



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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Dear Darfur Union in the UK,

Thank you for your email of 21 March to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) about Sudan.

We share your concern about the situation across Sudan. We condemn the ongoing hostilities there in the strongest terms. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have dragged the country into a wholly unjustified conflict, with utter disregard for the Sudanese people.

Turning to the steps that you are urging for the international community to take:

Firstly, on 12 July 2023, the Minister for Development and Africa announced a package of six sanctions under the UK's Sudan (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020. We froze the assets of three commercial entities linked to each party involved in the conflict. The UK also announced sanctions a further five businesses and individuals linked to the actions of the Wagner Group, responsible for threatening peace and stability in Sudan. Although we do not speculate on future designations, our sanctions policy is continually under review.

Secondly, the UK remains a staunch advocate for justice and supports the role of the ICC in investigating war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. The UK strongly supports the ICC Prosecutor's continuing investigation into the allegations of atrocity crimes committed in Darfur since 1 July 2002 and which encompasses the current conflict where there are credible reports of further atrocities being committed. Members of the former regime must be held accountable for the crimes they committed. The current lack of accountability has only served to embolden others to commit horrific crimes. In October 2023, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the UK-led 'Sudan Core Group' resolution, mandating the creation of a Fact-Finding Mission. This will look to ensure that credible allegations of human rights violations and abuses, including acts

of conflict-related sexual violence, by all sides will be investigated impartially in order to support future accountability efforts.

On your third point, the UK continues to work with a wide range of countries and bodies, including traditional allies, Gulf and African partners, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union (AU) and the UN, to achieve a ceasefire, increase much-needed humanitarian assistance and access, and ensure the protection of civilians. On 8 March, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2724, led by the UK, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Sudan during the month of Ramadan. We continue to work with our partners to realise this Resolution and make progress towards a sustained and meaningful peace process.

On your point on humanitarian assistance, the situation in Sudan continues to deteriorate with 24.8 million people in need of assistance. The UK remains a committed donor to Sudan and is providing £42.6 million in humanitarian aid to Sudan in 2023-2024. We are also helping those fleeing to neighbouring countries, with £7.75 million to support existing and new Sudanese refugees as well as vulnerable returnees and host communities in South Sudan and £15 million to Chad. UK funded support is being delivered through the UN and other trusted partners and is providing nutrition, safe drinking water, medical care and shelter, as well as supporting protection services including those affected by Gender Based Violence.

In response to your requests for the international community to support the Joint Forces and to activate Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the UK continues to urge the warring parties to return to ceasefire talks. This is the only way that peace and stability can return to Sudan. Regardless of where mediation takes place, it is essential that African voices are represented. Alongside our international partners, we continue to support mediation efforts, such as those of the IGAD and AU, and urge both warring parties to engage constructively to secure ceasefires and improvements in humanitarian access.

The UK will continue to work alongside our international partners to urge all Sudanese stakeholders to engage in an inclusive dialogue that will deliver the peace and stability that the Sudanese people deserve.

Yours Sincerely,

**Ministerial and Treat Official Correspondence Team
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