



# Andrew Dismore

## Member of Parliament for Hendon

Constituency Report #6  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2006- 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006

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### House of Commons and Westminster

As usual, this has been a busy month. I spoke extensively in the Commons during the report stage of the **Compensation Bill**, where I had tabled amendments to help asbestos victims [Click here for more](#).

I also spoke in the debate on **counter-terrorism**, where the government was taking steps to outlaw additional extremist groups [Click here for more](#). Whilst I welcome that action, I remain concerned this Hizb ut-Tahrir, in particular, was not also included in the ban. The Home Office Minister indicated this was kept under review.

During Foreign Office Question Time, I raised the problems in the **Lebanon** with particular reference to Hezbollah and their support from Syria and Iran [Click here for more](#). I also spoke in response to the Home Secretary's statement, on **immigration policy** [Click here for more](#), with reference to extremists and their removal from the country.

As a committee chair, I am ex officio a member of the powerful **Liaison Committee**, the committee of committee chairs. We had our six monthly session with the **Prime Minister** where he is questioned for 2 ½ hours. I particularly raised issues relating to human rights with him [Click here for more](#).

The **Joint Committee on Human Rights**, which I chair, is about to publish a report on counter-terrorism and how we can extend the power to prosecute terror suspects; we will be publishing our long-awaited report on human trafficking in the autumn. [Click here for the JCHR web site](#).

I am also a member of the **Standards and Privileges Committee**, which rarely gets much notice, except when we deal with a high profile complaint, such as the case involving Mr. Prescott. Our reports can be viewed [by clicking here](#).

I am pleased to say the long-awaited **Corporate Manslaughter Bill** has now been published and will have its second reading early in the autumn session. I hope to be called to speak on this, as I have campaigned for almost 20 years for the introduction of such a law. In the past, I even presented a private member's bill to try and achieve this.

Other activities at Westminster included a meeting with the **Prime Minister** to discuss constituency issues.

At this time of year, there is also a lot of activity around the **Cyprus** issue, and I chaired a meeting of the Friends of Cyprus, spoke at the lobby organized by the Cypriot community at Parliament, and I also addressed the Cypriot demonstration in Trafalgar Square (in Greek).

As **Chair of the London Group of MPs**, I met with the London Development Agency to discuss, in particular, Olympic issues and those promoting the Crossrail project.

I also met the Armenian ambassador to discuss the campaign for recognition of the **Armenian genocide**.

I addressed a meeting of **Amnesty International** in my capacity as Chair of the Human Rights Committee.

Much activity has focused around the **British Chinese community** in the last few weeks. They have mounted a major campaign over the changes in immigration rules which significantly disadvantage those who wish to settle in Britain having previously come here legally, to work. I collected signatures for their petition in Chinatown, which was presented to 10 Downing Street. We are shortly to meet the immigration minister to discuss these issues further.

As Chair of the **All-Party Chinese in Britain Group**, I organised a meeting addressed by David Lammy MP, the Culture Minister, on what the government can do, to work with Chinese cultural institutions to promote Chinese culture and the involvement of Chinese people in the mainstream arts world.

I was re-elected Chair of the **Far East Prisoners of War All-Party Group** at its AGM, and I am pleased to say this campaign now seems to be drawing to a close. The government has announced that it will pay out many of those who were previously excluded, and is looking to introduce a hardship scheme for anybody who remains.

I met with the outgoing Chair of the **Strategic Health Authority** for our area, to discuss her final views on our local NHS.

I held a meeting for the **Tamil** community at Westminster, which was well attended with, as guest speaker, the Minister for International Development, to look at the very serious problems facing Sri Lanka and the Tamil community.

I also met with the **Health and Safety Commission** and the **NASUWT** teachers' union.

The Joint Committee on Human Rights, which I chair, was short-listed for the annual **parliamentary awards** as 'Committee of the Year', but unfortunately we did not win, the prize going to the Public Accounts Committee, which always seems to be the victor!

Finally, I ought to report activities in relation to the **Middle East crisis**. Apart from the formal question I put to the Foreign Secretary (above), I was also invited to meet with her to discuss issues in the Middle East at length, and I have also met both the **Israeli ambassador** and the **new UK ambassador to Israel**, who is just taking up his post. These were private discussions, but I think it was very important I had the opportunity to discuss the very serious and dangerous situation in the Middle East.

I have sponsored and signed the usual wide range of **Early Day Motions**, to see them [click here](#).

To see my written **Parliamentary questions** see the bottom of this email for instructions on how to use the [Parliamentary Search Engine](#), which you can use to see them all, or just those that you have a particular interest in.

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## Constituency

Perhaps the most important event was attending the memorial meeting for the victims of the 7<sup>th</sup> July bombings last year, held in Hendon Park.

On a happier note, I was asked to open the new Jobcentre Plus office in Hendon, which is light years away from the old impression one has of job centres. This provides a modern service in a friendly and effective setting.

As for school visits, I visited Edgware Junior School breakfast club, to see their out of school hours activities. I also visited Rosh Pinah Primary School for their Golden Jubilee, and attended their celebratory dinner. I visited Hasmonean Primary School assembly.

I attended the Mill Hill Preservation Society annual meeting, and visited Ash Close sheltered accommodation to meet with residents. I attended a function organized by the Cypriot High Commissioner at the Hellenic Centre in London.

There have been stories in the local press over the future of the Metropolitan Police Training Centre, the Peel Centre. I visited the Peel Centre and the accounts of its demise and very much exaggerated! There is no question of the police moving out, though they are planning to re-organize some of their training systems, to bring them into line with modern practice.

I also visited the British Forces Post Office at Mill Hill Barracks, for their 'beating the retreat' ceremony.

I have started a new series of discussion groups at my constituency office, the first of which was for local 17 – 18 year olds who raised many interesting questions. I have since held meetings for the African and Jewish communities, and hope to make these discussion groups a 'fixture' in my diary for others, too. If you would like to be invited to these discussions, please link.

Finally, I attended the funeral of my friend Alan Senitt, who was so tragically stabbed to death in Washington DC, USA. The incident received much publicity at the time, but it was also a very personal tragedy for his family and friends.

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## Media

In the period since the last report, I had to turn down quite a few media appearances, due to pressure of work at Westminster. Nevertheless, I appeared on Radio London, Talk Radio and BBC London, to comment on the prosecution of the person who organized the demonstration at the Danish Embassy over the cartoons. I was also quoted on this issue in the Daily Mail.

I was quoted in the Sun and Daily Mail in the articles on an extremist rap singer and for my criticisms of Dr. Tamimi, a fundamental extremist.

I was quoted in the Daily Express over the issue of Hizb ut-Tahrir and also featured in the Sunday Times on a similar issue.

Finally, I appeared on Radio 4 to discuss the issue of Lord Levy and his role in the Middle East.

The full range of press releases I have issued to the local and specialist press can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

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I would be very interested to hear any feedback on the issues raised in this report. I have now started a series of occasional meetings for constituents, on Sunday afternoons, to receive feedback, both from these reports and more generally on what is going on in and around the constituency. Please let me know if you would like to have invitations to such events, which will be held at my constituency office next to the Town Hall in Hendon. To register your interest, email me with your name and address; just [click here](#).

I hope that you have found this report of interest, and if you would like to receive my specific subject based reports just [click here](#). If you have any comments, please do not hesitate to let me know by emailing me at [updates@hendonlabourparty.com](mailto:updates@hendonlabourparty.com).

If you have any friends or neighbours in Hendon who might be interested in this report, please feel free to send it to them. If they would like to be added to my email list please ask them to email [updates@hendonlabourparty.com](mailto:updates@hendonlabourparty.com).

## Want to know more...

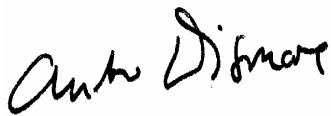
### This month I am issuing detailed reports about:

- International Development
- Environment, Planning and Green Issues
- My annual inspection of the constituency's council estates

Just click here and email me your name, address and the subjects that you want to hear more about!

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



## **Andrew Dismore** **Member of Parliament for Hendon**

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