



Foreign Affairs Committee

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Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

11 April 2019

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing regarding the current situation in Sudan. I have been very concerned in recent weeks by the treatment of protesters and there are reports today that President Omar al Bashir is stepping down under pressure from the Sudanese army.

I would appreciate it if you could update me on the current situation in Sudan, what the UK Government is doing to support and protect the Sudanese people, and how the UK intends to ensure a peaceful transition of power? What lessons have been learnt from similar situations, such as the removal of Robert Mugabe from power by the military in Zimbabwe, which may be applied here?

We will be placing this letter and your response in the public domain.

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair

16 May 2019

Tom Tugendhat MBE MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
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King Charles Street
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Secretary of State

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter of 11 April regarding the recent events in Sudan and the UK's response.

As you know, we have seen dramatic events in Sudan over the last few weeks. Since you wrote, in response to the persistent calls of the Sudanese people, Bashir was removed from office on 11 April and a Transitional Military Council (TMC) was established. An initial successor to Bashir was installed, but at the demand of the protestors, was swiftly replaced with someone they found more acceptable as a temporary ruler. Negotiations between the TMC and protestors for a permanent transition to a civilian led administration are ongoing.

The UK is committed and is actively working to support the emergence of a civilian-led, democratic government and the implementation of necessary political and economic reforms. We have, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora, made public statements calling for all sides to engage in an inclusive dialogue that leads to a swift and peaceful transition to civilian rule that delivers the legitimate demands of the Sudanese people. On 14 April, we released a Troika (US, Norway and UK) statement outlining the need for Sudan to establish a political system that is inclusive, respectful of human rights and the rule of law, and supported by a sound constitutional basis.

As part of our efforts, we continue to engage with all Sudanese parties and members of civil society, including the diaspora in the UK. HMA Khartoum regularly meets with protestors, members of civil society and the TMC encouraging all to take part in this process, ensuring it is inclusive of all Sudanese voices, and articulating the UK's readiness to work with Sudan's people in order to make the political transition a success. The UK Special Envoy for Sudan echoes these messages to opposition groups and the wider diaspora in the UK, Europe and the region.

The UK has also engaged with international counterparts bilaterally and multilaterally to shape an international response that supports the demands of the people of Sudan. We have led discussions on the situation in Sudan at the highest

levels, including in the UN Security Council, most recently on 17 April. The UK welcomes the leadership of the African Union (AU) and its call for a swift move to civilian-led government. We also support the AU's appointment of a Special Envoy, Mohamed El-Hassan Ould Labat, to engage in mediation between the Transitional Military Council and protestors. We will support that transition and the long and difficult process of political and economic reform.

An estimated over 8 million people remain in need of assistance, and Sudan's broken economy has not been fixed. The UK remains one of the largest humanitarian donors in Sudan, with a DFID spend of £85m for the 2018/19 financial year. We are committed to assisting the people of Sudan and have called on the TMC to ensure, ahead of a swift transition to civilian rule, full humanitarian access to all areas.

The UK has been and remains firm that all violence must be avoided. HMA Khartoum has delivered this message to the Deputy Head of the TMC. Furthermore, we maintain constant pressure on the Sudanese authorities to respect the right to assembly.

The lessons we have learnt from our experiences of similar situations of political upheaval, of which Zimbabwe is one of many instances, inform our actions in Sudan. Previous experience shows how important the international community's engagement is in influencing the way in which events unfold. In Sudan, we have a vital role to play in directing that engagement towards ensuring all sides participate in an inclusive dialogue, and supporting the efforts of those seeking to deliver a swift and peaceful transition to civilian rule. Importantly, our ambition and commitment needs to be matched by our ability to deliver. On Sudan, the UK is a key player, coordinator and thought-leader within the international community, working closely with Troika partners, welcoming the leadership of the AU and securing opportunities to discuss the matter at the highest levels at the UN. We will continue to play these roles in support of the emergence of a civilian-led, democratic government.

Yes
Jeremy

THE RT HON JEREMY HUNT MP