

Press release: UK dismayed by dissolution of Cambodian opposition party

The British government is dismayed to learn of the dissolution of Cambodia's main opposition party, the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). This effectively renders Cambodia a one-party state in its parliament and delegitimises next year's General Election.

We renew our calls for the release of CNRP President, Kem Sokha, from detention. We shall consider with partners what further steps we shall take in response to this disturbing development.

News story: Joint statement on trade between UK and the CARIFORUM states

1. Today, Thursday 16 November 2017, Greg Hands, the Honourable Minister responsible for Trade Policy in the United Kingdom (UK) met with the Honourable Ministers and representatives of the CARIFORUM States to discuss the trade relationship between the UK and the CARIFORUM States as the UK leaves the European Union.
2. The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the CARIFORUM States (Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) and the European Union (EU) and its Member States was signed in and has been provisionally applied since 2008.
3. The UK is in the process of exiting the EU. While the UK remains a member of the EU, trade between the CARIFORUM States and the UK will continue to take place under the terms of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA.
4. The CARIFORUM Ministers welcomed the UK's commitment to the CARIFORUM-EU EPA and its intention to avoid disruption for its trading partners as it withdraws from the EU. The CARIFORUM Ministers also welcomed the UK's desire to maintain current market access to the UK following its withdrawal from the EU, and to ensure continuity of the effects of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA.

5. The 2 sides agreed to progress discussions to explore ways to ensure that the existing trade arrangement between the UK and CARIFORUM States, currently governed by the CARIFORUM-EU EPA, will not be disrupted by the UK's departure from the EU. This will be a technical exercise to ensure continuity in their preferential trading relationship, rather than an opportunity to renegotiate existing terms.

The UK's relationship with the Caribbean is underpinned by our shared history and common values. This statement shows a deep commitment to strengthen UK trading ties with the CARIFORUM group of nations, with bilateral trade totalling £2.1 billion last year.

As we build our future outside the EU, we will continue to be a champion for free trade and an advocate for the benefits trade can bring, socially as well as economically.

News story: Limited services for court-appointed deputies

We are also unable to accept payments for deputy fees at this time.

For general help and support with our deputy services you can:

You can also get [guidance for court-appointed deputies on GOV.UK](#).

We hope to offer our full deputy services within the next few days.

For the latest updates, please visit our Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/opggovuk>

Our lasting power of attorney (LPA) services are unaffected.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Speech: "It's clear that Libya now faces a simple choice: a future of

stability and security or a return to a past of violence and uncertainty”

Thank you Mr President and thank you Olof for updating us on the work of the Libyan Sanctions Committee and to Ghassan for your thorough and fascinating briefing.

It’s certainly been an eventful two months since you set out your Action Plan for Libya to the General Assembly. Under your guidance, there have been important steps forward to revitalise the Libyan political process. Yet, in recent weeks, violence has escalated again, and it’s clear that Libya now faces a simple choice: a future of stability and security or a return to a past of violence and uncertainty.

Let me start with the positives, and there have been positive developments on the political process. The dialogue committees from both the House of Representatives and the High State Council worked hard to secure agreement on amendments to the Libyan Political Agreement. This has taken courage and compromise, but of course it is only a start. Further commitment from all parties is now needed to sustain the momentum and move Libya forward.

In doing so, we shouldn’t lose sight of what is at stake. It’s a real chance now for Libya to establish a truly national government, one that will enjoy the support of both the House of Representatives and the High State Council, and one that will be able to deliver for all its citizens. Further delay however will only prolong the suffering of ordinary Libyans who, I think we can all agree, have suffered for far too long.

We need only look at the recent escalation in violence to see the consequences of delay. The strikes on Derna, which killed 16 civilians, and the recent apparent summary executions in al-Abyar and Warshefana are examples; there are many others. These escalating acts of violence make it unambiguously clear that a political solution is no longer a choice, but a critical necessity for the Libyan people.

We should all be concerned by these continuing human rights violations and abuses across the country, so many of them at the expense of civilians, including migrants. Let us all condemn extra-judicial killings by all parties from all sides of the conflict. The climate of impunity must stop and I reiterate our support for Libyan and international efforts to bring to account those responsible for such crimes.

It is clear from the recent escalation in violence that the existing arms embargo has not cut off the flow of illicit weapons in and out of Libya. This is not only undermining the peace and security of Libya and the region; it is also playing into the hands of terrorists groups who continue to threaten global security. I urge all Member States to make every effort to ensure that the arms embargo is strictly observed.

Engagement between both sides is not only needed for the political process, but also for the economy. A prosperous economy will only be realised if key economic institutions take the steps necessary to introduce important reforms. It is also vital that Libya's oil resources are used to benefit the country as a whole. I call on all Member States to make sure they continue to do all they can to prevent illegal oil smuggling and to enforce the sanctions regime designed to protect Libya's oil wealth for the benefit of the Libyan people.

Let me close Mr President by reiterating that the Libyan Political Agreement remains the only valid framework for Libya's transitional period into 2018. The UK will continue to support the immediate next steps to amend the Agreement and agree a reformed Presidency Council. We will also support subsequent efforts to promote national reconciliation, to agree a longer-term constitution and to prepare for elections. We believe the United Nations must remain firmly in the lead, and the international community must be united and steadfast in our support.

Because put simply, conflict and instability in Libya are hurting the region, they are hurting globally, but most of all, they are hurting Libya's citizens. So I close by calling on Libya's leaders, from all sides, to show that they are committed to delivering peace and security for all Libyan people. They must look beyond immediate personal considerations and towards the long-term future of their country. They have a responsibility to make progress, and I urge them to continue to work with Special Representative Salamé and to take the bold steps required to move Libya forward.

Thank you.

[News story: Reappointment to the School Teachers' Review Body](#)

Ken Clark reappointed to the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB), which looks at pay, duties and working time of teachers in England and Wales.

Ken Clark has been reappointed as a member of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB) for a second 3-year term to end in December 2020.

The STRB provides independent advice to the government on pay and conditions for teachers and school leaders in England and Wales.

This reappointment has been made in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments and was made by the Prime Minister.

Ken Clark is a labour economist based at the University of Manchester where

he is also Director of Teaching and Learning in the School of Social Sciences and a member of the ESRC Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity. He is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Labour Studies, Bonn. Ken has researched, taught and published in the area of labour economics for over 25 years.