

FAO: Mr. Bernard Jenkin MP
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA

Dr Adnan Siddiqui
CAGE Advocacy UK Ltd
47-49 Park Royal Road
London, NW10 7LQ

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By post and email: bernard.jenkin.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr. Jenkin,

**Re: Response to Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs
Committee Third Report Session 2015-2016**

We are writing to respond to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee's report entitled "The 2015 charity fundraising controversy: lessons for trustees, the Charity Commission, and regulators." There are a number of assertions and inaccuracies which have been made about CAGE by the Committee which we would like to clarify.

The report states that "The CAGE case drew our attention to the issue of donations from overseas." The Committee continues by highlighting that there is a problem of "funds arriving from hostile governments or terrorist supporting organisations." However, CAGE has never received any funding from individuals, organisations or governments overseas. In addition, we do hope that the Committee is not in any way implying that CAGE is a "terrorist supporting organisation". The call for the Rule of Law to be applied in all cases particularly those involving the most serious allegations can in no way be construed as support for criminal offences which may be the subject of such proceedings. It is incumbent upon all of us to protect the civil liberties of all individuals and it is a hallmark of an exemplary justice system that due process is afforded to or irrespective of the allegations made against them. It would behove the Committee to correct this statement as it is wholly inaccurate.

The Committee concludes that "The Charity Commission should be commended for pursuing charities who use their funds to finance CAGE, which describes itself as "campaigning against the War on Terror." We cannot see how the Committee could have come to this conclusion without hearing both sides of the story. We regret that the Committee appears to have not compiled with the rules of natural justice which we are sure was an oversight.

CAGE should have been allowed to provide evidence to address the concerns

CAGE Advocacy UK Ltd
Premier Business Centre
47-49 Park Royal Road
London NW10 7LQ

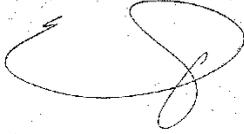
T +44 (0) 207 377 6700
M +44 (0) 7402 884 958

which the Committee have. Additionally, the charities which were contacted by the Charity Commission concerning their relationship with CAGE should have been asked to provide evidence.

We are confident that the Committee will wish to set the record straight and ensure that its procedural fairness is applied.

Please find herewith our request for a Parliamentary investigation into the impartiality of the Charity Commission.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Adnan Siddiqui
Director, CAGE