



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

23 February 2015

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Kirsty Brimelow QC
Chair
Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales
53-54 Doughty Street
London
WC1N 2LS

Dear Ms Brimelow,

Thank you for your letter of 19 January to the Foreign Secretary about the case of Mr Raif Badawi. I am replying as Minister responsible for our relations with Saudi Arabia.

We are seriously concerned by Raif Badawi's case. The Government condemns the use of cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment in all circumstances. We have raised the case at a senior level with the Saudi authorities, including the Foreign Secretary with the Saudi Ambassador to London.

The British Government is a strong supporter of freedom of expression around the world. We believe that people must be allowed to discuss and debate issues freely, challenge their governments peacefully, exercise the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and speak out against violations of human rights wherever they occur.

Yours sincerely,

TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State