

Global Scotland – Edition 8 – November 2021

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence Newsletter

That's a COP - Progress Made on Climate

Glasgow played host to the UK's largest ever summit between the 1st - 12th November as thousands of delegates from around the world gathered to keep "1.5 alive" and prevent rampant climate change. The SNP were highly active, with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon meeting with the likes of President Biden and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, as well as climate activists Vanessa Nakate and Greta Thunberg.

Alyn Smith and Stewart McDonald were also present at COP26 with Alyn meeting with representatives of the Kurdish People's Democratic Party and Stewart being a key speaker at Taiwan's COP26 Day.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

SNP Stands with Hong Kong

SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith met with Mark Clifford and other representatives of the Committee for Freedom on Hong Kong (CFHK) in London in November.

The CFHK works to raise awareness of political prisoners in China in the wider world and press for their release. Ahead of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, it is more important than ever that the world is aware of the ongoing political repression in Hong Kong and China.

Read more [here](#).

Diplomatic Outreach

The SNP have been working hard to maintain Scotland's longstanding ties with the nations of the European Union despite the frosty relations between the UK and the EU in the light of Brexit.

Alyn Smith MP, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson, has met with almost all the EU embassies over the past year. He most recently met with the Hungarian Ambassador, HE Ferenc Kumin, in a what was an open and helpful discussion on issues such as Erasmus, trade and the EU.

Read more [here](#).

UK Delaying Assembly Progress

SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith has urged the UK Government to stop its delays in forming the joint EU-UK Parliamentary Assembly. He noted that it is badly needed as it "...will be vital to keep an eye on the many problems Brexit has caused and hold the UK Government and indeed EU Commission to account."

Read more [here](#).

Solidarity with Cuba Protestors

Glasgow South MP, Stewart McDonald, published an Early Day Motion calling for Freedom of Expression in Cuba. The motion expresses its support for the young civil society movement 'Archipiélago' and urges the release of political prisoners and for peaceful and democratic solutions in resolving differences.

Read it [here](#).

Crackdown on Palestinian NGOs

Politicians and international NGOs have expressed their outrage at the decision of the Israeli Government to designate 6 Palestinian human rights NGOs as terrorist organisations. SNP MP Alyn Smith wrote to the Foreign Secretary criticising the Israeli Government's decision and asking what discussions the UK has had to support peaceful Palestinian NGOs.

Read it [here](#).

#EscapeTheScan - A Global Campaign to Ban Killer Robots

SNP MP Alyn Smith joined Amnesty International and Stop Killer Robots UK at the launch of their new campaign #EscapeTheScan.

The campaign uses a filter on Instagram which simulates an encounter where you need to escape a Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).

It hopes to raise awareness of the dangers of LAWS and push for a global ban on these dangerous weapons, a measure which the SNP fully supports.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Still Hostage - Parliamentarians Call for Nazanin's Freedom

SNP MPs engaged in cross-party solidarity in a packed Westminster Hall as they called for the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and other UK hostages of Iran. They were joined by her husband, Richard, who had completed a 21-day hunger strike outside the FCDO.

SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith called on the Government to explore alternative means of paying the UK's debt and for Magnitsky sanctions to be used against individuals of the Iranian regime responsible for her continued incarceration in Iran.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

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