

8 JAN 2014



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 January 2015

Dear Mr. Stafford Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 13 December 2014 about Shaker Aamer.

I continue to take concerns regarding Mr Aamer's health and welfare very seriously. As you know, we have no consular access to Mr Aamer, as this is only afforded to us in the case of British Nationals. But US authorities co-operate with our requests for assurances, and we are confident that these assurances are credible. The International Committee of the Red Cross visits the Guantanamo Detention Facility on a regular basis and, the US have assured us, are free to access any part of the facility on request. Nevertheless, in the light of your letter, I have instructed officials to seek further assurances in respect of the detailed allegations in your letter.

You raised a specific concern about the implications of amendments to the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) to detainee transfers, and to Mr Aamer. The NDAA 2015 was passed by the US Congress on 12 December last year. The new Act maintained the existing requirements on the Administration, including a provision requiring that Congress be given 30 days notice of any detainee transfers from Guantanamo.

Shaker Aamer's case remains a high priority for the UK Government. We will continue to raise it with the US at the highest levels to make clear that we want him released and returned to the UK as a matter of urgency. The Foreign Secretary raised the issue once again with the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, in October, and with US Ambassador, Matthew Barzun, in late December. I will have a further opportunity to discuss the case with President Obama in the near future.

Yours sincerely,
David Cameron

Mr Clive Stafford Smith OBE