



DEBATE PACK

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Andy Tsege and other UK nationals imprisoned abroad

Westminster Hall
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9.30am – 11.00am
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1. Background

Andargachew Tsege is a UK national who is currently on death row in Ethiopia. He was allegedly transferred there by the Yemeni authorities in 2014 after he had sought to transit through Sanaa international airport. He had been sentenced in absentia to death in 2009 for allegedly being part of a coup plot.

He originally fled to the UK from Ethiopia in 1979, during the rule of dictator Mengistu Hailemariam, whose regime was overthrown in 1991 by the current Ethiopian Government.

In late July 2015, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention released an [opinion](#) in which it described Mr Tsege's detention as illegal. The report concluded that the "adequate remedy would be to release Mr Tsege and afford him adequate compensation."

The UK Government has been accused of failing to do enough for him. In late-August, the Foreign Secretary published an [Open Letter](#) about the case on the government website.

In September 2016, Mr Tsege's nine-year old daughter was [denied](#) an application for judicial review of the UK Government's handling of her father's case by the High Court. Her lawyers have decided not to appeal.

In October 2016 Ethiopian and UK-based human rights groups wrote a [Letter](#) to the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, criticising the Government and urging it to do more on behalf of Mr Tsege.

In November 2016, supporters claimed that Mr Tsege was "[in fear for his life](#)" in prison.

His case has been raised in Parliament by a number of MPs. In a March 2016 [report](#) on the FCO's human rights activities, the Foreign Affairs Committee raised Mr Tsege's case, saying that over this Parliament it would be monitoring the FCO's efforts to assist him.

Members may also seek to raise the cases of [Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe](#) and [Kamal Foroughi](#), both of whom are currently imprisoned in Iran.

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

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London Evening Standard

[Downing Street carol protest for Hampstead mother Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe jailed in Iran](#)

Naomi Ackerman

14 December 2016

Relieve

[Death-row Brit goes 2 years without phone call to London family](#)

14 December 2016

ECADF Ethiopian News

[Ethiopia: Foreign Office takes two weeks to confirm death-row Briton still alive](#)

23 November 2016

International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran

[Call for Iran to Release Imprisoned British-Iranians Heats Up As Families and MPs Petition UK Government](#)

28 October 2016

Sky News

[Johnson 'not helping' Briton held on death row in Ethiopia](#)

26 October 2016

The Independent

[Tony Blair urged to intervene in case of British father on Ethiopia's death row](#)

Adam Withnall

11 October 2016

The Guardian

[The British government must act now to free Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe](#)

Tulip Siddiq and Richard Ratcliffe

14 September 2016

The Guardian

[British woman jailed for five years in Iran](#)

Patrick Wintour

9 September 2016

The Guardian

Briton jailed in Ethiopia: court rules Foreign Office does not have to intercede

Basia Cummings

7 September 2016

Daily Telegraph

British grandfather held in one of Iran's most notorious jails on spy charges 'to be released within the week'

Josie Ensor

26 July 2016

The Independent

Britain helps fund Ethiopian regime holding UK activist on death row

Jonathan Owen

20 March 2016

3. Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Andargachew Tsege, British national currently detained in Ethiopia: open letter to supporters

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

26 August 2016



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Secretary of State

26 August 2016

I'm writing this open letter to all those who have contacted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in recent months concerning the case of British national, Andargachew Tsege, currently detained in Ethiopia.

First of all, I would like to state that Mr Tsege's case remains a high priority for the British Government and that we take his welfare very seriously.

My predecessor as Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, raised this case with both the Ethiopian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister during his visit to Ethiopia on 1 June 2016. During his meetings, he made it clear that while progress has been made, with regular consular access now in place following his transfer to a federal prison, further steps are required. Prime Minister Hailemariam assured the then Foreign Secretary that Mr Tsege would be allowed access to independent legal advice to allow him to consider his options under the Ethiopian legal system. We will continue to press the Ethiopian Government as necessary to ensure that Mr Tsege has access to the promised legal representation. This was a point that I reiterated during my call with my Ethiopian counterpart, Dr Tedros - one of my first calls as Foreign Secretary.

I am aware of the suggestion that the UK Government should directly call for Mr Tsege's release. As my predecessor has previously stated, Britain does not interfere in the legal systems of other countries by challenging convictions, any more than we would accept interference in our judicial system. We do, however, lobby strongly and consistently against the application of the death penalty, and against the carrying out of such sentences when they are imposed. Our consular priority at this time is to ensure Mr Tsege's well-being and access to legal advice, and to ensure that the death sentence is not carried out.

During the former Foreign Secretary's visit, a senior Foreign Office official travelling with him was given access to Mr Tsege in prison. This was the tenth visit to Mr Tsege by British Government officials. Following that visit, the then Foreign Secretary stated that he was satisfied that Mr Tsege was not being ill-treated and that he was receiving regular visits from family members in Ethiopia. We will continue to monitor Mr Tsege's welfare closely and to support him and his family.

THE RT HON BORIS JOHNSON MP

Foreign Secretary concerned over detention of Andargachew Tsege
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
25 June 2016

On 24 June, the Foreign Secretary discussed the continued detention of British national Andargachew Tsege with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Following the call the Foreign Secretary said:

“I am deeply concerned that, a year after he was first detained, British national Andargachew Tsege remains in solitary confinement in Ethiopia without a legal process to challenge his detention. I am also concerned for his welfare and disappointed that our repeated requests for regular consular access have not been granted, despite promises made.

“I spoke to Foreign Minister Tedros this afternoon and made clear that Ethiopia’s failure to grant our repeated and basic requests is not acceptable. I informed Dr Tedros that the lack of progress risks undermining the UK’s much valued bilateral relationship with Ethiopia.

“I asked Dr Tedros once again to permit immediate regular consular access and for our concerns regarding Mr Tsege’s welfare to be addressed. I have also asked that the Ethiopian authorities facilitate a visit by Mr Tsege’s family. Foreign Office officials will continue to provide consular support both to Mr Tsege and to his family during this difficult time.”

Foreign Secretary secures legal representation for Briton detained in Ethiopia
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
1 June 2016

Philip Hammond pressed for progress when he met both the Ethiopian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

The Foreign Secretary secured assurances from the Ethiopian Government that Mr. Tsege will be granted access to a lawyer.

During his visit, the Foreign Secretary despatched a senior Foreign Office Director to meet Mr. Tsege in prison, on his behalf, on Wednesday to seek further assurances about his welfare.

This is the tenth visit by British Embassy staff and follows a visit by the British Ambassador in May.

Speaking from Ethiopia after his meetings on Wednesday, Philip Hammond said:

“I raised the case of Andargachew Tsege in my meeting with the Prime Minister, making it clear that while progress has been made, with regular consular access now in place and a transfer to a federal prison, further steps are required. I have now received a commitment from the

Prime Minister that Mr Tsege will be allowed access to independent legal advice to allow him to discuss options under the Ethiopian legal system.

“Britain does not interfere in the legal systems of other countries, any more than we would accept interference in our judicial system. Our consular role is to ensure well-being and access to legal advice.

“At my request, a senior Foreign Office official travelling with me, was given access to Mr Tsege in prison today. Following that visit, I am satisfied that he is not being ill-treated and that he is receiving regular visits from family members in Ethiopia.”

The Foreign Secretary has repeatedly raised Mr Tsege’s case and Prime Minister David Cameron has also written to the Ethiopian Prime Minister on two separate occasions.

Following the British Government’s intervention, access to Mr. Tsege has improved and he was transferred to a regular prison.

The Foreign Secretary has met Mr. Tsege’s partner and the British Government will continue to support Mr. Tsege and his family.

4. Foreign Affairs Committee

Foreign Affairs Committee

Oral evidence: FCO Budget and Capacity, and Annual Report, HC 836 [Extract]

22 November 2016

Q202 Ann Clwyd: There seems to be a largely positive story about consular services in 2015-16, but among the ongoing challenges facing consular services and the FCO more generally are the cases of UK nationals or dual nationals being held in prisons abroad following legal processes that fall very short of international standards. There is the Tsege case in Ethiopia and the Foroughi and Ratcliffe cases in Iran. What more can the FCO do to help individuals and better protect UK nationals and dual nationals who are being held illegally in foreign prisons?

Sir Simon McDonald: There is an important distinction between UK nationals and dual nationals who are in the country of their other nationality. Under international law it is more difficult for us to help them, but we try. I was in Ethiopia earlier this year. The Tsege case is a top priority for the ambassador, who is trying to ensure that he gets fair process by imagination and persistence. This is something that is raised regularly by the ambassador and senior visitors to Addis Ababa.

The challenge is, if anything, even greater in Tehran, but, using diplomatic channels including back channels—unpublicised channels—we are not only aware but trying to help. As you say, these cases are desperately sad as well as desperately difficult.

Q203 Ann Clwyd: But the view among the public who take an interest in these cases is that the Americans are much more successful in protecting their own people and getting them out of these difficulties.

Sir Simon McDonald: I know in Iran the Americans have had some success—how they achieve that success is debated—but we have only so many levers in Iran right now. As you know, we now have full diplomatic relations, so we have a full ambassador and this is one of his priority objectives.

5. PQs

Andargachew Tsege
01 Dec 2016 | HL3270

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Ethiopia concerning the detention of Andargachew Tsege, a British national, further to those made by the Foreign Secretary in a call to his Ethiopian counterpart, Dr Tedros, and what reassurance have they obtained about (1) his treatment whilst in prison, (2) his access to independent legal advice, (3) his access to regular consular assistance, and (4) his death sentence not being carried out.

Answering member: Baroness Anelay of St Johns | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK Government takes Mr Tsege's case seriously. The Ethiopian Government are in no doubt as to our concerns for Mr Tsege and the priority we place upon his wellbeing. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) has raised the case each time he has spoken to his Ethiopian counterparts and the Ambassador raises it regularly at the highest levels in Ethiopia, most recently after her visit to Mr Tsege in prison on 11 November. From her discussions with Mr Tsege she was reassured of his welfare and was also able to give Mr Tsege a list of local lawyers. This is an important step toward Mr Tsege having access to legal advice to discuss his options under Ethiopian law. He must now be allowed to contact them without obstruction. We will continue to press the Ethiopians to abide by this commitment. The recent visit to Mr Tsege was the 12th visit to him by UK Government officials. We will also continue to press the Ethiopians to ensure that they abide by their commitment to ensure regular consular access to Mr Tsege. The Government opposes the use of the death penalty under all circumstances. We have made our stance on the death penalty very clear to the Ethiopian authorities.

Kamal Foroughi and Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe
24 Nov 2016 | 53303

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to the UN statement of 7 October 2016 calling for the immediate and unconditional release of British Iranian dual nationals, if he will make public representations to the government of Iran calling for that release.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Ministers and officials regularly make representations to the Iranian Government on all our consular cases. The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) raised our dual national cases with Iranian President Rouhani in person on 20 September, and followed up by letter on 3 October. The Secretary of State for Foreign

and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) also raised our cases with Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif on 22 September, and followed up by letter on 4 November.

Kamal Foroughi and Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

24 Nov 2016 | 53287

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if the Government will ensure that the cases of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Kamal Foroughi are raised in all discussions with the government of Iran.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since we were made aware of the arrests of Mrs Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Mr Kamal Foroughi, Ministers and officials have raised their cases repeatedly, at all levels, with the Iranian Government. Most recently, The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) raised these cases with their Iranian counterparts during the UN General Assembly in September. The Prime Minister followed up her concerns in writing to President Rouhani on 3 October. We will continue to raise these cases with the Iranian Government at every available opportunity.

Kamal Foroughi and Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

24 Nov 2016 | 53286

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will meet the families of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Kamal Foroughi to update them on steps the Government has taken to date on those cases.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We have been supporting the families of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Kamal Foroughi since we were notified of their arrests and remain in regular contact with them. I have met them personally to assure them that we will continue to do all we can.

Andargachew Tsege

24 Nov 2016 | 53800

Asked by: Sir Henry Bellingham

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many times the UK Ambassador to Ethiopia has raised with the Ethiopian government the case of Andargachew Tsege; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Ambassador takes every opportunity to lobby on Mr Tsege's case at the highest levels in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian government are in no doubt over our concern for Mr Tsege and the priority we place upon his wellbeing.

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

24 Nov 2016 | 53900

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to his Iranian counterpart on the case of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since we were made aware of the arrest of Mrs Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe Ministers and officials have raised the case repeatedly, at all levels, with the Iranian government. Most recently, The Prime Minister, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), and The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson), raised Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case with their Iranian counterparts during the UN General Assembly in September. The Prime Minister followed up her concerns in writing to President Rouhani on 3 October. We will continue to raise these cases with the Iranian Government at every available opportunity.

Andargachew Tsege

22 Nov 2016 | 53667

Asked by: Roger Godsiff

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if his Department will make representations to the Ethiopian government on facilitating phone calls between Andargachew Tsege and his family in the UK.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood Foreign and Commonwealth Office

As part of our ongoing consular support to Mr Tsege, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made representations to the Ethiopian Government requesting that he be given access to a telephone.

Topical Questions

22 Nov 2016 | 617 c749

Asked by: Tom Brake

What is the Foreign Secretary doing to secure the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe?

Answered by: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I can tell the right hon. Gentleman that the Foreign Office is in regular contact with the Iranian Government at all levels. The matter has been raised by the Prime Minister with President Rouhani, and by me with Foreign Minister Zarif. My hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth East (Mr Ellwood) has only recently had meetings on that very subject. The matter is of the utmost priority for this Government, and we are doing our level best to resolve it.

Andargachew Tsege

18 Nov 2016 | 52902

Asked by: Steve McCabe

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has requested a copy of the extradition agreement or security agreement from either the Yemeni or Ethiopian governments which was reported to exist between the two countries at the time of Andargachew Tsege's kidnap in 2014.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

British Government officials have requested a copy of any agreement relating to the transfer of Mr Tsege from Yemen to Ethiopia, but we have not received this.

Andargachew Tsege

15 Nov 2016 | 52261

Asked by: Steve McCabe

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2016 to Question 50279, whether his evidential basis for the assessment of Mr Tsege as not being ill-treated relates to the meeting of 2 August 2016 and not later.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The answer of 25 October 2016 to Question 50279 related to the meeting of 2 August 2016. However, our Ambassador to Ethiopia has subsequently visited Mr Tsege on 11 November. Following this meeting we have not changed our assessment of Mr Tsege's general welfare.

Andargachew Tsege

14 Nov 2016 | 52060

Asked by: Steve McCabe

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has been advised by the Ethiopian authorities on how many times Mr Andargachew Tsege has had access to a telephone to contact his family in London during the past two and a half years.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

It is our understanding that Mr Tsege has had access to a telephone but we do not have any more details.

Andargachew Tsege

14 Nov 2016 | 52001

Asked by: Roger Godsiff

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will respond to the recent concerns that Mr Andy Tsege's life may be in danger; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Ambassador visited Mr Tsege on 11 November and heard from him directly about recent events where she was reassured of his welfare. We have informed his family of our visit and passed on messages. We remain in close contact with them and will continue to support them.

Business of the House

03 Nov 2016 | 616 c1063

Asked by: Tom Brake

Will the Leader of the House make time available for a debate about the fate of Andy Tsege, with whom many Members of the House will be familiar, who is on death row in Ethiopia? There are concerns about his safety and the safety of the cell he is sharing, and there has been no consular access since August.

Answering member: David Lidington

As the right hon. Gentleman knows, Foreign Office Ministers have made frequent representations to the Ethiopian authorities about Mr Tsege. I shall draw the right hon. Gentleman's continuing concern to the attention of the Foreign Secretary at the earliest possible opportunity.

Andargachew Tsege

02 Nov 2016 | 50280

Asked by: Margaret Ferrier

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether his Department has been advised by the Ethiopian authorities that Mr Andargachew Tsege has been visited or contacted by family members.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Tsege has received regular visits in prison from his family based in Ethiopia. I understand that Mr Tsege also has had access to a phone to call his family based in the UK.

Andargachew Tsege

02 Nov 2016 | 50279

Asked by: Margaret Ferrier

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if his Department has undertaken a recent assessment of the welfare and treatment of Mr Andargachew Tsege; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

When the former Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), visited Ethiopia in June 2016, he stated that he was satisfied that Mr Tsege was not being ill-treated and that he was receiving regular visits from family members in Ethiopia. Our Ambassador to Ethiopia last visited Mr Tsege on 2 August 2016. This was the eleventh consular visit to Mr Tsege. At each visit, we ask Mr Tsege about his treatment in prison and whether he has any welfare issues that he would like to raise. Where we have Mr Tsege's permission to do so, we raise any concerns or issues about his welfare and treatment with the authorities, in line with our standard consular practice. We continue to monitor Mr Tsege's welfare closely and to support him and his family.

Andargachew Tsege

31 Oct 2016 | 50490

Asked by: Stephen Timms

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Ethiopia on whether Mr Andargachew Tsege has received the legal advice promised by the Ethiopian Prime Minister on 1 June 2016.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Since Prime Minister Hailemariam promised that Mr Tsege would be given access to legal advice, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) has raised Mr Tsege's case with his Ethiopian counterpart, Foreign Minister Tedros, on three occasions, most recently during the UN General Assembly in New York on 22 September. Each time he has insisted that the Ethiopians follow through with their commitment to allow legal access.

Andargachew Tsege

18 Oct 2016 | 47897

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Ethiopian counterpart on the case of Andy Tsege.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Government takes the detention and welfare of Mr Andargachew Tsege very seriously. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) has raised Mr Tsege's case with his Ethiopian counterpart, Foreign Minister Tedros, on three occasions, most recently during the UN General Assembly in New York in September. During that conversation he pressed Dr Tedros to follow through with the commitment made by Prime Minister Hailemariam, to allow Mr Tsege access to independent legal advice so he can discuss his options under the Ethiopian legal system. We will continue to press the Ethiopians to ensure that Mr Tsege has legal representation.

[Ethiopia: Security](#)

18 Oct 2016 | 47618

Asked by: Steve McCabe

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what account his Department took of the case of Andargachew Tsege in its decision to fund the executive MSc programme in security sector management in Ethiopia.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

In line with standard government policy, we conducted an Overseas Security and Justice Assessment before funding for the executive MSc programme in security sector management was approved. The consular case of Mr Andargachew Tsege was not a factor in the process. The programme focuses on building an understanding of the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law, and the assessment evaluated the programme to be supporting the reduction of human rights violations. The Government takes the detention and welfare of Mr Andargachew Tsege very seriously and continues to raise his case with the Ethiopian government at the highest levels.

Topical Questions

18 Oct 2016 | 615 c669

Asked by: Stephen Timms

My hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Steve McCabe) asked earlier about Londoner and British citizen Andy Tsege, a political dissident who was kidnapped in June 2014. In June this year, the Foreign Secretary's predecessor announced in a press release that he had

"secured assurances from the Ethiopian Government that Mr Tsege will be granted access to a lawyer".

Those assurances have not been honoured. Will the Foreign Secretary now formally request the release of Mr Tsege?

Answering member: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I have set out our position on Mr Tsege in an open letter on gov.uk. I cannot, I am afraid, comment further, because our handling of this case is the subject of ongoing legal proceedings.

Somalia

18 Oct 2016 | 615 c659

Asked by: Steve McCabe

While considering the security situation in Somalia, how does the Minister assess the role of Ethiopia, and what impact is the continued detention of British citizen Andy Tsege having on our relations with the Ethiopian regime?

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I am aware of the state of emergency that Ethiopia has introduced, and I will certainly look at the consular case that the hon. Gentleman raises and perhaps write to him with more details. However, I would pass on congratulations to Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the other countries that are providing forces and making an important contribution to the support and stability of Somalia.

Andargachew Tsege

10 Oct 2016 | 46316

Asked by: Steve McCabe

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the outcome has been of his Department's efforts to secure a lawyer for Andargachew Tsege; and what other steps his Department plans to take to ensure the release of Mr Tsege.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

On 1 June 2016, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam assured the then Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), that Mr Tsege would be allowed access to independent legal advice to allow him to discuss options under the Ethiopian legal system. Since then, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) has raised Mr Tsege's case with his Ethiopian counterpart, Foreign Minister Tedros, on 3 occasions, most recently during the UN General Assembly in New York. Each time he has insisted that the Ethiopians follow through with their commitment to allow legal access. The British Government will continue to raise this issue until Mr Tsege is given access to independent legal advice. We do not interfere in the legal systems of other countries by challenging convictions, any more than we would accept interference in our judicial system. We will continue to keep our approach to this case under review.

Andargachew Tsege

10 Oct 2016 | 46145

Asked by: Steve McCabe

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2016 to Question 39705, what assessment his Department has made of Ethiopia's progress on providing independent legal access for Andargachew Tsege.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

On 1 June 2016, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam assured the then Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), that Mr Tsege would be allowed access to independent legal advice to allow him to discuss options under the Ethiopian legal system. Since then, the Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Mr Johnson) has raised Mr Tsege's case with his Ethiopian counterpart, Foreign Minister Tedros, on 3 occasions, most recently during the UN General Assembly in New York, insisting that the Ethiopians follow through with their commitment to allow legal access. The British Government will continue to do so until Mr Tsege is given access to independent legal advice.

Iran: Prisoners

12 Jul 2016 | 41821

Asked by: Jim Shannon

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will urge the government of Iran to apply without discrimination Article 58 of the Islamic Penal Code to permit Kamal Foroughi's early release.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Any legal representations would be for Mr Foroughi's legal team to consider and pursue within Iran. The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has told the British Embassy in Tehran that Mr Foroughi's lawyers would be welcome to have contact with the Iranian Judicial authorities.

Engagements

06 Jul 2016 | 612 cc878-9

Asked by: Chris Law

I recently met Yemi, whose husband, Andy Tsege, a British citizen, has been on Ethiopia's death row for over two years. Andy was kidnapped while travelling and illegally rendered to Ethiopia. He was sentenced to death six years ago at a trial that he was neither present at nor able to present any defence whatsoever to, in direct contravention of international law. He has been denied access to his wife and children, has spent a year in solitary confinement and has had no access to legal representation. Recent reports suggest that he is suicidal. Prime Minister, in your final weeks in office, will you finally demand the

immediate release of Andy Tsege and bring him home to be reunited with his wife and children?

Answered by: David Cameron | Prime Minister

I can reassure the hon. Gentleman that we are taking a very close interest in this case. The Foreign Secretary was in Ethiopia recently. Our consul has been able to meet Mr Tsege on a number of occasions and we are working with him and with the Ethiopian Government to try to get this resolved.

Andargachew Tsege

13 Jun 2016 | 39705

Asked by: Dawn Butler

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent progress has been made on the case of Andargachew Tsege and efforts to ensure proper legal and consular access for Mr Tsege and visitation rights for his family

Answering member: James Duddridge | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) raised Mr Tsege's case with the Ethiopian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister during his visit to Ethiopia on 1 June 2016. The Foreign Secretary received assurances that Mr Tsege will be allowed access to independent legal advice to allow him to discuss options under the Ethiopian legal system. We will continue to press the Ethiopians as necessary to ensure that Mr Tsege has legal representation. As a result of sustained lobbying by the British Government, we now have more frequent consular access to Mr Tsege. He has been visited by UK Government officials on 10 occasions, most recently by both Her Majesty's Ambassador to Ethiopia and by the FCO's Africa Director on 1 June 2016. Mr Tsege is also receiving regular visits from his family in Ethiopia, and the FCO continues to provide consular support to Mr Tsege's family in the UK.

Andargachew Tsege

18 Apr 2016 | 33663

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the compliance of the in absentia death sentence handed down to Andy Tsege in Ethiopia with international human rights standards.

Answering member: James Duddridge | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK Government is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. We remain deeply concerned about the process by which Mr Andargachew Tsege was detained and his ongoing lack of access to legal counsel. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) and I have raised this case repeatedly with our Ethiopian

counterparts, which has resulted in frequent consular access to Mr Tsege. We continue to press the Ethiopian government to provide a legal process through which Mr Tsege can challenge his detention, that is consistent with domestic and international law. We will continue to lobby the Ethiopian government until our concerns have been fully addressed.

Andargachew Tsege

13 Apr 2016 | 33222

Asked by: Tom Brake

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the legality of the death sentence handed down to Andrew Tsege in Ethiopia.

Answering member: James Duddridge | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK Government is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. We have serious concerns about the process by which Mr Andargachew Tsege was transferred from Yemen and his ongoing lack of access to a lawyer. The Foreign Secretary, my Rt Hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) has raised Mr Tsege's case 21 times with his Ethiopian counterpart. I have also raised this case, most recently on 8 January. We continue to lobby for Mr Tsege to be granted access to a lawyer.

6. Early Day Motions

Kamal Foroughi and Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Early Day Motion 564 (session 2016-17)

Tom Brake

18 October 2016

That this House expresses grave concern regarding the cases of Mr Kamal Foroughi and Ms Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, British dual nationals, who are currently imprisoned without charge in Iran; is worried for the health and safety of Mr Foroughi and Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe who have both been kept in solitary confinement at times and, in the case of Mr Foroughi, has been denied urgent medical help; urges the Government to publicly call for the immediate release of Mr Foroughi and the release of Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe unless she is formally charged and granted a fair trial; supports the recent UN statement calling for the immediate and unconditional release of British-Iranian dual nationals; and calls on the Government to ensure that both Mr Foroughi and Ms Zaghari-Ratcliffe's cases are raised in all private discussions with the Iranian authorities.

Continued detention of Andargachew Tsege

Early Day Motion 599 (session 2014-15)

Jeremy Corbyn

3 December 2014

That this House remains extremely concerned about the case of British citizen and Ethiopian political opposition activist Andargachew Tsege, abducted on 23 June 2014 while in transit in Sana'a airport, Yemen, on his way to Eritrea and extradited to Ethiopia; is very disappointed that after more than five months in detention, his whereabouts are still unknown and meaningful consular access has not been facilitated by the Ethiopian government; notes that over the past decade Human Rights Watch and other domestic and international human rights organisations have documented patterns of serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and detention, ill-treatment and torture in many official and unofficial detention facilities throughout Ethiopia; is dismayed that the Ethiopian government has not provided an unequivocal guarantee that it will not carry out the death penalty imposed in previous in absentia proceedings; calls on the Government to do more to ensure that it obtains regular consular access and that Mr Tsege receives a fair trial; and further calls on the Government to review its aid programme to Ethiopia, including any funding given to the security sector, as a matter of urgency.

Detention of Andargachew Tsege in Ethiopia

Early Day Motion 245 (session 2014-15)

Alan Meale

9 July 2014

That this House is seriously concerned about the safety of Andargachew Tsege, a British citizen, who was detained and then abducted on 23 June 2014 by the Yemeni authorities while in transit through Sana'a airport on his way to Asmara, Eritrea; understands that he may have been extradited from that country to Ethiopia and since then has been denied consular access; believes that this UK citizen's life and well-being may be in danger during his period of illegal detention; and calls on the Government to insist on his immediate release and repatriation back to Britain at the earliest opportunity.

7. Further reading

Letter from the International Development Committee on the Detention of British national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe in Iran, International Development Committee, 13 December 2016

Urgent request that the UK reconsider its refusal to call for Andy Tsege's release, Reprieve, Fair Trials International, Ethiopia Human Rights Project and Redress, 18 October 2016

Reprieve (Andy Tsege)

Redress

Ethiopia Human Rights Project

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