

Hansard: Written Question on Nigeria: Human Rights

23 November 2020

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they employ any staff based in Nigeria’s Middle Belt region who are responsible for monitoring (1) religious persecution, and (2) human rights abuses, in those states.

Answered 3 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government maintains a network of regional offices in Nigeria, including in Kaduna State. This network facilitates information gathering and engagement with state governments for our High Commission in Abuja. The network monitors human rights issues, including freedom of religion and belief. We will continue to make clear to the Nigerian authorities at the highest levels the importance of protecting human rights for all.



Hansard: Written Question on Nigeria: Christianity

23 November 2020

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have provided any funding to Christian non-governmental organisations in Nigeria since 2018; and if so, which organisations.

Answered 3 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government works with a range of partners in Nigeria but does not allocate aid on the basis of faith or religion. Since 2018, the Government has provided funding to Christian NGOs, including the Christian Blind Mission and the Christian Association of Nigeria. The FCDO works with the Christian Association of Nigeria alongside other faith-based organisations to support community peacebuilding and conflict management efforts. The FCDO has also provided funding for Christian Aid and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development to support communities recently displaced due to violence in Kaduna State, which includes Christian communities. We continue to encourage the Government of Nigeria to take urgent action to protect those at risk of intercommunal violence, to bring perpetrators to justice and to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence and meet the needs of all communities.



Hansard: Written Question on Nigeria: Christianity

23 November 2020

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have provided assistance to any programmes which support Christian communities in Nigeria's Middle Belt region since 2018; and if so, which programmes.

Answered 3 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government works with a range of partners in Nigeria but does not allocate aid on the basis of faith or religion. Since 2018, the Government has provided funding to Christian NGOs, including the Christian Blind Mission and the Christian Association of Nigeria. The FCDO works with the Christian Association of Nigeria alongside other faith-based organisations to support community peacebuilding and conflict management efforts. The FCDO has also provided funding for Christian Aid and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development to support communities recently displaced due to violence in Kaduna State, which includes Christian communities. We continue to encourage the Government of Nigeria to take urgent action to protect those at risk of intercommunal violence, to bring perpetrators to justice and to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence and meet the needs of all communities.



Hansard: Written Question on Nagorno Karabakh: Armed Conflict

26 November 2020

**Baroness Cox**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the £1 million Nagorno-Karabakh aid package they announced on 31 October will go to displaced Armenians; and what steps they have taken to enable displaced Armenians to return to their homes.

Answered 8 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The funds provided to the ICRC are intended for the support of all people affected by the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh region, according to need. The UK Government does not dictate what percentage of funds should be allocated to either party. The Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas highlighted the importance of protecting all civilians, including displaced persons in her recent calls with the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan.



Hansard: Written Question on Nagorno Karabakh: Armed Conflict

26 November 2020

**Baroness Cox:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made (1) to NATO, (2) to the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and (3) to the government of Israel, about immediately suspending the provision of all (a) lethal military supplies, (b) non-lethal military supplies, and (c) technical assistance to Azerbaijan until the government of Azerbaijan renounces the use of violence against Armenian Christians in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Answered 8 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government has made no representations to NATO, the CSTO or the Government of Israel on these topics. We have repeatedly condemned the shelling of civilian areas by both sides in the conflict.



Hansard: Written Question on Nagorno Karabakh: Armed Conflict

26 November 2020

**Baroness Cox:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Sugg on 19 November (HL10161), what steps they have taken to prevent the Azerbaijani Armed Forces (1) abusing, and (2) killing, prisoners captured during the ceasefire evacuation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Answered 8 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government is deeply concerned by the allegations from both sides that war crimes have been committed. Where it is possible to verify footage and reports, we will raise our concerns with the relevant Governments. It is for those governments to ensure that their armed forces do not commit war crimes and to investigate any such allegations. The Minister for the European Neighbourhood the Americas emphasised these points during her recent calls with the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan.



Hansard: Written Question on Nagorno Karabakh: Armed Conflict

26 November 2020

**Baroness Cox:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of President Macron's statement on 1 October that “we have information today that indicates with certainty that Syrian fighters from jihadist groups have transited through Gaziantep to reach the theatre of operations in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

Answered 8 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government noted the 11 November statement of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries, in which the Group said it had received reports that both Azerbaijan and Armenia had deployed foreign fighters in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. While the Government is also aware of such reports, we have not yet seen solid evidence to substantiate the claims. The UK Government has made no assessment of President Macron's 1 October statement and is not aware of the specific information to which he referred.



Hansard: Written Question on Nagorno Karabakh: Armed Conflict

26 November 2020

**Baroness Cox:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement of the United Nations working group on the use of mercenaries on 11 November that “the Government of Azerbaijan, with Turkey’s assistance, relied on Syrian fighters to shore-up and sustain its military operations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, including on the frontline”; and what assessment they have made of the participation of Syrian fighters in the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Answered 8 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government noted the 11 November statement of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries, in which the Group said it had received reports that both Azerbaijan and Armenia had deployed foreign fighters in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. While the Government is also aware of such reports, we have not yet seen solid evidence to substantiate the claims. The UK Government has made no assessment of President Macron's 1 October statement and is not aware of the specific information to which he referred.



Hansard: Written Question on Nagorno Karabakh: Armed Conflict: Chemical Weapons

26 November 2020

**Baroness Cox:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons about (1) an investigation into whether chemical weapons have been used by Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and (2) securing assistance to protect civilians against the effects of such an attack.

Answered 8 December 2020

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK Government has had no such discussions with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. We have seen no evidence that chemical weapons have been used in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We continue to monitor the situation closely.