



Rt Hon Sadiq Khan
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12th September 2012

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Private prosecution of Babar Ahmad and Syed Talha Ahsan

I write further to representations that were made to you by the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP, on 11th June and 9th July 2012, my own representations on 22nd November 2011, the letter I sent to the Attorney General on 4th April 2012 (copying you in), and the new information that has been made public following the decision by Karl Watkins to launch a private prosecution against Babar Ahmad and Syed Talha Ahsan, who are both constituents of mine.

You are of course well aware of the serious allegations that have been made against Mr Ahmad and Mr Ahsan, and some of the concerns that have been made around the handling and transfer of evidence when they were initially arrested. As I have repeatedly stated, as British citizens, accused of perpetrating crimes in Britain, it should be the British justice system by which they should be tried and a jury of their peers which should judge them.

I am aware that it is within the power of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to take over a private prosecution. It is of course open to the CPS to ask the US prosecuting authorities to share any additional evidence that they may have against Mr Ahmad and Mr Ahsan, which would help in a British prosecution.

With new evidence available to British courts this makes it more likely that the evidential burden test would be met. Bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegations, the fact that a substantial amount of material (if not all) was obtained from searches carried out in London properties from the Metropolitan Police and that both men were in UK at all the alleged times the offences took place, there are many who believe it is the public interest to allow this case to progress in the UK.

As I have already requested, it is important there is a complete review of all the evidence, in relation to Babar Ahmad and Syed Talha Ahsan to see whether criminal charges should be brought by the CPS so that they can be tried in the UK.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

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Cc: Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP