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Member of Parliament (MP) Sound Alarm on Escalating 'Grey Zone' Threats Facing UK Citizens

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A new report from the House of Commons Defence Committee warns that hostile states are using increasingly sophisticated “grey zone” tactics to target the UK population and infrastructure. MPs are calling for stronger national resilience, the creation of a Minister for Homeland Security, and urgent investment to counter these under-the-radar threats.

Britain’s national security is under mounting pressure from hostile foreign actors exploiting so-called “grey zone” tactics, covert and subversive actions that fall below the threshold of traditional warfare. In a stark report, the House of Commons Defence Committee has warned that these threats are no longer confined to governments or defence agencies, but now reach into the daily lives of ordinary citizens.

The report outlines how adversarial regimes, including Russia and China, are actively undermining UK stability through cyberattacks, espionage, disinformation campaigns, sabotage, and interference with critical infrastructure. In recent years, grey zone activity has reportedly included bot-led manipulation of public opinion, threats to undersea cables, and attempts to destabilise energy and communication networks.

Committee chair Tan Dhesi MP stated, “Grey zone tactics bring war to the doorstep of ordinary citizens. These threats destabilise our democracy and unsettle the fabric of our day-to-day lives.” The committee has urged the government to adopt a “whole-of-society” approach to national resilience, drawing on successful models used in Nordic countries such as Finland and Sweden, where civil defence training is widespread.

Key among the committee’s recommendations is the appointment of a dedicated Minister for Homeland Security, tasked with coordinating grey zone defence efforts across departments and communities. It also calls

for a proportion of the planned increase in defence spending, targeted to reach 2.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2027, to be allocated specifically to counter these non-conventional threats.

The report points to examples in Europe where citizens are educated in disinformation awareness and emergency preparedness. In the UK, however, public resilience remains limited and fragmented, and current efforts lack both scale and leadership. The committee also recommends enhanced Royal Navy patrol capabilities in the Arctic and Baltic regions, which are seeing increased strategic activity by Russia.

Despite the serious nature of these findings, there has been no decisive action from the Labour government to adopt the recommendations or clarify a strategy. While the government claims to be focused on long-term defence planning, critics argue that the scale and urgency of grey zone threats demand a more visible and coordinated response. In an increasingly unpredictable global environment, a failure to act decisively risks leaving the UK dangerously exposed.

Certainly. Below is a professionally written article based on the NATO joint exercise involving British, American, Finnish, and French air forces. It follows your centre to right-leaning editorial tone, uses UK English, avoids supportive language toward Labour, and meets your stylistic and formatting requirements.