



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Department  
for International  
Development

23 November 2017

Our reference: MIN/114228/2017

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

*Re George.*

Thank you for your email of 8 November to the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of a number of your constituents, about Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Mr Kamal Foroughi, who are detained in Iran. I am replying as Minister responsible for our relations with Iran.

I recognise that this continues to be a difficult time for the Ratcliffe and Foroughi families. We have been supporting them since we were first made aware of these arrests and are in regular contact. I have also met them personally to assure them that we will continue to do all we can.

The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and I raised the cases of all our dual national detainees in Iran, including Mr Foroughi's and Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case, with our Iranian counterparts at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September. I also regularly discuss our concerns with the Iranian Ambassador in London, most recently on 14 November, as does the Foreign Secretary with Foreign Minister Zarif. Our Ambassador in Tehran also raises her case at every opportunity.

We are committed to doing all we can and will continue to raise our strong concerns about all British dual national prisoners in Iran, including Mr Foroughi and Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, at the highest levels in both London and Tehran.

*In care  
A.H.*

**THE RT HON ALISTAIR BURT MP**  
**Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa**