

Dear (insert MP's name here)

My name is (insert your name here) and I am a constituent of (insert your constituency here).

Many people across the UK and the world have been horrified by the recent events that have been occurring in India and the lack of response from the UK government on these matters. For this reason, I have decided to contact you and outline two extremely important events that have barely been acknowledged by the UK government and media.

A Scottish citizen, named Jagtar Singh Johal has been imprisoned in India for three years on bogus charges and little has been done to support him and assist his release; rather the most recent update we have about his case is that he has been forced to sign a false confession and has been given the death penalty. This is his story (taken from his change.org petition website page):

"In November 2017, Scottish citizen and Sikh activist Jagtar Singh Johal (Jaggi) was abducted with a sack thrown over his head whilst visiting India for his wedding. He has since then been imprisoned in Tihar Jail, the largest prison complex in India, after being wrongfully implicated for the murder of Hindu Nationalists and for allegedly funding Sikh separatists. It has been almost 1000 days now that Jaggi has been detained. During this time, he has reported of being tortured and has attended 132 preliminary hearings alongside 46 trial hearings, where they have found no evidence against him in order to prosecute him. His family are yet to see an official charge sheet..."

...Theresa May put forward Jaggi's case to the Indian Prime Minister in April 2018, but since then there has been no progress made on the case. In addition, Boris Johnson was also approached and asked for an update on his case by a member of the Sikh public in November 2019, yet provided a disappointing response that 'the state is currently looking into the issue'. Due to the subsequent lack of regard and deliberation, Jaggi's family have not heard from him since September 5th 2019. Now because of the prevalence of Covid-19, Tihar Jail went into lockdown with the rest of India, and prison authorities have suspended all visits, including for consular access therefore meaning the family have had no update on his well being..."

...We now once again urge the UK government and our MPs to raise this case with the government of India for the release of Jaggi from Tihar Jail, and for him to safely return home to his family. His family have expressed concerns about their family history of respiratory conditions, which puts Jaggi at a higher risk of Covid-19. The family have also voiced how if this was the case of a white UK citizen, firmer and more urgent action would have been taken. We must stand up and fight against the poor protection of BAME lives and human rights."

Jaggi was arrested for freedom of speech - for raising awareness of the atrocities that the Indian Government have caused, particularly the discrimination and genocide of Sikhs in 1984. Freedom of speech is protected by the law and Human Rights Act; not to mention India is supposedly the biggest democracy in the world. My question to you is: What are you going to do about this? Jaggi's life is in the hands of a government who has abused him and falsely imprisoned him and we have the power to do something about this. This sets a grave precedent that British lives in other countries do not matter.

The second incident that I would like to discuss with you are the ongoing Farmer's Protests in India. These protests have been regarded as the largest protests in human history. This has been brought up in parliament by Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP, but the Prime Minister seems to be unaware of the issues and regardless of a cross-party letter sent to him to clarify the events, has not given any formal response. Dominic Raab MP also

visited India last month, yet did not do anything to put pressure on the Indian government about these protests. It seems to us that the UK government has been prioritising trade deals with India over basic human rights.

Farmers in India have been protesting since late November 2020 due to bills that have been passed that will essentially allow for members of the agriculture sector to be taken advantage of by large corporations. Farmers serve as a last line of defence in corporate takeover of India's food supply. This privatisation will lead to the average income of a farmer to be less than £64 per month. As lawyer Jag Virk tweeted:

Imagine if the government said that there is no minimum wage, corporations can pay you whatever you want, even \$2 an hour. Now imagine while protesting peacefully the police attack you. This is what they are doing to farmers in India."

There have been solidarity protests occurring across the world, including in London where protestors were also discriminated against and violence used without provocation by police officers. Peaceful protests are again a basic human right covered by Article 19 in the Indian Constitution which allows freedom of speech and expression. So why is it that protestors have been attacked, abused and killed by the Indian government? Farmers serve as a last line of defence in corporate takeover of India's food supply. These farmers have been protesting peacefully, living and sleeping on the streets, with many of them being of old age and not to mention amongst a global pandemic and during the winter. Hundreds of farmers have died and have committed suicide and yet the Indian government has done nothing. These farmers have been attacked with batons, with tear gas and hit without provocation and yet, have not retaliated but have been providing shelter and food for those that are attacking them. These farmers (that have been labelled terrorists by the Indian government) have provided food for homeless children, schooling for these children and clothing for these children. Charities such as Khalsa Aid have been supporting these farmers on the ground and yet have been labelled as terrorists. They were not labelled as such when feeding truck workers in England when stuck on the motorway or when supporting refugees across the world. So why are they being labelled as terrorists when supporting farmers?

Rather than working with the Farmer's Union to reverse these laws, the Indian government has continued to abuse these farmers, cut off their water and food supply and cause an internet blackout so that people on the ground cannot communicate what grave conditions are occurring. They have vandalised farmer's property and attacked them while they are sleeping. More recently, journalists have been imprisoned because they have been sharing the atrocities that the Indian government is imposing on their people and they have added cemented fencing and barricades to prevent farmers protesting. Sikh Twitter and Instagram accounts raising awareness of these events have also been suspended. This is a clear prevention of freedom of speech and movement.

Again, I would like to ask you, as a member of parliament, what you are going to do about this. You have the power to cause change. You have the power to put pressure on Prime Minister Boris Johnson. You can cause change. But the question is, will you?

Yours sincerely,

(insert your full name, constituency, phone number and full address)