

Date

MP

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear

MP

STAND UP FOR UK JUSTICE

I am deeply concerned about the government's Justice and Security Bill. I fully support the need to protect the safety and lives of individuals and the nation.

However I have the following concerns about the Bill as it stands:

- The Bill severely hampers the ability of victims of human rights violations to access the truth about those violations and secure genuine accountability for them.
- The government has not demonstrated that the use of closed material procedures is necessary given the existence of alternative mechanisms available to handle sensitive material in civil cases for damages
- The Bill introduces an unprecedented level of secrecy into the UK justice system, undermining rights of fairness and open justice.

The government argues that closed material procedures are necessary as they are the only way that the courts will be able to hear these cases. I believe there is little evidence to support this argument.

To date the government has shown only one case which was struck out because too much material could not be disclosed for it to proceed. The example the government gives of a case being forced to settle concerned the most serious allegations of UK involvement in torture and other ill-treatment. In this case the government chose to settle out of court before existing processes for disclosure had even been exhausted, therefore failing to demonstrate that this case could not have proceeded fairly. In its current form the Justice and Security Bill also goes further than the government's own arguments as it does not ensure that a closed material procedure would only be used as measure of last resort if all other processes had failed and the case would otherwise not be heard.

As it stands the Bill threatens principles of fairness and open justice and will enable the government to throw a cloak of secrecy over its involvement in human rights violations including torture and illegal detention. I therefore urge you as my MP to oppose the Bill as it stands. Please write to your party leader about these concerns and to stand up for UK justice.

Yours sincerely,