



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Department  
for International  
Development

7 August 2020

Our reference: MC2020/13423

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

Dear George

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 and 14 July to the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of a number of your constituents, about Mohammed Ramadhan and Husain Moosa. I am replying as the Minister responsible for our relations with the Middle East and North Africa.

On 13 July, Bahrain's Court of Cassation upheld the death sentence against the two men who were convicted of killing a police officer and attempting to kill others with an explosive device in an ambush in 2014. The death sentence must be ratified by His Majesty the King of Bahrain before it can be carried out.

Following the Court's decision, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for Human Rights, formally raised our deep concern with the Bahraini Ambassador to London, His Excellency Sheikh Fawaz Al Khalifa, and reiterated the UK's unequivocal opposition to use of the death penalty in all circumstances and countries. Lord Ahmad has also issued a public statement via Twitter setting out the UK's position.

While we remain opposed to the use of the death penalty in Bahrain, we continue to believe that Bahrain is taking steps in the right direction to improve its record on justice and security issues, in line with the Bahrain Government Action Plan, which builds on the reform recommendations set out in the 2012 Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry Report. That is why the UK continues to engage, using our close bilateral relationship to underpin that effort. Our ongoing support for Bahrain-led reforms is helping to build effective and accountable institutions, strengthen and modernise the rule of law and deliver justice reform.

We continue to monitor developments on all matters relating to human rights in Bahrain closely, publishing our assessments in the annual FCO Human Rights and Democracy Report, most recently in July 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes that are difficult to decipher as a specific name.

**The Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP**  
**Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa**