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DOMINIC RAAB WRONG TO SAY INDIAN FARMER ISSUE IS INTERNAL MATTER

Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Dominic Raab has said in India that the massive farmer's protest and the Farmer's Bills are internal matters of India. Dominic Raab is both wrong and abrogating from UK's responsibility to raise the issue with India on international human rights grounds.

In 2018, the United Nations adopted the Declaration on Rights of Peasants (UNDROP). India is a signatory. Three issues that concern farmers about the Bill and that are mentioned in UNDROP are

- 1. State must consult small farmers and their leaders before enacting policies, laws and action plans that could affect their livelihood, culture, way of life and farms**
(Article 10(2) UNDROP which provides that '*States shall promote the participation, directly and/or through their representative organizations, of [farmers] in decision-making processes that may affect their lives, land and livelihoods; this includes... promoting their participation in the preparation and implementation of food safety, labour and environmental standards that may affect them*' such as the Three Farmer Bills.)
- 2. There needs to be an independent evaluation of quality of the produce.**
(Article 11(3) UNDROP). *appropriate system of evaluation and certification of the quality of their products at the local, national and international levels*' as they are bound to do so under
- 3. Farmers (like everyone) have right to independent courts for any disputes resulting from contracts.**
Article 12(1) UNDROP '*to effective and non-discriminatory access to justice, including access to fair procedures for the resolution of disputes and to effective remedies for all infringements of their human rights*'. Also Articles 6 and 7 of UDHR.

The Farmers' Bills

1. The Indian Government has not consulted at all with farmers or their leaders before rushing through the laws
2. The provision for independent evaluation of produce has been removed
3. Farmers cannot go to court in any contractual disputes but have to go to a Government employee for arbitration

The Farmers protest are asking

1. Repeal the laws
2. Start Consultation on future of small farming in India
3. Set up independent evaluation of their produce
4. Farmers like everyone should have right to go to court on contractual disputes

These are issues raised by farmers. These rights derive from UN declarations and Treaties to which UK is also a signatory.

Human Rights are not internal matters of countries but are of concern to the whole world.

If UK can take up issues of protesters in Hong Kong, it can take up issue of farmers in India on ground of international norms being breached by India. Dominic Raab is abrogating responsibility

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