

UN Human Rights Council 61: UK Statement for the Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on South Sudan

2.3.2026 - Eleanor Sanders | Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

Item 2: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report of the Commission of Human Rights in South Sudan. Delivered by the UK's Human Rights Ambassador, Eleanor Sanders.

Thank you, Mr President.

We thank the Commission for your report, and we agree with you it paints a stark and troubling picture.

The suffering endured by the people of South Sudan is indefensible. As the High Commissioner said, the warning light is flashing red.

We are seeing: renewed conflict, indiscriminate aerial bombardment, forced recruitment, and systematic sexual violence as a weapon of war. Communities are burned from their homes, children abducted, and humanitarian access obstructed as famine risks grow.

This is not the path of a country on the way to meaningful elections.

We condemn the 21 February killing of civilians in Pankur and remind the transitional government that such attacks may constitute war crimes. Full investigations and accountability are essential.

We remain gravely concerned by politically motivated detentions and prosecutions of opposition leaders. Attempts to amend the Peace Agreement risk fatally undermining it and only push South Sudan back towards war.

The transitional government's failure to establish the Hybrid Court leaves victims without justice and perpetrators emboldened.

The UK stands with the people of South Sudan. We will continue to press for accountability, protect civic space, and support regional efforts to prevent further atrocities.

Commissioners: what should the international community prioritise to help reduce harm to civilians?

Thank you.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-human-rights-council-61-uk-statement-for-the-enhanced-interactive-dialogue-on-south-sudan>