

Hansard: Written Question on Nagorno Karabakh: Armed Conflict

22 February 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Azerbaijan about reports that Azerbaijani forces (1) have treated captured ethnic Armenian troops inhumanely, and (2) used cluster munitions and artillery rockets, in the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Answered 8 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government is deeply concerned by allegations that cluster munitions and artillery rockets were used by both sides during the recent Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and that prisoners of war have been subjected to cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment. During her recent visits to Armenia and Azerbaijan the Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas urged both parties to ensure thorough investigations into all allegations, and welcomed those Azerbaijani investigations already underway.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Sanctions

22 February 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement targeted sanctions against military-owned enterprises in Burma.

Answered 9 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is looking at a range of measures to ensure the democratic wishes of the people of Myanmar are respected. On 18 February, we announced the immediate imposition of asset freezes and travel bans against three members of the Myanmar military regime for their role in serious human rights violations during the coup. Prior to this, the UK had already imposed targeted sanctions on 16 individuals responsible for human rights violations in Myanmar. This includes the Commander-in-Chief and his Deputy.

The military's influence is pervasive across Myanmar's economy and we have long been clear that Myanmar needs responsible investors. Her Majesty's Government works closely with UK businesses to ensure that they conduct thorough due diligence to try and avoid exposure to military businesses. We will continue to work closely with international partners on next steps, this includes exploring further sanctions.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Internally Displaced People

22 February 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken in response to the escalation in military offences in Karen State, Burma, which has resulted in the reported displacement of over 5,000 civilians.

Answered 9 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK strongly condemns the repeated violations of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement by the Tatmadaw in Kayin State. We raised this at the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on 12 February. The UK is currently providing humanitarian support to the around 5,000 displaced civilians in Kayin State through our partners, The Border Consortium and Danish Church Aid. There are continuing access constraints because the Myanmar military is reportedly blocking access. UK aid supports 158,000 displaced, conflict affected people and refugees in the Southeast and Thai Border. We continue to monitor the situation closely.



Hansard: Written Question on Leah Sharibu

22 February 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that Leah Sharibu has been held captive by Boko Haram for three years.

Answered 9 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government condemns the abduction of the Dapchi school girls in Nigeria in 2018 and the ongoing captivity of Leah Sharibu by Islamic State West Africa (ISWA). We are deeply concerned for the welfare of Leah and all those abducted by Boko Haram and ISWA. Officials at the British High Commission in Abuja raised Leah's case with the Nigerian authorities in February 2021. The Nigerian authorities have assured us that they remain committed to securing her return.

The Government is providing a comprehensive package of support to Nigeria to help tackle the terrorist threat in the North East. We regularly raise the issues of insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria at the highest levels of the Nigerian Government, and will continue to use our public messaging to call for the release of Leah and all those abducted by terrorist groups in Nigeria.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Overseas Aid

22 February 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to respond to appeals for the urgent delivery of cross-border humanitarian assistance in Burma.

Answered 9 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** UK aid provides life-saving humanitarian assistance to around 460,000 conflict affected and displaced people in Myanmar and on the Thai border. We are concerned about the impact of recent fighting in Northern Shan and Karen State on civilian populations, and the increased vulnerability of internally displaced people as a result of COVID. We provide support through a range of partners including Danish Church Aid, The Border Consortium, Joint Strategy Team partners and Health Poverty Action to reach highly vulnerable people. We are closely monitoring the impact of the recent military coup including supply routes to ensure this support reaches those in most need.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Arms Trade

23 February 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to advocate for a global arms embargo on the military regime in Myanmar.

Answered 9 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is a longstanding supporter of an arms embargo on Myanmar. We are clear that no one should sell arms to the Myanmar military. The UK played a key role in securing and strengthening an EU arms embargo on Myanmar following the 2017 Rohingya crisis. Since we left the EU we have transitioned this into domestic law. The UK autonomous Myanmar sanctions regulations prohibit the provision of military related services, including the provision of technical assistance, to or for the benefit of the Tatmadaw. We will work closely with partners to put pressure on those who sell arms to Myanmar.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Sanctions

2 March 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce targeted sanctions against (1) Myanmar’s generals, and (2) enterprises owned by the Myanmar military.

Answered 12 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** As I informed the house on 25th of February, The UK is looking at a range of measures to target those responsible for serious human rights violations in Myanmar. Working with partners, including the US and Canada, we have sanctioned 9 military officers, including the Commander-in-Chief, for their role in the coup. Prior to the coup, the UK had already imposed targeted sanctions on 16 individuals for human rights violations in Myanmar.

We remain committed to the principle of 'do no harm' with sanctions, and therefore wish to ensure that any measures balance the risk of disproportionately affecting poor people in Myanmar and imposing a cost on the military. In addition, as set out in the written ministerial statement of 25 February we are reviewing our approach to Trade and Investment in Myanmar, and while that review takes place have suspended all trade promotion activity. The Foreign Secretary and the International Trade Secretary are writing to British Companies active in Myanmar to make clear our expectation that they do nothing to support the military.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Protest

2 March 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to mobilise international action in response to reports of the use of lethal force against protesters in Myanmar on 28 February.

Answered 12 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK was appalled at the news that protestors have died from injuries inflicted by the military. The violent crackdown on peaceful protesters is completely unacceptable and requires a strong message from the international community. As a champion of the rules based international order, we are working closely with partners to deliver a strong international response, including in our role as President of the G7. On 23 February, we secured a G7 statement which further condemned the coup and the violent response unleashed on peaceful protestors. We are convening the UN Security Council on 5 March.

Working with partners, including the US and Canada, we have sanctioned 9 military officers, including the Commander-in-Chief, for their role in the coup. We are working with partners to consider further action to apply pressure on the military.



Hansard: Written Question on Myanmar: Diplomatic Service

2 March 2021

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the speech on 26 February by the Ambassador of Myanmar to the UN and his subsequent dismissal from that role, what engagement they have had with the (1) Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; and (2) the former Ambassador of Myanmar to the UN; and if no such engagement has taken place, what future engagement they propose.

Answered 12 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We commend the courage of Myanmar's UN Ambassador in speaking out against the coup. He joins the people of Myanmar in resoundingly rejecting military rule. We stand with him - democracy must be restored. The Foreign Secretary tweeted his support to the Ambassador after his speech. The UK Ambassador to the UN met with him on 2 March. We continue to engage with the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, who represent a body of MPs elected in November. They are an important voice for many in Myanmar. We coordinated with them to read out excerpts from their statements at the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on 12 February, and at the UN General Assembly meeting on 26 February.



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**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to mobilise the international community in support of a global arms embargo on Myanmar.

Answered 12 March 2021

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK is a longstanding supporter of an arms embargo on Myanmar. We are clear that countries should not sell arms to the Myanmar military. The UK played a key role in securing and strengthening an EU arms embargo on Myanmar following the 2017 Rohingya crisis. Since we left the EU we have transitioned this into domestic law. The UK autonomous Myanmar sanctions regulations prohibit the provision of military related services, including the provision of technical assistance, to or for the benefit of the Tatmadaw. We are working closely with partners to apply pressure to those selling arms to the Tatmadaw.