Siân Berry MP
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House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
By Email

Dear Ed,

I recently met with members of my local Syrian community in Brighton, who briefed me on the situation of Kurdish people in the Rojava region of Syria, following the formation of the transitional government there, and of continuing human rights issues for Kurdish people in Turkiye.

They presented me with a petition from the Sussex Friends of Kurds, which has been signed by over 800 people so far in my local area, supporting their work and the need for autonomy for the region of Rojava within Syria.

Following this meeting, I am keen to make sure that the rights of self-government and political organisation, as well as more devolution for Kurdish people in these countries are not forgotten in the face of many other current priorities for your Department, and wish to ask some questions around your work and actions on their behalf.

Could you therefore tell me:

What actions you have taken on securing arrangements for recognition and devolution for Kurdish people in Rojava since taking up your post, including the recognition of Kurds as a distinct people, and official recognition of the Kurdish language, culture and holidays, as well as rights to local self-governance?

What representations have you made to the government in Turkiye to support Kurdish rights and autonomy in that country since taking up your post?

What actions did the previous administration take on these issues, and what follow-up is planned from your team on these, and when?

I would be very grateful for any information you can provide to me on these matters, which I can share with my constituents.

Yours sincerely,



Siân Berry MP
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