



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 13, 2011

Secretary Hillary Clinton  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We are understandably disturbed by the recent murder of Salman Taseer, the Governor of Pakistan's largest province, the Punjab. It is shocking that Governor Taseer, who was a strong advocate for religious tolerance, pluralism and democracy in his country, was cut down by an assassin's bullets who opposed changes to statutes against religious minorities.

We applaud you for condemning Salman Taseer's assassination and acknowledging his death "as a great loss." It is also disturbing that this assassination was committed by Malik Mumtaz Qadri, a member of the Elite Force assigned to Taseer's security detail. This unspeakable tragedy has been compounded by the public reaction of significant elements of Pakistan's clerical, journalistic and law community who have praised the murderer and threatened the lives of other Pakistani officials who refuse to comply with the terrorization of Christians, Ahmadis and women.

While this murder has been denounced by many world leaders, further problems are plaguing democracy in Pakistan. The Pakistan People's Party MNA Sherry Rehman has had her life threatened and has been targeted for introducing a bill in the National Assembly proposing amendments to the Blasphemy Laws. Further threats and violence are not the answer.

We agree with you that the United States must remain committed to working with the people of Pakistan to bring peace and stability to their country. It is imperative that we show our dedication to peace and not further violence. Now is the time to increase our diplomatic efforts with the investments the United States is making as we strive for the growth of democracy and tolerance in Pakistan.

We have now become aware that some of the most prominent clerics, journalists and lawyers who have praised Taseer's death and have demonstrated support of his murderer, are people who frequently travel to the United States and hold American visas. We urge you to identify those Pakistani citizens that have shown demonstrable support of the assassination of Governor Taseer.

We further request that visas not be issued to such people and that applications for new visas from those who have endorsed this heinous crime be denied.

Thank you very much for the prompt consideration of our request. As far as we are concerned, this is not just a moral issue but also an issue of national security.

Sincerely,



Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



Peter King  
Member of Congress



Gary Ackerman  
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul  
Member of Congress