



# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

**Acting Director  
Consular Services**  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
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23 December 2016

Mr Clive A Stafford Smith OBE  
PO Box 72054  
London EC3P 3BZ

*Dear Mr Stafford Smith,*

Thank you for your work on Mr Maharaj's case; we appreciate the time you have invested on the case.

As you know, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have maintained an interest in Mr Maharaj's case including supporting a clemency plea in 2008 and providing amicus briefs on previous occasions. We have previously raised issues in Mr Maharaj's case at senior levels including with the Governor of Florida.

With respect to your request to Her Majesty's Government to file an amicus brief in support of Mr Maharaj's case, the Minister does not think it is appropriate to do so on this occasion.

Please be assured that we will continue to provide Mr Maharaj with consular assistance and to support all efforts to pursue justice. We are actively liaising with colleagues at Post as to how best to raise the case with senior officials at State level within the US Government in the near future to complement your imminent application.

I wish you success with your application in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Please keep my colleagues in the Prisoner Policy and Human Rights Team updated on the result of the appeal. They can be contacted at the above postal address or by e-mail to [ConsularPrisoner.Team@fco.gov.uk](mailto:ConsularPrisoner.Team@fco.gov.uk).

*Yours sincerely,*

*Paul Bute*

**PAUL BUTE**  
**Acting Director Consular Services**