

9 December 2025

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Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 18 November 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*Hi I have a few questions regarding New Zealand's position on the Sudan War*

- 1. What is New Zealand's position on the war in Sudan?*
- 2. Has New Zealand condemned the siege of El Fasher and the later genocide?*
- 3. Is New Zealand monitoring reported UAE weapons shipments to the RSF?*
- 4. Has New Zealand considered sanctioning or condemning the UAE for its (alleged) involvement in the El Fasher genocide?*
- 5. Is New Zealand monitoring reported Iran and Russian weapons shipments to the SAF?*
- 6. Is New Zealand monitoring Russian and Iranian Influence throughout Sudan and Central Africa?*

*I am very concerned about massacres that the RSF have carried out in El Fasher and warcrimes in general in Sudan (also ones conducted by the SAF) and I would support putting pressure on the UAE to reduce their (alleged) support for the RSF.*

*I urge New Zealand to do everything you possibly can to advocate for a humanitarian passage into El Fasher to allow surviving civilians to escape the "[literal kill box](#)" that the RSF have set up around El Fasher (Yale School of Public Health).*

*I am also slightly concerned about Iranian and Russian influence on the SAF and how that might have an impact on trade through the Suez canal.*

*Thank you*

*Ps its soo cool that I can just ask you guys questions :)*

## **Response to your request**

### *1. What is New Zealand's position on the war in Sudan?*

New Zealand is gravely concerned regarding the ongoing conflict in Sudan, including reports of human rights abuses. New Zealand unequivocally condemns the continued violence against civilians, including the recent atrocities committed in El Fasher.

### *2. Has New Zealand condemned the siege of El Fasher and the later genocide?*

Yes. New Zealand has made a number of statements regarding Sudan, including in the Human Rights Council. All statements can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources>

### *3. Is New Zealand monitoring reported UAE weapons shipments to the RSF?*

New Zealand monitors the situation in Sudan via the New Zealand Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and engages on this issue through multilateral fora such as the United Nations Human Rights Council. We have acknowledged the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan, including recommendations to expand the existing arms embargo in Darfur, and supported the recent Human Rights Council resolution for an urgent inquiry into the recent atrocities committed in El Fasher. The reports of the Fact Finding Mission can be found here: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/09/sudan-un-fact-finding-mission-outlines-extensive-human-rights-violations>

### *4. Has New Zealand considered sanctioning or condemning the UAE for its (alleged) involvement in the El Fasher genocide?*

The Sudanese conflict is complex. A number of external actors play a role in the conflict, providing support to both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). New Zealand has condemned the ongoing violence against civilians and urged all parties to engage in good faith negotiations to reach an immediate cessation of hostilities, and a durable, inclusive political solution to the conflict.

New Zealand can impose sanctions in two ways: through the domestic implementation of sanctions as mandated by resolution of the United Nations Security Council; or targeted sanctions under the Russia Sanctions Act in response to Russia's 2022 illegal invasion of Ukraine. New Zealand does not have autonomous sanctions, unless specifically mandated under enabling legislation.

### *5. Is New Zealand monitoring reported Iran and Russian weapons shipments to the SAF?*

We have acknowledged the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan and supported the recent Human Rights Council resolution for an urgent inquiry into the recent atrocities committed in El Fasher.

### *6. Is New Zealand monitoring Russian and Iranian Influence throughout Sudan and Central Africa?*



The New Zealand Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, monitors the situation in Sudan. The Embassy maintains diplomatic channels by engaging with stakeholders across its accreditations and through the African Union.

*I am very concerned about massacres that the RSF have carried out in El Fasher and warcrimes in general in Sudan (also ones conducted by the SAF) and I would support putting pressure on the UAE to reduce their (alleged) support for the RSF.*

*I urge New Zealand to do everything you possibly can to advocate for a humanitarian passage into El Fasher to allow surviving civilians to escape the "[literal kill box](#)" that the RSF have set up around El Fasher (Yale School of Public Health).*

New Zealand will continue to advocate for all parties to uphold international humanitarian law and ensure rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid to Sudanese civilians. Since 2023, New Zealand has provided NZ\$12.5 million in funding to support humanitarian action in Sudan.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade