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The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
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18 February 2019

Dear Secretary of State

Attacks on physicians in Sudan and on Omdurman Hospital

We are writing to you on behalf of the BMA (British Medical Association) to express our grave concern about recent reports, substantiated by Amnesty International and the WMA (World Medical Association), that the Sudanese Government has used lethal force against protesters, including physicians.

We have been appalled to learn that, on 9 January 2019, Sudanese security forces attacked Omdurman Hospital in pursuit of protesters. Reports of the Omdurman Hospital attack detail security forces opening fire inside the hospital whilst looking for individuals who had been injured during protests earlier in the day. The intentional targeting of health professionals, including hospitals and medical facilities, is a clear breach of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and of International Humanitarian Law, as well as accepted international human rights norms.

Health professionals provide a necessary service, and it is essential that they are at liberty to provide that service, wherever they may be, without fear of being targeted. We urge you to take immediate steps to raise this issue with Sudanese officials, and to echo the WMA's call for an intervention by the Sudanese authorities to end the security forces' use of violence against protestors, including attacks against medical facilities, personnel and patients.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Chisholm CBE
Chair, BMA medical ethics committee



Dr Terry John
Chair, BMA international committee

