



The Rt Hon David Lammy MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
By Email

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Dear David,

I have been contacted by a number of constituents about the case of Jagtar Singh Johal - a British citizen who has been detained in India since 2017. I am aware that you are familiar with this case and have raised it with your Indian counterpart in New Delhi.

Indeed, when in opposition, you took a strong stand on Jagtar's behalf; noting on [twitter/X in August 2022](#) and [September 2022](#) "Jagtar has been arbitrarily detained with no legal basis." Keir Starmer supported you, writing, "When a UK national has been so gravely mistreated, with no legal basis, the UK government must act decisively to negotiate their release."

I also note that you recently commented about the strength of the "UK-India living bridge" on the 77th anniversary of India's independence - which is very welcome. Surely, the case of Jagtar - who has not even had the fundamental right to a fair trial - is a grave concern, and his release must be secured to maintain this strong bridge. This prolonged injustice which has now spanned many years risks weakening the opportunities and links between the two nations.

It is clear that you care passionately about human rights. I therefore urge you to act to support this British citizen who has been wrongfully detained overseas; Jagtar's case and treatment are a violation of international standards. It is difficult to imagine what Jagtar and his family are going through. He has been incarcerated for almost 7 years, without being convicted of any crime or even given details of the charges against him.

If you are aware of these charges, please use your office to provide a copy so that Jagtar, his family and legal team can act accordingly and obtain the necessary legal advice.

As you'll know, in May 2022, the [UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention](#) concluded that, under international human rights law, Jagtar's detention is arbitrary and has no legal basis. They requested a written response from the Indian Government within 6 months. Please can you obtain a copy of the response.

The UN Human Rights Council's Working Group has called for Jagtar's immediate and unconditional release and I support [EDM 31](#), calling on your Government to fulfil its duty to take proper action on Jagtar's case so he can return to his family in Dumbarton without hesitation or delay.



**Ellie Chowns MP**  
Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Please use your position to demonstrate Britain's role in supporting human rights globally, by acting decisively to ensure the Indian authorities provide a timescale for Jagtar's release or a fair trial in accordance with internationally accepted standards of human rights.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Chowns'.

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.