



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



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Caroline Lucas MP
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Dear Caroline, 23rd May 2023

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 April, to the Foreign Secretary, about the violence taking place in Khartoum and across Sudan. I am replying as the Minister for Development and Africa.

The UK unequivocally condemns the violence in Sudan. We call on both sides to end the violence and return to negotiations to agree a resumption of civilian government, for the sake of the people of Sudan and the region.

We are leading efforts with international partners to de-escalate the conflict, working closely with the UN, US, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in co-ordinating action including public statements condemning this violence.

On Tuesday 2 May, I made a statement to the House of Commons updating on the situation in Sudan, strongly condemning the violence taking place and calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities. It is important that the parties in Sudan lay down their arms, return to talks and work towards restoring a civilian-led democratic government.

We welcome the 7-day ceasefire agreement signed by the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces on 20 May, following the 11 May Jeddah Declaration which committed the parties to international humanitarian law, protecting civilians and to facilitate humanitarian action, including access. We call on both parties to uphold these agreements, implement the ceasefire and allow essential humanitarian support to reach the people of Sudan.

The UK is a committed donor to Sudan and has provided £250 million in humanitarian aid over the past five years. But there can be no aid without access. We call on all sides of the conflict to protect civilians and allow principled humanitarian access. On 4 May, the UK Government announced an initial £5 million of life-saving aid to help meet the urgent needs of tens of thousands of refugees and returnees who have fled the violence in Sudan.

In 2022, the UK provided £19.75 million in humanitarian assistance, via partners including the World Food Programme, the UN-led Sudan Humanitarian Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund. This funding helped over 300,000 people with assistance such as food, cash and voucher support, emergency nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation. We will continue to monitor the situation on the ground with this conflict and provide humanitarian support in coordination with partners where possible.

The UK stands with the United Nations, regional and African partners to secure cease-fires and mediate to find peaceful solutions to a democratic transition. We are committed to using our full diplomatic reach to secure humanitarian access for Sudanese emergency responders, international aid agencies and the people of Sudan.

With warm regards,
Yours,
Andrew

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