

Global Scotland – Edition 9 – December 2021

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence Newsletter

Scotland Stands With Ukraine

Tensions are continuing to rise in Eastern Europe as Russia masses as many as 175,000 soldiers on Ukraine's borders. The SNP have been vocal in their support for Ukraine with SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Alyn Smith MP, and SNP Defence Spokesperson, Stewart McDonald MP, raising the issue in Parliament on several occasions.

Both Alyn and Stewart met with Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, to discuss the ongoing tensions. Stewart and Martin Docherty-Hughes MP also spoke with Ukrainian MPs, Lesia Vasylenko and Alona Shkrum, on the situation to hear their perspectives.

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

“Price of Peace is Eternal Vigilance”

SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald helped bring forward a debate on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H).

In a debate marked by unanimity across the House, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP spoke on the need to continue vocally supporting the High Representative in B&H and called for Magnitsky sanctions to be placed on those who would destroy the peace process. He also welcomed the proposal for a counter-disinformation centre in Sarajevo and called for UK Government to develop an Atrocity Prevention Strategy.

Read more [here](#).

Protecting Civilians in Modern Conflicts

Stewart McDonald MP, SNP Defence Spokesperson and Co-Chair of the APPG on Drones and Modern Conflict, co-hosted the first UK-US legislator's dialogue for strengthening the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

In an engaging event to mark the APPG's expanded remit, members of the APPG were joined by Congressman Jim McGovern, who has been leading bipartisan efforts for increased scrutiny on the US use of military force, and Dr Larry Lewis, who was the co-author of President Obama's civilian casualty policy.

See more [here](#).

Lack of Scottish Troops Concerning

The SNP have criticised the UK Government for failing to address Scotland's security needs after it emerged that the number of soldiers based in Scotland is below its pro-rata share by almost 2,000.

Commenting, SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP said: "For a country that makes up 32% of the UK's land mass, and 63% of the UK's sea area, it beggars belief that we receive just 7% of defence personnel... The only way to keep Scotland's armed forces safe from Tory mismanagement is to become an independent country."

Read more [here](#).

Arms Exports Made Easier by UK

Concerns have been raised by experts that the UK's new regulations on Arms Exports will make it easier to sideline human rights abuses. When asked about the new rules, Alyn Smith MP said: "The UK arms export regime wasn't much cop to begin with, given the dubious regimes around the world it already somehow justifies exports to, but these changes will weaken it even further."

Read more [here](#).

Airwars Report on Civilian Harm in War

SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP was a guest speaker at the launch of the latest report from the NGO Airwars, 'Debunking "collateral damage": Airwars report launch on civilian harm'. Speaking at the event, he outlined some of the policies that will be included in the Protection of Civilians paper he has been working on with Chris Law MP and Stewart McDonald MP.

See more [here](#).

The Tragedy of Myanmar

The imprisonment of Aung San Suu Kyi is the latest attempt by Myanmar's military junta to assert its control over an increasingly frustrated and angry population. Writing in The National, Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP outlines what has happened since the military coup in February and what can be done to support Myanmar's democrats.

See more [here](#).

Making Inroads with Project No Surprises

Earlier this month, The National caught up with Alyn Smith MP and Stewart McDonald MP on the progress of Project No Surprises and how they are turning agreed policy positions into practical reality.

In a wide-ranging discussion, both Alyn and Stewart outlined how they are working on the practicalities of NATO and EU membership, Scotland's potential as a military medicine powerhouse, as well as the 5 Pillars framework which guides their thinking.

Read the full piece [here](#).

UK Finally Agrees to EU-UK Parliamentary Assembly

In the late hours of a December Monday night, the UK Parliament finally agreed to send a UK delegation to the new EU-UK Parliamentary Assembly. In contrast, the EU has been ready to go for several months.

The new Assembly will help address Brexit-related problems such as the Northern Ireland Protocol and fishing rights before they become a serious issue. Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP and Europe Spokesperson Philippa Whitford MP will be the SNP's two delegates.

See more [here](#).

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