



Sudan Take action NOW

Women in Black, London, are holding this vigil to call attention to our government’s complicity in the Sudanese authorities’ abuses of human rights, and women’s rights in particular.

With its recent investment of £2.2m on a training programme called Defence Engagement Sudan, the British government is complicit in the Sudanese forces’ grave human rights abuses including mass rape, ethnic cleansing, and the indiscriminate aerial bombardment of civilians.

- **Women and girls suffer the systematic use of mass rape as a weapon of war.** In October 2014, Sudanese army forces raped 221 women and girls (including very young girls) in Tabit (North Darfur). Authorities detained and tortured residents for speaking about what took place.
- **For 4 years, the Sudanese government has bombed civilians in the Nuba Mountains.** Human Rights Watch has evidence of the use of banned cluster bombs on civilian populations.
- **Government security forces are violently suppressing dissent,** applying harassment and forced disappearances on activists, journalists, and pro-democracy campaigners. There has been a marked increase in the repression of women’s activism in recent years.

A Sudanese human rights lawyer, Ali Agab Nour, is currently making a legal challenge against the UK government, claiming that the decision-making process leading to the provision of military support was unlawful and in breach of the government’s overseas security and justice assistance policy.

Regardless of the legality, giving support of any kind to the Sudanese military is unethical.

We express solidarity with our Sudanese sisters.

We do not consent to having public funds spent on supporting the regime that abuses them.

We call on the British government to:

- Cease all military assistance, training, and funding to Sudan immediately
- Direct aid funds towards humanitarian assistance
- Put pressure on the Sudanese government to support existing peace-building initiatives of Sudanese civil society
- Support Sudanese women’s peace and community organisations and put pressure on the Sudanese government to cease the harassment and intimidation of Sudanese women activists.
- Ensure women are meaningfully included in all peace negotiations, in line with the Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security.

We invite you to sign and send this leaflet as a letter to:

The Prime Minister, Rt.Hon. David Cameron, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA.

Copy it, and ask others to do the same.

Signed

Name

Address

Contact us at wibinfo@gn.apc.org or look up www.london.womeninblack.org or write to

+Women in Black, 24 Colvestone Crescent, London E8 2LH

Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin’s Place, London WC2. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. Donations for leaflets most welcome.

If you are a woman who agrees with us – do come and join us.