



House of Lords

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The Prime Minister
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Dear David,

I write as a passionate supporter of peace in Sudan and South Sudan and as an Officer of the Associate Parliamentary Group on Sudan and South Sudan to urge you to make a short public statement on the situation in South Sudan.

For the last 30 years I have witnessed first-hand the massive and brutal suffering inflicted by Sudan's civil wars in which two million perished and four million civilians were displaced. And in the 1990s, I saw what atrocities can occur on one of the rare occasions when southern Sudanese fought each other in a brutal internecine struggle.

Since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2005 following massive UK engagement, the now President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, has reached out to reconcile these old differences. For example, he brokered the 'Juba Declaration' of 2006 which united the Bul Nuer with the SPLA. This has perhaps been his greatest achievement.

Now it is critical that President Salva Kiir's commitment to dialogue is supported and encouraged by his international partners. And that the political opposition are urged in the strongest terms to cooperate and work towards a peaceful outcome.

No price is too high to prevent a return to these "dark days", as President Obama described them in his public statement yesterday.

Since 2005 I have seen the huge investment that the UK and its international partners have made in promoting stability and development in the world's newest country. This investment will be wiped away if the international community does not now communicate its commitment to supporting peace in the region.

But much more important than this are the hundreds of thousands of deaths and displacements that can still be avoided.

So I urge you, please, to join President Barack Obama and Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in making a short public statement on the situation in South Sudan as I strongly believe that your words will have an important stabilising effect on the region.

With every good wish,

Caroline.

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