

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

### **PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contact me on the issue of protecting human rights defenders.

Human rights defenders do crucial work in ensuring the respect of fundamental rights that all people are entitled to. Yet, despite the importance of the work that they do, human rights defenders are too often punished, facing arrest, harassment, or even death at the hands of those who want to repress their message. In 2017 alone, over 300 human rights defenders were murdered.

We have a responsibility to ensure that this situation is not allowed to continue. Last December, I attended Amnesty International's annual Human Rights Day Reception. The event heard about a number of human rights defenders from all walks of life that have been the victim of harassment, imprisonment, and torture. More broadly, the Labour Party continues to work to hold the Government to account on its duty to protect human rights defenders internationally. You can read a recent question to the Government about human rights defenders put by my fellow Labour MP Stephen Timms [here](#).

I would like to again thank everyone who has contacted me on human rights defenders.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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