



Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP
Minister for Development and Africa
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

18 July 2023

Dear Andrew,

Re: Sudan

We are deeply concerned by credible reports that aerial bombing has recommenced in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile (the ‘Two Areas’), located along Sudan’s volatile southern border with South Sudan.

Our humanitarian partner in the region, Benjamin Barnaba, Executive Director of the New Sudan Council of Churches, reports:

Once again we are experiencing aerial bombardment in the Nuba Mountains [in Southern Kordofan] and Blue Nile by the Antonov – used by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) to destroy the African indigenous people of the land.

Since 26 June, villages of Jordan, Jorod, Gorgotey, Abunnasir, Dem Mansur, and other villages surrounding Kurmuk West and South in Blue Nile region have been under constant Antonov bombardment.

The bombardment started even earlier than June in the Nuba Mountains – areas of Western Jebel in Dillinge and Julud counties have been bombed by SAF. The same in the Eastern Jebel in the areas of Dalami Al abasiya counties and in the Southern areas surrounding the main town Kadugli are under bombardment too.

Benjamin estimates that 29,000 people have fled to the Two Areas since the recent outbreak of violence in Khartoum – in addition to thousands of refugees who fled to the Two Areas as a result of conflict in Ethiopia and the inadequacy of refugee camps in South Sudan.

The influx of new arrivals places increased pressure on the Two Areas’ already-limited resources. The staple-crops harvest from the last rainy season was very poor. Food stocks are declining, which increases dependence on a small number of local markets, which in turn impacts the price of food. “The food crisis will get worse”, Benjamin says, “as many people are currently fleeing war in Khartoum and are heading to the Two Areas. This is a real human catastrophe.”

We urge the UK Government to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to host communities, internally displaced persons and refugees in the Two Areas. As a member of the Friends of Sudan international group, we urge you to encourage the African Union to shine a light on escalating conflict in the Two Areas and to act decisively to cease all human rights violations.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Cox, Founder President
Lord Alton of Liverpool, Patron
Sam Mason, Chief Executive Officer