

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

June 2021

Dear Constituent

Thank you for your email about protests in Colombia.

Fundamentally, I firmly support the right of all Colombians to protest peacefully, and the right to peaceful assembly and association must be guaranteed.

You will be glad to learn that the UK Government remains concerned about ongoing protests in Colombia. Ministers are clear that we support the right of all Colombians to protest peacefully, and that the right to peaceful assembly and association must be guaranteed. This Government has called on all actors to continue to engage in dialogue in order to deescalate tensions.

I am glad that Ministers have raised the UK's concerns with the Colombian government on several occasions recently. I understand that most recently, Minister Morton at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) spoke with acting Foreign Minister Adriana Mejía on 14 May, where she welcomed the Colombian Government's commitment to transparent investigations into allegations of excessive use of force, and their commitment to continued dialogue.

Ministers at the FCDO look to the Colombian authorities to investigate fully any excessive use of force and take appropriate action against those responsible. Security services must be held accountable for their actions, with all complaints thoroughly investigated. I have been assured that Ministers will continue to work closely with the UN Verification Mission, and the UN Office of the High Representative for Human Rights in Colombia, as well as the wider international community, in support of their efforts to reduce tensions and promote dialogue.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely
Peter Gibson

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

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