



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

The Baroness Coussins
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

15 June 2020

Dear Jean,

Thank you for your question in the House of Lords on 8 June on the surveillance of journalists in Colombia. As promised, I am replying to you in writing with an answer.

I can confirm that the UK government is aware of allegations that Colombian state actors have been illegally gathering surveillance on civil society organisations and journalists. The UK is committed to protecting and promoting human rights in Colombia, which, as you know, is one of the FCO's Human Rights Priority Countries. We expect state authorities to comply fully with their human rights obligations, and welcome the steps taken by Colombian authorities to investigate these allegations and hold those involved to account.

The UK government remains steadfast in our support for sustainable peace in Colombia, including by leading on peace process business in the UN Security Council. We have committed almost £53 million over five years through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund to support the full implementation of the 2016 peace agreement and will continue to work closely with the Colombian government and civil society on these issues.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON
Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict