



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

## PRESS MEMO

The Sudanese Doctors Union in Ireland (SDUI), the Sudan Doctors' Union U.K Branch (SDU-UK) , the Sudan Doctors' Union Canada Branch , the Sudan Doctors' Union Australia & New Zealand Branch and the Sudanese American Physicians Association (SAPA) are extremely concerned by reports from Sudan of recurrent sexual and physical assault on women and medical staff along with other ongoing violence attacks committed by paramilitaries and security forces.

We utterly deplore the villainous use of sexual violence against women and men in recent days in Sudan. Evidently rape and sexual assault are war crimes and have been utilised to degrade and humiliate victims and their families.

SDUI, SDU-UK, SDU Canada, SDU Australia & New Zealand and SAPA are anxious about these abhorrent violations that result in abiding psychological wounds in addition to debilitating injuries from physical assault and sexually transmitted infections.

Sudanese Doctors in Ireland, the UK, Canada Australia & New Zealand and the United States support our colleagues and other healthcare providers and call for their work environment be safe and threat-free. Healthcare access is a basic human entitlement and we emphasise that medical staff and health workers should be protected to provide urgent care without intimidation or fear of being harassed or targeted.

SDUI, SDU-UK, SDU Canada, SDU Australia & New Zealand and SAPA are in talks with authorities and legislative bodies in Ireland, the UK, Canada, Australia and the United States respectively, and calling for immediate cessation of attacks on healthcare staffing and women. We support the campaign for independent and transparent investigations of all sexual and physical violations.

*Please feel free to distribute this to anybody or organisation that can help to stop the massacre of peaceful protesters and to hold this criminal to account.*

***Sudanese Doctors Union of Ireland - Sudan Doctors' Union UK - Sudan Doctors' Union Canada  
Sudan Doctors' Union Australia & New Zealand - Sudanese American Physician Association***