



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION No.: **421-04344**

BY: **MR. BITTLE (ST. CATHARINES)**

DATE: **JUNE 10, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE CHRYSIA FREELAND**

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Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**SUDAN**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is an integral part of Canada's foreign policy. Canada has been following developments in Sudan very closely since the protest movement began in December 2018. In the first few months of the protest, Canada issued several statements which supported the protestors' right to express their opinions and condemned the Government of Sudan's violent response, which included the use of live ammunition and the detention without charge or trial of a number of political activists and protestors.

Following the removal of Omar al Bashir as President of Sudan on April 12, 2019, Canada commended the people of Sudan for their determination to make their voices heard and called for a transition to a civilian-led government. Canada was also one of the few countries to recognize the important role that women played in bringing about change in Sudan and requested that the new government remove all discriminatory laws and policies that undermine women and girls, and include them in all political processes.

On July 5, 2019, an interim agreement was achieved between the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change. Canada recognized the announcement of the agreement as a positive step forward and thanked the African Union and Ethiopian envoys for their role in mediating negotiations that led to the agreement. Canada also

encouraged both sides to swiftly proceed with the appointment of a transitional government and reach a final agreement to ensure that the people of Sudan realize their goal of a democratic, peaceful and prosperous country.

In addition to the formal statements issued by the Government of Canada, Canadian diplomats at the Embassy in Khartoum as well as other officials of Global Affairs Canada have engaged the Government of Sudan on issues of concern and maintained ongoing communication with various stakeholders, including like-minded countries, civil society organisations and representatives of the Forces for Freedom and Change, to determine the most effective manner to achieve positive change in Sudan. Canada also used multilateral platforms such as the Human Rights Council's regular sessions to condemn the Sudanese security forces' violent response to peaceful demonstrations; particularly the removal of protesters from the sit-in area near the Sudanese Armed Forces headquarters on June 3, 2019, and called for the perpetrators of the violence to be held to account.

Canada's engagement with civil society organisations has included meetings with Sudanese women activists, in Canada and in Sudan, to discuss their vision for the future of their country and find opportunities where Canada could support their call for a democratic and inclusive Sudan.

Canada will continue to stand with the people of Sudan in support of their just demands for democracy and human rights by working towards the effective implementation of the recently signed agreement between the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and change.