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## As cry of 'shame' echoes around Upper House over Rwanda Bill

By **Jason Groves** Political Editor

**RISHI Sunak yesterday warned the House of Lords to respect the 'will of the people' and drop threats to block the Rwanda Bill.**

Insisting the plan to deport Channel migrants to Africa was an urgent national priority, he called on Labour and the Lords to 'do the right thing' and get behind it.

The Prime Minister said he was 'not messing around' in his efforts to get the scheme going after almost two years of delays in the courts and was 'fed up with the legal merry-go-round'.

The Safety of Rwanda Bill, which is designed to remove all remaining legal hurdles, cleared the Commons on Wednesday night after Tory rebels abandoned attempts to toughen it up.

Some peers are now gearing up for a constitutional clash by delaying – or even blocking – the new law. A cry of 'shame' rang out in the Lords yesterday when the Bill was introduced and one peer even claimed the legislation was a 'step towards totalitarianism'.

The first battle will be on January 29 when peers are expected to debate the legislation. It could clear the Lords by the middle of March but if they dig their heels in they could delay it for months.

At a Downing Street press conference Mr Sunak said: 'There is now only one question. Will the opposition in the appointed House of Lords try and frustrate the will of the people as expressed by the elected House? Or will they get on board and do the right thing?'

With peers threatening further delay

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# DON'T DEFY WILL OF THE PEOPLE, RISHI WARNS LORDS