



Fabian Hamilton (Leeds North East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make representations in public to the government of China to release Liu Xiaobo and all prisoners of conscience on the occasion of Human Rights Day on 10 December 2010. (28596)

Date Answered

7 December 2010

Jeremy Browne

My Rt. Hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has clearly stated that the decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo shines a spotlight on the situation of human rights defenders worldwide. This Government is committed to promoting human rights in foreign policy and supports the work of human rights defenders around the world. British Ministers have regularly raised the case of Liu Xiaobo in their engagement with China. My Rt. Hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the case during his visit to China in July this year. We will continue to urge the Chinese Government to release Mr Liu.

The work of human rights defenders is the theme for this year's International Human Rights Day. To mark the occasion we will be issuing a statement to highlight the important work these individuals do, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances, and the work the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is doing to support human rights defenders around the world.