

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

20 June 2019

Dear *Jeremy,*

ATTACKS ON HEALTHCARE STAFF IN SUDAN

I am writing to express our concern about the continued violence in Sudan and in particular the reports of violence specifically targeted at healthcare workers and facilities.

We have been asked to raise this with you by our member organisations who in turn have had the issues raised with them by the Sudanese diaspora working as doctors in the UK.

It is reported that the militia has stormed hospitals, firing live ammunition inside, preventing the injured from reaching medical assistance (in direct contravention of international law) and the regular beating of doctors, even within hospitals to prevent them from treating the injured. There has also been a specific targeting of female doctors who have been subjected to sexual violence whilst carrying out their duties (2 confirmed rapes in the field hospital and 7 reported in various hospitals in Khartoum). I know that Professor Lesley Regan, President of the RCOG, has written to you on this.

The Academy has explicitly stated its support for the 2016 UN Resolution 2286, endorsed by the UK, which condemns attacks on healthcare workers and affirms the right for healthcare workers to be able to carry out their duties without any threat of reprisals or attack.

I know you have been clear in your call for the establishment of a political system that is inclusive and respectful of human rights and the rule of law as your recent letter to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee set out. These statements are very welcome.

In line with Resolution 2286, I would urge you to do anything you can in your position to bring pressure to bear on the authorities in Sudan to ensure that these atrocities against healthcare workers and, indeed all other civilians, cease.

Thank you in advance for your assistance

With personal best wishes



**Professor Carrie MacEwen MD, FRCOphth, FRCS, FFSEM, FRCPE, FCOptom
Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges**