

15 April 2020

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Foreign &
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Office

King Charles Street
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Secretary of State

Dear Mr Murray,

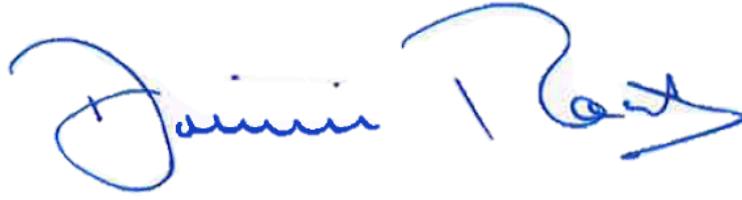
Thank you for your letters of 14 February and 24 March on the UK's Global Campaign for Media Freedom. Please accept my apologies for the tardiness of this response.

I too welcomed the work of the High Level Legal Panel of Experts on their recent report on the use of sanctions to protect journalists. Over the remainder of the year the Panel will continue to propose initiatives that can be taken by governments to ensure existing international obligations relating to media freedom are upheld, disseminate elements for model legislation to promote and protect a vibrant free press, and report on means of raising the cost to those who target journalists for their work. I am pleased to see that some countries are already seeking the Panel's opinion on existing or proposed new laws.

I have the deepest sympathy for the late Christopher Allen and his family. As Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon said in the House of Lords on 22 January, we continue to work closely with our US counterparts to press the South Sudanese authorities for an investigation into Christopher's death.

Indeed, the UK remains committed to Media Freedom and to championing democracy and human rights around the world during the current Covid-19 crisis. Independent media is essential to functioning societies, and free media has a vital role to play in the international Covid-19 response. We are continuing to monitor cases of concern around the world, and we are working with international partners on how best to continue to support media freedom given the challenges and restrictions caused by Covid-19. As part of our diplomatic engagement, our network of Embassies and High Commissions raise concerns about media freedom bilaterally and with international partners, and continue to fund a range of projects to support and build capability for the media in countries where it would otherwise be unavailable.

Thank you for your ongoing support for our campaign.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dominic Raab". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dominic" and the last name "Raab" clearly distinguishable.

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