

Our reference: MIN-68909-2019

Scott Ainslie, Green MEP for London
Ellie Chowns, Green MEP for the West Midlands
Gina Dowding, Green MEP for North West England
Magid Magid, Green MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber
Alexandra Philips, Green MEP for South East England
Catherine Rowett, Green MEP for the East of England
Molly Scott Cato, Green MEP for South West England and Gibraltar
European Parliament

By email: scott.ainslie@europarl.europa.eu

20 September 2019



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Minister of State

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for your letter of 12 September to the Foreign Secretary, about Kashmir. I am replying as the Minister for the Commonwealth, UN and South Asia.

I share your concerns about the ongoing tensions in Kashmir and the impact it is having on the Kashmiri people, including those who are British citizens. Events in Kashmir have regional and international implications and we urge calm and caution from all.

The continued use of detentions and restrictions on communications in India-administered Kashmir is of concern. It is important that individual rights are fully respected and that there is constructive dialogue with affected communities.

We are aware of media reports of torture by Security Forces in India-administered Kashmir. Any allegation of torture is deeply concerning, and we urge all countries to guarantee the fundamental rights of their citizens. We have raised this issue with the Indian Government.

The longstanding position of the UK is that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political resolution on Kashmir, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

We have spoken with the Indian Government on a number of occasions since 5 August. The Prime Minister has spoken to both Prime Minister Modi of India and Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan. He underlined to both the importance of resolving issues through dialogue. On 7 August, in a telephone call with Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar, the Foreign Secretary expressed the UK's concerns around the situation in India-administered Kashmir and called for calm. Prior to this, I met Indian High Commissioner Ruchi Ghanashyam to discuss the situation.

We continue to follow the situation closely.

Yours Sincerely,

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

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