

Parliament returned this week after our summer recess. The immediate issue on the minds of politicians is the state of affairs in Syria, Iraq, the Ukraine and Gaza. The summer has been dominated pretty much by the dreadful events abroad and just as progress in one area appears to be being made, then a terrorist atrocity occurs elsewhere destabilising overall global security.

This week we have seen another barbaric murder of an innocent journalist by terrorist organisation ISIL. It is because of the activities of this particular group, and the rise of other extreme jihadist groups that the Prime Minister and Home Secretary has increased the national security level to severe. We should remember that the level was only recently downgraded and had been at the severe level since the 7/7 bombings in London, nevertheless it is right that the public are warned to remain vigilant to potential threats.

The Government has a difficult job to do when it comes to dealing with threats to security, particularly in relation to British citizens who have travelled abroad to join jihadi groups. There has been a call to remove citizenship from those who have joined terrorist groups abroad but the legality of this is uncertain. To take away passports from those who may think of leaving the UK to travel abroad to fight for extremist organisations is certainly an option and if we can use these powers to prevent known football hooligans attending international games then there we can absolutely use them to stop potential acts of terrorism.

Events in the Middle East are particularly disturbing. Our broadcasters and papers file rolling news updates and the pace of change is sometimes extremely fast. I simply pray that our global leaders have the strength and determination to resolve these conflicts without requiring direct intervention on the ground.