



Women in Black London

Don't forget Sudan – Send aid not weapons!

Violent armed conflict continues in Sudan, yet this major humanitarian crisis still tends to be forgotten. The latest outbreak arises from a civil war that started in April 2023 between two factions of the military government, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Force (RSF). Since then, at least 150,000 people have been killed and nearly 13 million have been forced to flee their homes.

On 27th October, the RSF seized control of the city of El Fasher after 17 months of siege. On 7th November, Volker Turk of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a stark warning: *“Today, traumatised civilians are still trapped inside El Fasher and are being prevented from leaving. I fear that the abominable atrocities such as summary executions, rape and ethnically motivated violence are continuing within the city.”* He warns that the neighbouring region of Kordofan is likely to be next for conflict and calls on the international community to act. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/11/sudan-turk-fears-more-atrocities-darfur-warns-kordofan-could-be-next>

Doctors without Borders warn of high rates of severe malnutrition among the 100,000 citizens who managed to flee El Fasher, especially children, of whom 70% are malnourished and 35% acutely malnourished. They are also suffering from serious trauma.

https://msf.org.uk/article/depth-sudans-extreme-malnutrition-crisis?dm_i=7LY4,2C6XV,I3WL0,4KF4O,1

The state of the many people who have not yet managed to escape El Fasher is hard to imagine. People who have escaped also tell of how their sons are forcibly taken to fight with the RSF. Volker Turk has a serious warning for those implicated in this conflict: *‘Given the cataclysmic violence in El Fasher, States, especially those who have influence over the parties to the conflict, are put on notice that unless they act quickly and decisively there will be more of the carnage and atrocities that we have already witnessed. The Security Council’s arms embargo is clear: the provision of continuing military support to sustain parties committing serious violations must stop.’*

This means that the UK must consider its own position: In November 2024, then Foreign Secretary David Lammy, promised that the UK would never forget Sudan. It is the UN penholder for Sudan, with responsibility for coordinating efforts for peace, and yet it has forgotten. It has historic ties to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), formerly a British Protectorate and one of the UK’s largest arms buyers. The UAE has been providing arms and support to the RSF and is now accused of sending Colombian mercenaries to fight alongside the RSF. **Reports say that British-made arms are being used by the RSF. The UK must stop selling arms to the UAE or it risks violating the UN embargo.**

Women in Black London express solidarity with the people of Sudan suffering from the impact of ongoing violent conflict. We urge the UK Government to acknowledge the ongoing impact of its colonial role and review its relationships with the UAE, especially in light of the UN arms embargo. The UK must stop sending arms to the UAE now and must tell the UAE that no UK weapons can be supplied to the RSF. The UK needs to understand its role in promoting armed conflicts around the world with its arms sales. It needs to increase humanitarian aid, rather than selling arms, which merely weaponises the ongoing conflicts.



Women in Black hold vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the National Portrait Gallery, St. Martin’s Place, London WC2. Our vigils are silent, women-only and, if possible, we wear black. We welcome all women who support our call for an end to militarism and war.

Contact us: Twitter @WIB_London FB @womeninblack.london

Donations for leaflets most welcome

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