

Hansard: Written Question on Nigeria: Fulani

21 June 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to recent reports of targeted attacks in Nigeria against the (1) Yoruba people, and (2) Igbo people, by armed Fulani herders.

Answered 5 July 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government condemns all incidents of violence in Nigeria. We are following with concern the increased insecurity in the South West, where there has been a rise in both criminal violence and distinct clashes between farmers and herders. We are also concerned by the increasing vigilantism in response. Narratives that define the violence by ethnic groups risk fuelling tensions and further violence, as well as undermining efforts to address the complex root causes, which include competition for resources and rapid population growth.

The Government is also concerned by the increasing levels of violence in the South East. We are working in Nigeria to promote intercommunal and interfaith dialogue, and continue to call for solutions that address the complex underlying causes of violence. Officials at the British High Commission regularly meet faith and community leaders and civil society organisations in both the South East and South West. During his visit to Nigeria in April, the Minister for Africa met the President's Chief of Staff, Ibrahim Gambari, and the Foreign Minister, Geoffrey Onyeama, to discuss insecurity. The Minister raised the importance of protecting all communities across Nigeria. The UK is also concerned about the plight of the estimated one million civilians living in inaccessible areas to humanitarian workers, of whom 880,000 have very limited access to food and to basic services such as healthcare.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Military Coups

21 June 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on taking part in meetings that include representatives of the Burmese military regime who seized power in a military coup on 1 February.

Answered 5 July 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government condemns the military in Myanmar, the violence against the people of Myanmar and the detention of members of the civilian government and civil society, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint. To this end, the UK has sanctioned the State Administration Council (SAC) and military members of the SAC to send a clear message that we oppose their activities. We are engaging with the junta where required for the functioning of the Embassy, for example with regard to the protection of British Nationals. The UK will also have to attend meetings where the junta's representatives are present but we are clear this in no way indicates support for the regime.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: United Nations

21 June 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the UN for the UN Secretary General to lead a delegation to Myanmar.

Answered 5 July 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK has supported the idea of a high level UN visit to Myanmar. At the UN Security Council we have expressed support for efforts by the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to visit Myanmar. The Security Council Presidential Statement, secured on 10 March, called for the Special Envoy to visit the country as soon as possible. We welcomed the strong statements from the UN Secretary General in response to the coup and subsequent violence. The Prime Minister and the Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth have both discussed the situation in Myanmar with the UN Secretary General. The Minister for Asia also met with the United Nations Special Envoy to register the UK's extreme concern at the coup in Myanmar and the arbitrary detention of democratically elected politicians and members of civil society by the military. We also reiterated our support for the UN Special Envoy and condemn the fact that the junta are denying her access into Myanmar.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Arms Trade

21 June 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government which countries they have contacted regarding the introduction of an arms embargo on Myanmar.

Answered 5 July 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is a longstanding supporter of an arms embargo on Myanmar. We are clear that no one should sell arms to Myanmar. The UK worked to secure a strong G7 statement on the 3 and 23 February urging all countries to immediately suspend arms sales to Myanmar. On 5 May, the UK secured a G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communiqué that committed G7 members to continue to prevent the supply of arms and technical assistance to the military. The G7 Leaders' Communiqué of 13 June reaffirmed G7 unity on pursuing additional measures should they prove necessary. On 18 June, the UK worked with partners to deliver a UN General Assembly Resolution which urged member states to prevent the flow of arms to Myanmar. We will continue to work closely with partners and through multilateral institutions, such as the UN Security Council, to apply pressure directly on those who sell arms to the military.



Hansard: Written Question on Nigeria: Twitter

21 June 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the reasons for, and (2) the impact of, the decision by the government of Nigeria to ban Twitter.

Answered 5 July 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are concerned that the Nigerian Government has suspended Twitter in Nigeria. The Minister for Africa has publicly reiterated the importance of all Nigerians being able to enjoy their right to freedom of expression responsibly. Our High Commission in Abuja has issued a statement with other diplomatic missions conveying disappointment over the suspension and affirming our strong support for freedom of expression.

In his statement of 4 June, the Nigerian Information Minister Lai Mohammed argued that the suspension had been imposed because the platform was being persistently used "for activities that are capable of undermining Nigeria's corporate existence". On 7 June, our Acting Head of Mission in Abuja, along with senior representatives from other diplomatic missions, met the Nigerian Foreign Minister, Geoffrey Onyeama, to discuss the suspension and statement, and to reiterate our position. Our diplomats continue to discuss the suspension with the Nigerian Government and other stakeholders, with a view to encouraging a resolution soon. Freedom of expression and the media are essential elements of a democracy.