



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
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Caroline Lucas MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Caroline

Thank you for your letter of 19 May to the Rt. Hon. Hugh Robertson about the case of Meriam Ibrahim in Sudan. I am replying as Minister for Africa.

I am appalled by this case and have joined the Prime Minister in condemning the treatment of Meriam Ibrahim and calling for her release. Following the handing down of the death penalty for apostasy, I immediately issued a statement on 15 May calling upon the Government of Sudan to release Meriam and to respect the right to freedom of religion and international human rights laws. A copy of that statement can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-africa-appalled-by-death-sentence-in-sudan>.

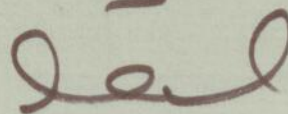
To reinforce that message, a Senior official of the Sudanese Embassy in London was summoned to the Foreign Office on 19 May, at the request of the Foreign Secretary. At that meeting, the FCO Political Director Simon Gass expressed deep concern at the sentence, and asked the official to urge his government to uphold its international obligations on freedom of religion or belief and to do all it can to get this decision overturned.

A press release was issued following this meeting
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sudanese-charge-daffaires-summoned-to-fco-over-death-sentence-case>.

The Department for International Development (DFID) Parliamentary under Secretary of State Lynne Featherstone also raised this case with the Sudanese Foreign Minister when she met him on 20 May in Norway.

Our Embassy in Khartoum continues to monitor this case closely, and is in close contact with the defence team, they attended the initial judgment on 11 May and the sentencing on 15 May. The Embassy has issued statements expressing its concerns and calling on the Government of Sudan to respect the right to freedom of religion, including jointly with the US, Canadian and Dutch Embassies.

We continue to call on the Sudanese government to undertake a comprehensive review of its penal code to ensure its laws reflect its constitution, international human rights obligations and the values and compassion of the Sudanese people and we will continue to raise our concerns about this case and the broader human rights situation in Sudan with the Sudanese Authorities generally.

Yours sincerely


MARK SIMMONDS MP
Minister for Africa, the Overseas Territories, Caribbean and International Energy