JEREMY QUIN MP Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

19th December 2016

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RE: ANDARGACHEW TSEGE

Thank you for contacting me. I am deeply concerned about British national Andargachew Tsege's situation.

I can assure you that the Government takes Mr Tsege's welfare extremely seriously, and that the British Ambassador recently visited Mr Tsege on 11 November. She heard from Mr Tsege directly about recent events that had caused some concern and was reassured about his welfare. The Foreign Office have informed his family of this latest visit, and remain in close contact with them.

Further to this, the Foreign Secretary personally raised Mr Tsege's case on numerous occasions with his former Ethiopian counterpart, Dr Tedros, including during the UN General Assembly in September. Officials are now following up with the new Foreign Minister, and Foreign Office Minister Baroness Anelay raised Mr Tsege's case with the Ethiopian Communications Minister in September. The British Ambassador is heavily engaged and takes every opportunity to raise Mr Tsege's case at the highest levels with the Ethiopian Government.

During the most recent consular visit the Ambassador was able to provide Mr Tsege with a list of local lawyers. This is an important step toward ensuring he has access to legal advice to discuss his options under Ethiopian law. Mr Tsege must now be allowed to contact his legal representation without unreasonable obstruction, and British officials will be pressing the Ethiopians to abide by their commitment to this.

Please be assured that Mr Tsege's case remains a high priority for the UK Government, and that I will continue to monitor the situation.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

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