

10 December 2008

Andrew Tyrie MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

Dear Andrew,

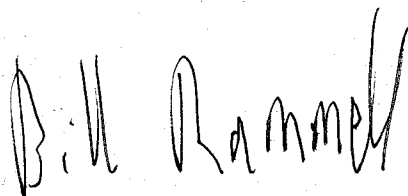
In your Parliamentary Question, answered on 12 November, you asked how many British Nationals have been detained in Bangladesh, Syria and Egypt since 2000 on suspicion of terrorist offences. I agreed to write to you with further details following a review of FCO records.

We have drawn on information held in Consular records to identify such cases. I should highlight the fact that our staff will only be aware of the specifics of an individual's detention if the individuals or local authorities concerned inform us of their detention and the reasons for this. Additionally, in the case of dual British Nationals, we will not as a matter of routine, be notified of their detention. Furthermore, the information we hold on the reasons for detention is based on local laws regarding terrorist offences and may not necessarily be defined in the same terms under UK terrorism legislation. For these reasons it is not possible to provide a definitive figure in answer to your question.

However, FCO records indicate that since 2000, two British Nationals, one of whom holds dual nationality, have been detained in Bangladesh and two British Nationals, again one of whom holds dual nationality, have been detained in Syria on suspicion of terrorist offences. We have no records of any British Nationals being detained in Egypt on suspicion of terrorist offences over this period.

I apologise again for the delay in replying to you and hope the above information is helpful.

Yours Sincerely



BILL RAMMELL