

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

002 – 13 September 2021

Topic: Representations

Mr Julian Hill MP

Question

Mr HILL: Is anyone from DFAT aware of representations which may have been made to other countries regarding the impact of this tactic? By that I mean that, if these criminal charges stick—I think they've got one of our citizens already, in this kangaroo court, and another four still coming down the pipe—these people will no longer be able to travel to much of South-East Asia where there are extradition treaties with Cambodia. Have we raised these issues with our ASEAN partners and at least asked them not to pay any credence to these charges?

Ms Corcoran: Not that I know of.

Mr HILL: I did ask DFAT this six months ago, so I thought that maybe in six months we might've done something. Can anyone point me to anything?

Ms Corcoran: No, I don't have any information about whether we've made representations to other ASEAN countries, but I can look into that. I'll take that on notice.

Answer

In Canberra and Phnom Penh, we have made frequent representations to the Cambodian Government about mass trials that involve Australian citizens. We have raised our concerns about the lack of transparency and procedural fairness in these cases. We have also been clear with Cambodian authorities regarding our expectations that Australian citizens involved in these trials should not be subjected to international arrest warrants. The Australian Government has not engaged with ASEAN countries given the trials are underway and no extradition requests have been made.