

2 November 2021

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Dear Secretary of State,

On behalf of the University and College Union, I am writing to express my union's concerns about the military coup in Sudan and call on the UK government to take stronger actions in support of the democracy movement in the country.

UCU condemns the coup launched by General Abdelfatah al-Burhan on 25 October which seeks to return Sudan to authoritarian rule and call for the immediate release of all those detained by the military and the cessation of violence towards protestors.

We are very concerned about the recent news regarding the killing of three protestors in Omdurman. There are also reports of widespread arrests and detentions targeting activists, especially members of the neighbourhood Resistance Committees which are leading the mobilisation and civil disobedience in many areas. Another key demand being raised by trade unionists and activists in the Sudanese resistance committees are for a reversal of the coup - in other words the complete restoration of civilian government. Many resistance committees are going further than this, calling for the generals to be put on trial.

We note the UK government's condemnation of the coup in Sudan and rhetorical support for democracy and civilian rule (for example, as outlined in the Troika statement with the US and Norway on 26 October). However, this needs to be backed up by wider demands such as calling on all governments, including Western governments and regional allies, to immediately cease all forms of military and diplomatic cooperation with the Sudanese military and Rapid Support Forces. Protestors in Sudan have stressed it is crucial not just to condemn the coup leaders, but to highlight the role of their regional supporters (especially the UAE and Egypt). In this context we note that the UK remains a major supplier of arms to both the UAE and Egypt and call on the UK government to end its military support for regional allies of the Sudanese coup leaders.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jo Grady
General Secretary

Cc: Ambassador H.E. Mohamed Abdalla Idris, Embassy of the Republic of Sudan,
London