

Delivered by Mary Meek

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**United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland**  
**National Statement**  
**Universal Periodic Review – Chad**

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Mr President,

The UK welcomes the delegation to Geneva and the human rights improvements since Chad's last UPR.

However, we believe more must be done to end impunity and strengthen the criminal justice system. The interference of the executive in judicial matters, including the suspension of judges who rule against the will of the Government, undermines the legal process.

Despite some progress in media freedom laws, Chad remains unsafe for journalists and more must be done to create a safer operating environment. We are concerned that people are imprisoned or intimidated for expressing dissent or criticism of the government. And we are specifically concerned by the arrests of two newspaper editors. We are also concerned by a proposed revision of the media law that would reverse the limited progress made.

We therefore recommend that Chad:

1. establishes an independent judiciary free from control of the Executive with impartial prosecutions in all cases
2. rejects the proposed amendment to the media law

Thank you