



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

17 January 2003

Edward Davey Esq MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Edward Davey,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December and your e-mail of 23 December both to Jack Straw about Mr Bisher Al-Rawi, an Iraqi national, who was detained in The Gambia in November. I am replying as Minister responsible for consular matters.

This is a complex case which officials are looking into. We acted on behalf of the two British nationals who were detained at the same time as Mr Al-Rawi and sought consular access to them and information on their detention. The British nationals were released and have now returned to the United Kingdom. As you set out in your letter, we do not have the same rights of consular access or representation for non-British nationals.

In your e-mail of 23 December you state that the British authorities may have requested the arrest of Mr Al-Rawi. I would like to assure you that this is not the case.

I have asked our High Commission in Banjul, The Gambia, for a report and will send you a substantive reply as soon as possible on the remaining points you raise.

Yours sincerely,
Baroness Amos

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