights concerns in Sudan at international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council.

The UK has repeatedly called for the Sudanese authorities to accelerate implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement to help address violence and instability in Darfur and other historically marginalised areas in Sudan. The fragile security situation across the country has been exacerbated by the ongoing political crisis and underlines the urgent need for an agreement which re-establishes a civilian-led government.

Sudan: Conflict Resolution

26 Jul 2022 | 39791

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps she is taking to support de-escalation of recent violence in Blue Nile State of Sudan.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The recent violence in the Blue Nile State is troubling and my thoughts are with those affected. We urge all parties to avoid escalation and engage in

dialogue to prevent further conflict; a message our Ambassador to Sudan delivered publicly on 18 July. The UK is providing humanitarian support to those affected through our partners, including the multi-donor Sudan Humanitarian Fund. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and press Sudanese authorities to deliver their obligation to protect civilians.

Maryam Alsyed Tiyrab

22 Jul 2022 | HL1762

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Sudan regarding the death sentence by stoning given to Maryam Alsyed Tiyrab for adultery.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We most strongly condemn the decision of a Sudanese court to sentence Maryam Alsyed Tiyrab to death by stoning for adultery. It is a longstanding policy of the UK Government to oppose the death penalty, in all circumstances, as a matter of principle. Our Embassy in Khartoum has engaged the Sudanese authorities to raise our concerns and seek further clarification on the detail of this case. Sudan's transitional government had made significant progress on human rights, including on legal reforms and the rights of women and girls. It is vital that this progress is not put at risk following the military coup on 25 October.

Darfur: Gender Based Violence

22 Jul 2022 | HL1760

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of (1) an increase in sexual and gender-based violence in the states of Darfur, and (2) the intentional destruction of medical and educational infrastructure in the region between January and May.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Our thoughts are with those affected by the current situation in Darfur, we continue to condemn the violence. On 29 April, the UN Security Council responded to our request by issuing a press statement, calling for the cessation of violence and destruction, the need for Sudanese authorities to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, and for transparent investigations into any crimes committed. We have also reinforced our concerns with the Sudanese authorities, most recently during a visit to Khartoum by the UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan on 25-28 June. The UK

continues to push for an end to sexual and gender-based violence. Those working to prevent sexual violence against women and girls must be able to do so without fear of reprisal.

We understand that the fragile security situation across Sudan has been exacerbated by the political crisis since the military coup. The UK continues to call for all political actors to engage in dialogue to resolve the current crisis, and implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement, including deployment of the National Action Plan for Civilian Protection.

Darfur: Crimes against Humanity

22 Jul 2022 | HL1759

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to instigate an assessment of the signs of atrocities in Darfur; and what plans they have to commission a Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability strategic assessment to investigate (1) whether crimes against humanity are being committed, and (2) whether these crimes could develop into genocide.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK and Germany completed a Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACS) on Sudan in 2019. This was used by the UK to help support conflict resolution mechanisms, create a supportive regional environment and improve governance by supporting fair power structures. Whilst we have not commissioned a recent JACS on Sudan, the UK continues to work closely with a wide range of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on understanding atrocity prevention, early warning and early response systems.

The UK also remains a staunch advocate for justice and accountability for past crimes, something the former Foreign Secretary urged Sudan's leaders to deliver progress on during his visit to Khartoum in January 2021. The Minister for Africa welcomed the start of Ali Kushayb's trial on 5 April in The Hague for alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur. We hope that this trial marks a wider process of accountability and reconciliation in Sudan. We continue to support the International Criminal Court Prosecutor in his important work to investigate crimes in Darfur and regularly raise concerns of human rights abuses in international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council. On 7 July, we successfully secured a resolution to maintain monitoring and reporting on human rights violations at the UN Human Rights Council.

Sudan: Rapid Support Forces

21 Jul 2022 | HL1405

Asked by: The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken, if any, towards designating the Sudanese Rapid Forces as a terrorist organisation.

Answering member: Baroness Williams of Trafford | Home Office

Whilst the Government keeps the list of proscribed organisations under review, we do not routinely comment on whether an organisation is or is not under consideration for proscription.

We remain concerned at the behaviour of Sudan's Rapid Support Forces, including internal repression and human rights violations across the country. We have raised our concerns, including with the RSF leadership.

Darfur: Violence

21 Jul 2022 | 37444

Asked by: Hilary Benn

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether she has made a recent assessment of the impact of violence in Darfur on the Massaleit community.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The ongoing violence and destruction in West Darfur is very troubling. We issued a statement on 25 April, setting out our concerns and the need for the Sudanese authorities to deliver their responsibilities to protect civilians. We underscored the importance of an independent investigation into the violence at the UN Security Council (UNSC) on 27 April and helped to secure a UNSC statement condemning the violence on 29 April. We are in working with the UN to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected and have urged the military to allow humanitarian aid to flow without hindrance. We have raised our concerns over violence in Darfur with the Sudanese authorities, most recently during a visit to Khartoum by the UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan on 25-28 June. We will continue to raise these concerns, to press the Sudanese authorities to deliver their obligation to protect civilians, and push for accountability for any crimes committed.

The fragile security situation across Sudan has been exacerbated by the political crisis since the military coup on 25 October. We are therefore pushing all political actors to engage in dialogue and return to a civilian-led government. We are also calling for the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) and progress in wider peace talks.

Sudan: Politics and Government

12 Jul 2022 | 32503

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps she is taking to (a) help prevent violence and abuse and (b) support a renewed inclusive process for a civilian-controlled transition to democracy in Sudan following the withdrawal of the military from existing mediation mechanisms and the removal of civilians from the sovereign council on 4 July 2022.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We condemn the use of violence against protesters by the Sudanese security forces, most recently in a statement following the killing of at least nine people during protests on 30 June. We continue to urge Sudan's military to allow peaceful protest and to deliver accountability for abuses: messages delivered during the recent session of the UN Human Rights Council and by the UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan during a visit to Khartoum on 25-28 June. In support of justice and accountability, we also secured a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council on 7 July to maintain monitoring and reporting on the situation.

Since the 25 October 2021 coup, we have been clear with all political actors that dialogue is necessary to agree a genuinely civilian-led government and eventual elections. We continue to work with the UN and other partners to deliver this message to all sides, including the Sudanese military.

Sudan: Disinformation

11 Jul 2022 | HL1303

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the involvement of Russian companies in misinformation campaigns in Sudan.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Russian state and non-state activities in Sudan are seeking to capitalise on instability for their own interests. The Minister for Africa has repeatedly made clear our concerns over negative Russian activities in Africa, which include reports of Wagner Group involvement in gold mining and in disinformation campaigns in Sudan. Senior FCDO officials raised our concerns directly with Sudan's military leadership in Khartoum on 3 March. Troika (UK / Norway / US) Heads of Mission in Khartoum also published an op-ed on 21 March highlighting how Russian malign influence and Wagner Group activities in

Sudan spread disinformation, and undermine good governance and the rule of law.

Dame Rosalind Marsden

11 Jul 2022 | 30009

Asked by: Harriett Baldwin

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations she has made to the Government of Sudan about their denial of a visa to Dame Rosalind Marsden, consultant to the United Nations and former British Ambassador to Sudan.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

As publicly stated by our Ambassador in Khartoum on 23 May, we are disappointed that the Sudanese authorities have chosen not to renew the visa for Dame Rosalind Marsden. The decision is unfortunate especially given the request of the Sudanese authorities for the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), and its partners to devote more attention to support for peacebuilding. In her capacity as a senior consultant to the UN in Sudan since July 2021, Dame Marsden has been supporting a series of integrated peacebuilding assessments, intended to help UN Agencies and partners design and prioritise support.

Sudan: Human Rights

11 Jul 2022 | 29980

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the recommendations set out in the report titled Sudan's Democratic Transition on Life Support, published by Redress and the SOAS Centre for Human Rights Law on 9 June 2022.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We have noted the report "Sudan's Democratic Transition on Life Support" and welcome the important work of civil society and academia in support of Sudan. We continue to press for a resolution to the political crisis following the military coup, have consistently called for justice and accountability, and been clear that talks must be inclusive in order to deliver a new government that is genuinely civilian-led.

4 Other Parliamentary material

4.1 Debates

[Ethiopia, Sudan and Tigray: Humanitarian Situation](#)

03 Nov 2021 | House of Commons | 702 cc376-400WH

Motion that this House has considered the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia, Sudan and Tigray.

[Violence against Christians: Central African Countries](#)

23 Sep 2021 | House of Commons | 701 c216WH

Motion that this House has considered the matter of violence against Christians in central African countries.

4.2 Statements and Urgent Questions

[Arrest of Sudanese Prime Minister](#)

27 Oct 2021 | House of Lords | 815 cc800-3

Lords statement on the arrest of the Sudanese Prime Minister.

[Arrest of Sudanese Prime Minister](#)

25 Oct 2021 | House of Commons | 702 cc49-56

Urgent question on the arrest of the Sudanese Prime Minister.

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