



Foreign, Commonwealth
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Your ref:

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Paul Chitnis

paul@jesuitmissions.org.uk

Dear Mr Chitnis,

Thank you for your email of 19 November 2020 to Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for South Asia, about Father Stan Swamy in India. Your email was passed to this desk for a response.

Human Rights Defenders make an essential contribution to the promotion of the rights of their fellow citizens. They face growing threats and the UK works with international partners to support them through organisations like Lifeline and Frontline Defenders, and through our overseas network of embassies and high commissions.

In India, as elsewhere, the British High Commission in New Delhi closely monitors political developments and the human rights situation. Where we have concerns, we raise them directly with the Government of India, including at ministerial level. FCDO officials raised Father Swamy's case with the Indian High Commission on 12 November. On 9 October, British High Commission officials highlighted to the Ministry of Home Affairs the impact of recent amendments to Indian security legislation, including on activists and human rights campaigners in India.

We appreciate many people feel strongly about this case and have concerns about Father Swamy's welfare. We understand that Taloja jail authorities wrote to the State Human Rights Commission on 25 November to confirm that Father Swamy's welfare is being regularly monitored and he is being provided with medical support. The British High Commission in New Delhi will continue to monitor developments on his case closely.

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