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Foreign &
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Office

London SW1A 2AH

From the Foreign Secretary

Your reference: 01100054
Our reference: 80184

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tessa Jowell

Thank you for your letter of 11 January on behalf of your constituents about the situation in Sudan.

I share your constituents' concern about the situation in Sudan and the risks facing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The UK is one of the guarantors of the CPA and is at the forefront of international efforts to bring long term peace and security to the Sudanese people. The Prime Minister made clear the priority we attach to this in a statement to mark the 5th Anniversary of the CPA on 9 January 2010. The statement is available at www.fco.gov.uk/news. I have attached a copy for your information.

As your constituents say, there are significant challenges facing Sudan, in particular the elections in April 2010 and the Referendum on Self-Determination for South Sudan in January 2011. These events will be critical in determining a peaceful future for the country. On 10 to 13 January I visited Sudan where I underlined the need for all parties in Sudan to show political leadership to resolve current disagreements and secure a peaceful future.

I also emphasised the UK's ongoing commitment to Sudan. We have pledged £330 million from 2008 to 2011. We are contributing £12.5 million to the elections including support for conflict management, civic and voter education and technical preparations. Much of the Department for International Development's (DFID) funding is targeted at supporting the CPA, as well as reducing poverty and helping address the conflict and insecurity which plagues the lives of so many Sudanese. DFID is one of the largest humanitarian donors to Sudan and in January 2010 we announced £36 million humanitarian assistance which will go towards providing emergency food, shelter, health and water and sanitation for millions of Sudanese.

We are helping to address ongoing insecurity in both the South and Darfur. We strongly support both the UN-African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) as they work to protect civilians and reduce violence. The UK is contributing over £100 million a year to peacekeeping operations in Sudan. We also welcome the efforts of UN Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé to find a resolution to the Darfur conflict, which will create a lasting peace and the necessary conditions for displaced persons to safely return home.

Ultimately only Sudan's leaders can deliver the peace and security their people so desperately need. But as your constituents point out, the international community has a crucial role to play. It must provide strong, consistent, concerted support and pressure to support progress and address possible conflict flashpoints. The UK will continue to work very closely on this with the US and Norway, as well as the UN, AU, EU and neighbouring and regional countries.

Full implementation of the CPA is essential for lasting peace throughout Sudan. We will continue to work with the governments in Khartoum and Juba, and with the international community to support the full implementation of the CPA and give the people of Sudan the peace and security they deserve.

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DAVID MILIBAND

Statement by the Prime Minister on the Fifth Anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

'Today, on the fifth anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, I urge all parties in Sudan to redouble their efforts to secure a peaceful future for their people.

Much has been achieved in the last five years, but we cannot be complacent. Sudan's leaders have a duty to rise to the remaining challenges, to turn an interim agreement into lasting peace for all their people - including in Darfur, where I call on all parties to work for greater security, economic development, and the release of kidnapped humanitarian workers.

In 2005 the United Kingdom was proud to be a guarantor of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended Sudan's painful civil war. As Sudan enters the critical phase of this agreement we will now step up our engagement still further.

This year we will contribute over £200 million for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, emergency relief and the delivery of basic services such as health and education. This week we have committed £54 million to humanitarian assistance across Sudan, peace-building in southern Sudan and election preparations.

Sudan's recent history has been one too often marked by violence, insecurity, and poverty for its people. Sudan's leaders - with the support of the international community - must not allow this also to be the story of Sudan's future.'