

Strait of Hormuz incident: Foreign Secretary calls with French and German foreign ministers

The Foreign Secretary called both the French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, and the German foreign minister Heiko Maas today (21 July) to discuss the illegal detention of a British-flagged ship by Iranian forces in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday 19 July.

The Foreign Secretary thanked both foreign ministers for their countries' support and co-operation since the incident. Mr Le Drian and Mr Maas condemned the Iranian seizure of Stena Impero.

Both ministers agreed with the Foreign Secretary that safe passage for vessels through the Strait of Hormuz is a top priority for European nations, while avoiding any possible escalation in the region. They agreed to keep in close contact and to work together to achieve this.

Building peace and saving lives through government fund

Lives are being saved and global security improved thanks to the work of a cross government fund. The fund, among other achievements, has helped save more than 3,000 migrants from the Aegean and the Mediterranean seas and increased opportunities for women's inclusion in the Yemeni peace progress.

The cross government Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) supports and delivers activity to tackle instability and prevent conflicts, which threaten UK interests. In its annual report the CSSF demonstrates how it has improved its programme management, transparency and monitoring and evaluations.

The Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) published a review on 18 July which found that the CSSF has made "important progress since a critical ICAI report in March 2018, instituting good aid practice, strengthening its 'do no harm' approach, which is particularly important in conflict affected areas, and accelerating learning."

The Minister for the Cabinet Office David Lidington said:

This fund directly benefits both people living in fragile or

conflict states and here in the UK. Conflicts do not respect borders and it is in all our interests to help the world become more peaceful, stable and prosperous.

Over the last ten years, the nature of conflict and instability has changed dramatically. Conflicts last longer, involve more countries and are further complicated by terrorism and serious and organised crime. While these crises stifle development and cause human suffering, they also affect the UK's national security.

The CSSF enables the government to use cross-departmental expertise to deliver programmes which complement the work of departments like DFID, FCO and MOD, and deliver support to countries at risk of instability, as well as states and regions suffering from violent conflicts.

The UK is unique in this approach. No other country in the world has a fund which can spend both official development assistance (ODA) – overseas aid budget – and non-ODA, and is as large in scope or as ambitious as the CSSF.

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[The AAIB has sent a team to Kent](#)

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1. 22 July 2019 Transcript and video of Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt's Oral statement to Parliament on 22 July has been added

2. 21 July 2019 Added the Foreign Secretary's call with French and German foreign ministers
3. 21 July 2019 First published.