



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon
Minister of State for South and
Central Asia, North Africa, UN and
the Commonwealth
Prime Minister's Special
Representative on Preventing Sexual
Violence in Conflict

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
Tel: 0207 008 5000

Email:
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MC2022/16818

6 September 2022

Dear George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 June to the former Foreign Secretary on behalf of several of your constituents about Jagtar Singh Johal. I am replying as the Minister of State for South Asia and Minister responsible for Human Rights. I apologise for the late reply.

I share your constituent's concerns regarding Mr Johal's detention and reported treatment, and that he has been charged with offences which could carry the death penalty. The UK Government has consistently raised our concerns about Mr Johal's detention and treatment directly and robustly with the Government of India. Last year, we agreed a commitment, as part of a 2030 Roadmap, to work together with the Government of India to resolve long-running and complex cases. We remain committed to this, and we will continue to do what we can to assist Mr Johal. This includes continuing to engage directly with the Government of India on Mr Johal's case.

We take the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's opinion very seriously and call on all states to comply with their human rights obligations. We have consistently raised concerns about Mr Johal's case, directly with the Indian authorities and will continue to do so, including to emphasise the need for Mr Johal's torture allegations to be fully, and independently, investigated.

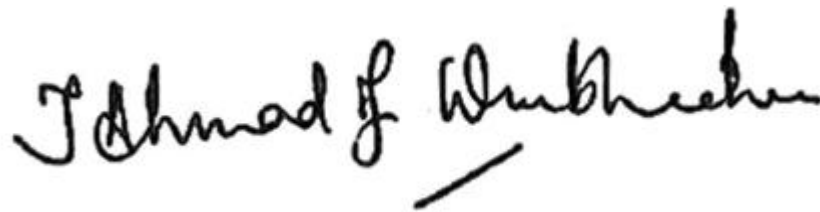
We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances and raise this in individual cases at whatever stage and level we judge to be most effective.

The former Foreign Secretary was regularly updated on Mr Johal's case and met Mr Johal's MP and brother, on 9 June, to discuss their concerns, and our representations in this case to date. She most recently raised Mr Johal's detention with the Minister for External Affairs, Dr Jaishankar, on 31 March during her visit to India. The former Prime Minister also discussed this with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar, on 22 April. I raised Mr Johal's case most recently in December 2021.

Consular staff are in regular contact with the relevant jail authorities to monitor Mr Johal's health and were able to visit him most recently on 14 June. Consular staff also regularly attend hearings in Mr Johal's case to observe proceedings, and did so most recently on 26 July.

Please be assured that we will continue to do what we can to support Mr Johal and press for him to be treated in accordance with Indian and international law. We also continue to work with G7 and other international partners to enhance mechanisms to uphold international law, tackle human rights abuses and stand up for our shared values.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

Minister of State for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict