



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Dominic,

I am writing to you to ask you to speak out against the actions of the Trump administration's handling of the current civil unrest in the United States.

As you will know there has been growing unrest in America following the death of George Floyd. It is deeply worrying that in response to this President Trump has threatened to use military force against protestors. There are also widespread reports of violence against peaceful protestors, and journalists which is an affront to the rights that we, as a country, uphold.

As we start to see protests on our streets is it not time for the Government to hold the President to account for his actions? Peaceful protest is a fundamental right and a vital part of a healthy democracy. Will the Government take action and stand up for the rights of black Americans and denounce the authoritarian language used by Donald Trump which is eroding norms and trust in traditional government? Any further information you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

You will also be aware of reports that UK produced equipment, particularly rubber bullets and tear gas, has been misused in breaking up protests with excessive force. I would be grateful for your view on the appropriateness of this and whether such use breaks such export restrictions are in place.

Obviously, you are not responsible for the actions of the US President or other state actors, but as a US ally you do have some influence. I believe we all have an obligation to speak out at least.

Yours aye

Alyn Smith MP