

Written Question

Baroness Cox – To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the response of the United Nations Mission in Darfur to recent incidents including mass rape in Darfur.

[HL2821]

Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE – We remain deeply concerned by the recent reports of a mass rape at Tabit village in North Darfur. We have called on the Government of Sudan to allow the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) unhindered access so that the UN can conduct a full investigation into these alleged appalling crimes. We note that UNAMID was granted access to Tabit on 9 November, but are concerned by reports that their investigations took place under the close observation of Sudanese security officials. It is important that UNAMID now continue with a thorough and impartial investigation and that all relevant information is included in future public communications.