

Letters to the Editor



Sudan gas attacks

Sir, Amnesty International reports that Sudanese government forces have used chemical weapons on at least 30 occasions since January ("Mustard gas used against children in Darfur raids", World, Sep 29). When Syria deployed chemical weapons in 2013 it provoked international outrage, but with Sudan there has been silence. The regime has by now realised it can defy international law, by bombing schools and hospitals, using cluster munitions, and even gassing civilians, with impunity. As with Syria, we need to push the government for an investigation by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and launch a commission of inquiry run by the UN Human Rights Council.

And as with Syria, this must change our diplomatic calculations. The UK government has stepped up its dialogue with Sudan's government to secure concessions on stemming migration from the Horn of Africa. But is it worth doing business with a regime that chemically maims and murders its citizens? If we want Britain to remain a moral voice on the global stage, the answer must be "no".

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