

E3 Statement on the JCPoA: 12 February 2021

News story

The governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom respond to Iran's production of uranium metal.



Statement from the governments of France, Germany and the UK:

We, the governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, note with grave concern the recent confirmation by the IAEA that Iran is producing uranium metal in violation of the JCPoA. Under the JCPoA, Iran committed not to engage in producing or acquiring uranium metal or to conduct research and development on uranium metallurgy for 15 years.

Recalling our statement of January 16, we reiterate that Iran has no credible civilian justification for these activities, which are a key step in the development of a nuclear weapon.

We strongly urge Iran to halt these activities without delay and not to take any new non-compliant steps on its nuclear programme. In escalating its non-compliance, Iran is undermining the opportunity for renewed diplomacy to fully realise the objectives of the JCPoA.

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[Police to receive £60 million to support COVID-19 response](#)

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[Contempt of court proceedings to be brought against environmental lawyer](#)

News story

The Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP, has initiated contempt of court proceedings against Tim Crosland, an environmental lawyer who leaked the Supreme Court's decision on Heathrow's third runway.



The Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP, has initiated contempt of court proceedings against Tim Crosland, an environmental lawyer who leaked the Supreme Court's decision on Heathrow's third runway.

On 9 December, in accordance with its usual practice, the Supreme Court circulated its draft judgment on the future of Heathrow Airport to various parties involved in the case including Mr Crosland, an outspoken opponent of

Heathrow's plans. The draft judgment was circulated on a confidential basis and an embargo setting out the need for confidentiality was clearly stated. It was also made clear that breaching the embargo might be treated as a contempt of court.

On 15 December Mr Crosland issued a statement to news wire, Press Association disclosing the Supreme Court's decision. In his statement, Mr Crosland confirmed that he had deliberately 'breached the embargo as an act of civil disobedience'.

Following a referral from the Supreme Court, the Solicitor General has instigated contempt of court proceedings against Mr Crosland. In doing so, the Solicitor General acted independently of government and in the public interest.

Commenting on the matter, the Solicitor General the Rt. Hon. Michael Ellis QC MP said:

After careful consideration, I have concluded that in order that the Rule of Law be upheld, contempt of court proceedings should be brought against Tim Crosland. Irrespective of any personal views on any issue there is no excuse for knowingly undermining court processes and proceedings. As proceedings are now underway, it would not be appropriate to comment further.

The case has been referred to the Supreme Court and is now a matter for the Justices of that court.

Note to editors

1. Contempt of court is punishable by up to 2 years in prison, and/or a fine.

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[Human Rights Council: UK statement for the 29th Special Session on Myanmar](#)

Madam President,

The United Kingdom condemns the military coup in Myanmar and the arbitrary detention of members of the democratically elected civilian government and civil society, including President Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. It is essential that Aung San Suu Kyi, Win Myint, and all those

arbitrarily detained are released. We must receive assurances of their safety and wellbeing.

We stand with the people of Myanmar who are now bravely exercising their democratic right to protest this coup. Their wishes, and the result of the November 2020 General Election, must be respected.

The human rights situation continues to deteriorate. We are extremely concerned by the reports and images of violence emerging from Myanmar perpetrated by the police and military. The state of emergency imposed by the military should be lifted immediately. All actors must refrain from violence and seek dialogue towards a peaceful resolution.

We continue to closely monitor the situation and call on the military to refrain from obstructing the people's access to information and communication.

The United Kingdom is clear that the state of emergency and all restrictions on the rights and freedoms of people in Myanmar must be lifted immediately. There must be unobstructed humanitarian access for International NGOs and Civil Society Organisations so that essential aid can reach those that need it.

The events of the past two weeks have shown that it is of the utmost importance that the Special Rapporteur continues to assess the situation of human rights and to provide regular updates. We call on the Secretary General and High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to give the Special Rapporteur their full support and press Myanmar to allow him access.

We welcome the unanimous statement of the Security Council supporting Myanmar's democratic transition, and the ASEAN Chair's statement, which recalls the principles of the ASEAN Charter, such as the rule of law, good governance and democracy. We encourage all partners to work constructively to prevent any further violence and seek a peaceful resolution.

Thank you.

[New trade and investment data published](#)

News story

The Department for International Trade (DIT) is today publishing for the first time detailed summaries of the UK's trade and investment relationships with over 200 overseas trading partners.



New factsheets, made accessible on gov.uk, will bring together key data on the value of trade and investment between the UK and 222 individual markets, using statistics from the Office for National Statistics, HM Revenue & Customs, as well as other international organisations.

They will include details such as the value of exports and imports between countries and the top goods and services that the UK trades with its international partners, including key FTA trade partners. In addition, statistics relating to the levels of Foreign Direct Investment from the UK to other markets and vice versa will also be published.

“This is the first time DIT has brought together statistics to provide a consolidated picture of the level of trade and investment between the UK and more than 220 international partner countries, demonstrating our commitment to openness, transparency, and making it easier to get insights from data.

“These new Official Statistics collate data from domestic and international organisations to give users a valuable source of information that shines a spotlight on the UK’s trade and investment positions around the world.”

The new factsheets will be updated periodically when new data are available and are accessible to the public on gov.uk from today.

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