

To:

- Richard Masters, Chief Executive and Director of the Premier League
- Alison Brittain CBE, Chair of the Premier League
- The Premier League Board
- The Member Clubs of the Premier League

We, the undersigned, write to you to highlight the devastating conflict in Sudan, and specifically the Premier League's unique position to encourage efforts towards peace, given the well-documented connections between one of the most prominent parties to the conflict and Manchester City owner, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Sudan is experiencing one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises, with UN agencies [estimating](#) that over 30 million people – including nearly 15 million children – are in need of assistance as a result of the conflict which broke out between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) on 15 April 2023.

At least [150,000 people](#) have been killed and over [13 million](#) have been displaced, with both parties subjecting civilians to appalling violence which led a United Nations (UN) independent fact-finding mission to conclude in September 2024 that there are reasonable grounds to believe that war crimes and possible crimes against humanity have been committed during this conflict, a conclusion echoed by the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the UN Security Council in July 2025.

While both warring parties are backed by various international actors, **there is credible evidence that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to provide extensive military and financial support to the RSF.**

Throughout the conflict, prominent human rights organisations and media outlets have reported on RSF fighters using [anti-tank missiles](#), [armoured personnel carriers](#), [mortar rounds](#) and [guided bombs and howitzers](#) – either manufactured in or re-exported by the UAE. UN experts have also [concluded](#) that allegations of the UAE providing [support](#) to the RSF through Am Djarass airport in Chad, where it claims to be running a humanitarian effort, are 'credible'.

Furthermore, in July 2024 the Guardian [reported](#) on a 41-page document sent to the UN Security Council containing photos of Emirati passports allegedly found in Sudan and linked to RSF soldiers, suggesting that the UAE may have deployed personnel to assist the fighting.

In October 2025 the RSF captured the city of El Fasher in Darfur after an 18-month siege in which drones flown out of Am Djarass were repeatedly seen [hovering over the city](#). Days after the city was taken, fighters [attacked](#) its main hospital, killing 'everyone they found inside'.

As vice president, deputy prime minister and minister of the presidential court of the UAE, brother of the president, and a member of the ruling family of Abu Dhabi, **Manchester City owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan is in a position to intervene in and end the UAE's role in this conflict.**

Concerningly, Sheikh Mansour has well-documented ties with the leader of the RSF, Mohamed Hamdan ‘Hemedti’ Dagalo, and has been [described](#) as Hemedti’s closest ally in the Emirates, hosting the general on multiple occasions, including in February 2023, just two months before the start of the conflict.

In March 2023 all 20 Premier League clubs – 18 of whom, including Manchester City, are competing in the 2025/26 season – [unanimously approved](#) changes to the League’s Owners’ and Directors’ Test (OADT) to add a range of new Disqualifying Events to the test, including one for ‘human rights abuses’.

While this Disqualifying Event does not appear in the OADT outlined in [Premier League Handbook 2025/26](#) (Section F, pp. 149-160), the vote nonetheless highlights that the Premier League does not consider complicity in human rights abuses befitting of a club owner.

The Premier League is also subject to the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#), which state that business enterprises should seek ‘to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products or services by their business relationships, even if they have not contributed to those impacts.’ As [Human Rights Watch](#) pointed out in 2020, such adverse impacts ‘may include conferring reputational benefits that help cover up human rights abuses.’

Thus, in light of the severity of the ongoing conflict in Sudan, the credibility and volume of evidence highlighting the UAE and Sheikh Mansour’s support for the RSF, and the Premier’s League’s own obligations to prevent human rights abuses, we call on the Premier League to:

- **Raise these issues with Sheikh Mansour as a matter of urgency.**
- Hold Sheikh Mansour to account for the role his country is playing in prolonging and profiting from the conflict.
- Insist that the UAE ends its support for the RSF and provides humanitarian assistance to the people of Sudan as a means of reparation.

The Premier League should also consider how it could use its vast resources to support Sudanese nationals facing the worst displacement crisis in the world.