**Britain trains regimes of oppression**

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THE British government has spent millions of pounds training military, police and security personnel from oppressive regimes that have arms embargoes in place, *The Guardian* newspaper has learnt.

In the past five years, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have received from the UK government £2.4 million ($A3.7 million) between them in training and support for military and defence personnel.

Sudan is the only country in the world where the sitting president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, has been indicted for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court.

In Congo extensive human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings and torture, have been documented.

The Enough Project, which works with the actor George Clooney to expose human rights abuses in Sudan and Congo, says the two countries have been the scene of some of the world's worst mass atrocities.

A freedom-of-information response from Britain's Ministry of Defence showed a total of £75,406 had been spent on providing 44-week courses at the elite Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for Sudanese and Congolese forces. Other support includes military logistics, advanced command and staff courses, strategic intelligence and evaluating challenges to state sovereignty.

A total of £952,301 was spent on international peace support, which includes border security and stabilisation.

Much of the concern about human rights abuses in Sudan centres on conflict in the border areas with the newly formed country of South Sudan and in Darfur, where 300,000 people have been killed and up to 4 million displaced. The Sudanese government has refused humanitarian aid access to the border areas.

In Congo many human rights abuses have been documented, especially against opponents of President Joseph Kabila.

A UN report highlighted ''serious human rights violations, including killings, disappearances and arbitrary detentions'' during last November's presidential elections.

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