

Statement attributable to the FreeKylieMG group

26 October 2020

We are deeply concerned about the welfare of our dear friend and colleague Dr Kylie Moore-Gilbert, and the Australian government's increasingly empty assurances that her case is their highest priority.

36 hours after reports emerged that Kylie was transferred from Qarchak prison to an unknown location, Foreign Minister Marise Payne has acknowledged that the Australian government is 'seeking further information.'

In short, if the reports are true, then an Australian citizen has gone missing within the Iranian prison system, despite the careful watch of 'quiet diplomacy.'

We call on the Australian government to urgently summon the Iranian Ambassador to Australia His Excellency Mr Fereydoun Haghbin to express in the strongest terms Australia's displeasure at the treatment of this innocent woman. We also urge the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to immediately locate Kylie and check on her welfare, to provide greater transparency on her situation and condition, and to urgently re-assess their plan for bringing her home.

We too agree that the solution to Kylie's case is a diplomatic one, but Kylie has been held as a hostage by a foreign government for 774 days and Australia has failed to achieve any meaningful progress in the case.

It is high time that the Australian government rethinks its strategy. Kylie deserves so much better.

Members of the FreeKylieMG group are available for comment. Please contact Dr Dara Conduit on 0438468738 to organise, or email us at freekylieMG@gmail.com