

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

08 July 2019

Dear Secretary of State

Attacks on peaceful protestors, physicians, and health facilities in Sudan

We are writing to you, on behalf of the BMA (British Medical Association), to express our grave concern about further reports of extreme violence perpetrated against peaceful protestors, including physicians, in Sudan.

In February, we wrote to you having been appalled to learn that Sudanese security forces attacked Omdurman Hospital, on 9 January 2019, in pursuit of protestors. Now, multiple sources, including the Council of Europe and Human Rights Watch, have confirmed that the RSF (Rapid Support Forces) and other paramilitaries conducted a series of violent attacks on peaceful protestors, including physicians, on 3 June 2019.

These horrifying attacks involved extrajudicial, arbitrary and summary killings, beatings, and sexual and gender-based violence. Furthermore, Amnesty International has substantiated reports that paramilitaries attacked two hospitals – Almoalim and Royal Care hospitals – on 3 June 2019 in pursuit of injured protestors.

Atrocities such as these in Sudan must be condemned and appropriately investigated. 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 do so without fear of being targeted.

Following our correspondence to you in February, we hope that you have already taken action to raise the developments with Sudanese officials, expressing the UK's concern and desire for an immediate cessation of violence towards peaceful protestors, including physicians, in Sudan.

Yours sincerely



Dr John Chisholm CBE
Chair, BMA medical ethics committee



Dr Terry John
Chair, BMA international committee

