

No one should ever die for or because of politics

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I wrote this tweet yesterday in reaction to the news of the death of Sir David Amess MP:



We are living in a time when politics has been too polarised, on all sides. Sometimes, and too often, we see the cost of that. Today we have. My sincere condolences to the family of David Amess MP. No one should ever die for or because of politics. RIP

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The tweet, inevitably, attracted some adverse comments, with some asking if I really meant that no one should ever die for or because of politics. Some asked for specific clarifications.

They wholly missed the point. Firstly I was being at one level very specific and meant this to be true with regard to Sir David Amess.

Second, I am a Quaker, and believe in the sanctity of life. That means that of course I believe no one should ever die for or because of politics. The job of politics is surely to create the environment where life is venerated, and not destroyed. If not, why not? And in that case, of course I can regret and offer condolences on the death of someone with whose opinion I often disagreed.