

## 10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 August 2012

Den Mr. Ahmed,

Thank you for your letter of 23 June regarding the extradition request from the USA for your son, Babar Ahmad.

I do completely understand the strength of your feelings about your son's case. As it is currently before the European Court of Human Rights, you will appreciate that it would not be appropriate for me to comment on it in detail at this time. However, I do know that, as with all extradition matters, Ministers and the courts have considered the case extremely carefully.

The Extradition Act 2003 contains very rigorous safeguards, as is made clear by the fact that ten requests from the USA for extradition have been discharged since 2004. In that time, the USA has never refused an extradition request from the UK.

I have noted your views that these cases should be tried in the UK. As the courts have affirmed, any decision to begin criminal proceedings in England and Wales is exclusively a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is not a matter in which I, or the Home Secretary, play or can play any part.

More generally, the UK must continue to act in conformity with the existing legal framework and, within what the law permits, to fulfil our international obligations towards the UK's many extradition partners. These are obligations which the UK takes very seriously. Failure to comply would place us in breach of them and would jeopardise the UK's ability to seek the extradition of persons from other countries.

I have written in similar terms to Mrs Farida Ahsan, Mrs Julia O'Dwyer and Mrs Janis Sharp.

Oila.