

HE Mohammed Abdalla Ali Eltom
Ambassador
Sudanese Embassy in London
3 Cleveland Row
St. James's
London SW1A 1DD

8 August 2019

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

Your Excellency,

We are writing on behalf of the British Medical Association to express our grave concern at recent reports of extreme violence perpetrated against peaceful protesters, including physicians, who are closely involved in the pro-democracy movement, in Khartoum.

Multiple sources, including the Council of Europe and Human Rights Watch have confirmed that on 3 June 2019 the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and other paramilitaries conducted a series of violent attacks on peaceful protesters, including physicians, which involved extrajudicial, arbitrary and summary killings, beatings and sexual and gender-based violence.

Furthermore, there have been reports, substantiated by Amnesty International, that on 3 June 2019, paramilitaries attacked two hospitals, Almoalim and Royal Care hospitals, in pursuit of injured protesters. The BMA has previously raised concerns about attacks on health care facilities and personnel in Sudan after learning of the attack on Omdurman hospital by Sudanese forces in January this year.

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 without fear of being targeted.

We urge you to take steps to ensure the immediate cessation of all violence, including gender-based violence, which is targeted at peaceful protesters, including physicians, in Sudan. Equally, we urge you to ensure there are no further attacks on health professionals or medical facilities, and to ensure that the attacks on Almoalim, Royal Care and Omdurman hospitals are appropriately investigated.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chisholm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr John Chisholm CBE
Chair, BMA medical ethics committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry John". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr Terry John
Chair, BMA international committee