



Emmanuel Crenne
Conseiller Régional
77 Rue Gustave Larroumet
46000 Cahors
Tel: 0787 42 78 39
emcrenne@yahoo.com

Mr Sajid Javid
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF
United Kingdom

**LETTER SENT IN RECORDED DELIVERY
AND BY EMAIL**

Cahors, May 26th, 2018

Dear Minister Javid,

International press reports today on the case of Mr Stephen Yaxley-Lennon aka Tommy Robinson, who was apparently jailed yesterday for 13 months due to an alleged „breach of peace“ after reporting restrictions were imposed in the court case of several child rapists in Leeds. It also seems that the British press is prohibited from reporting these facts to the British public. I generally do not fully agree with Mr Robinson's political views, but as European citizen and elected member of the Regional Assembly of Occitanie (France), I am particularly sensitive to what appears to be a very serious breach of European citizens' fundamental rights, based on the information publicly available.

I am concerned about the apparent weakening of civil liberties in the United Kingdom, particularly with respect to freedom of speech. Laws prohibiting journalists to report certain facts may exist in a State of Law, for example to protect victims of serious crimes, however they are not meant to be used to breach fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and/or imprison political opponents. Regardless of whether Mr Robinson breached a law of the United Kingdom, the question is whether such laws can be used in this manner in a blatant violation of the higher principles of Common Law and the European Convention on Human Rights which was signed and accepted by your country.

The United Kingdom has often criticized publicly other countries such as Russia, Syria or Zimbabwe for their lack of democracy and their repression against political opponents. In Mr Robinson's case, the speed at which he was taken to court and then sentenced to a totally out of proportions prison term of 13 months bears some resemblance with legal processes observed in such countries. All of that under a shield of alleged legality

within a State of Law signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights, which is particularly shameful. You will recall the famous words of French philosopher Montesquieu: „*There is no crueller tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of law and in the name of Justice*“ (Montesquieu „*Considérations sur les causes de la grandeur des Romains*“). Having lived myself for over 17 years in the United Kingdom, which I have always regarded as one of the champions of freedom of speech, I am deeply surprised by Mr Robinson's situation.

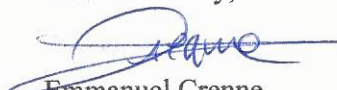
I am also particularly concerned about Mr Robinson's safety while he is in jail. Given his political views, there is a strong probability that he will be exposed to multiple threats from other prisoners, as has been his case in the past: under international treaties and conventions, the United Kingdom has a duty of care to ensure that his life is not put in danger. Every steps should therefore be taken by your government to ensure his safety and well-being.

You will recall that you and I were in the past colleagues at Deutsche Bank working in the same team. Knowing your character, I am confident that you will be sensitive to this situation. I therefore trust that you will consider this issue carefully and take all necessary action within your government to ensure that civil liberties and fundamental rights are protected in the United Kingdom and applied to Mr Robinson.

I am at your disposal should you need to contact me.

This letter expresses my personal opinion as an elected representative of the French people, based on information publicly available. It does not engage the responsibility or expresses the views of the political organisations I belong to, or any public authority such as, but not limited to, the Regional Council of Occitanie where I sit.

Yours faithfully,



Emmanuel Crenne
Conseiller Régional d'Occitanie