

Hansard: Written question: Nigeria: Humanitarian Situation

02 December 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the findings of the British High Commission's recent visit to Benue State in Nigeria; and what steps they are taking in response.

Answered 02 December 2021

**Minister for Pacific and the Environment, Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**: We strongly condemn the actions of the Sudanese military on 25 October to detain Prime Minister Hamdok and members of the civilian government, declare a state of emergency and unilaterally dissolve the transitional government. The actions of the military represents a betrayal of the Sudanese people and their journey to democracy. The UK will consider the full range of policy tools at our disposal to protect human rights and deter violations, including sanctions. It is longstanding practice not to speculate on future sanctions designations as to do so could reduce the impact of any action. We urge Sudan's military leadership to reverse their course, to release detained politicians, and to ensure Sudanese people can protest without fear of violence.



Hansard: Written Question: Nigeria: Humanitarian Situation

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the US State Department's decision to remove Nigeria from its list of Violators of Religious Freedom.

Answered 02 December 2021

**Minister for Pacific and the Environment, Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**: The removal of Nigeria from the list of Violators of Religious Freedom is a matter for the Government of the United States of America.



Hansard: Written Question: Armenia: Genocide

24 November

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 17 November (HL3864), what steps they have taken to either (1) institute proceedings in the International Court of Justice that would lead to a pronouncement of genocide in Armenia, or (2) give British courts a role in determining whether states are guilty of committing genocide.

Answered 06 December 2021

**Lord Goldsmith**: The Government has not taken any steps to institute proceedings in the International Court of Justice that would lead to a pronouncement of genocide in Armenia. The Government's longstanding policy is that any judgment as to whether genocide has occurred is a matter for a competent national or international court rather than for Governments or non-judicial bodies. We do not consider that it would be beneficial to empower the High Court of England and Wales to make a preliminary finding that a State has committed genocide or crimes against humanity. These are crimes that require the application of a criminal standard of proof on the basis of individual criminal liability. Any decision must be made after consideration of all of the evidence available in the context of an actual and credible criminal trial of an individual or individuals. British courts can, however, determine whether individuals have committed the crime of genocide.



Hansard: Written Question: Armenia: Azerbaijan

24 November

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the meeting between Prime Minister Pashinyan, President Aliyev, and President Putin on 26 November, what further representations they plan to make to the government of Azerbaijan on the issue of releasing Armenian (1) hostages, and (2) prisoners of war.

Answered 07 December 2021

**Lord Goldsmith**: The UK Government has not made any specific representations to the Governments of Armenia or Azerbaijan following the summit on the 26 November. However, the Minister for Europe and Americas has continued to raise this important issue with both Governments following last year's conflict, including during her recent meetings with the Armenian and Azerbaijani Ambassadors on 4 and 17 November respectively. We will continue to raise the importance of securing a peaceful settlement to the conflict through negotiations facilitated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. The Foreign Secretary did so most recently at the 2 December OSCE Ministerial Council.