



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

22nd October 2020

Dear Foreign Secretary,

Response of the UK Government to the killing of protesters in Lagos, Nigeria

I am writing to express my deep concern about recent events in Nigeria. I am sure you share my horror at the massacre of peaceful protesters by Nigerian security forces in Lagos this week and the wider crackdown on peaceful protests being instigated by the Nigerian Government.

Following international pressure, President Buhari dissolved the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) on 11th October 2020. Originally created to protect civilians from armed robbers, calls to disband SARS came after Amnesty International documented at least 82 cases of torture, ill treatment and extra-judicial execution in the last three years.

It is extremely concerning that the ongoing protests, which preceded the disbanding of SARS, have been met with apparent state-sponsored violence. It is especially horrific to learn that at least 12 people were killed in Lagos at the Lekki Toll-Gate this week due to the intervention by armed forces against protesters.

I represent a constituency with strong links to Nigeria and this week I have been contacted by many constituents, fearful for the lives of family members who are caught up in the unrest in Lagos. Whilst I note your tweet on the 21st October calling for the Nigerian Government to urgently investigate reports of brutality by its security forces and hold those responsible to account, I would like to be able to inform my constituents that the UK Government is doing all it can to condemn the use of brutal force against peaceful protests and the chance to inform constituents of the wider work you and the FCO team are undertaking to raise concerns with Nigerian authorities about these issues.

Global pressure on President Buhari and his administration can make a difference and I would urge you to ensure the UK Government condemns the recent violence in the strongest possible terms. I would also be grateful if you could outline what work the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office is undertaking to help end the corruption within the Nigerian security services which has led to this completely unacceptable violence.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Coyle MP

Neil Coyle MP

Bermondsey and Old Southwark

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