

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2005

Dear Colleague,

Regional officials in Pakistan have announced that 79,000 people have been killed in the 8th of October earthquake which devastated parts of northern Pakistan and Kashmir. Aid officials are calling the disaster worse than the Tsunami, exacerbated by the shortfall in international aid. With the Himalayan winter fast approaching, hundreds of thousands of newly homeless people could be killed, impoverished, or dislocated in the coming months.

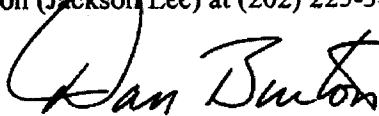
Today, we have an opportunity to show Pakistan that the United States will stand by it in its time of need. Throughout the Cold War and the War on Terror, Pakistan has been one of our most ready and willing allies. Pakistan has captured hundreds of suspected al-Qaeda terrorists and lost military and civilian lives as a result for its support for the War on Terror. President Musharraf has persevered despite opposition and assassination attempts. This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate to the people of Pakistan that our friendship is deep and sincere.

The U.S. Congress must demonstrate its support for the people of Pakistan by coming together under the Congressional Pakistan Caucus. The Pakistan Caucus is an informal, bipartisan group of legislators committed to enhancing international peace and security by:

- Fostering mutual respect, understanding and cooperation between Americans and Pakistanis over a broad range of issues.
- Assisting the Pakistani-American community's understanding of the Congressional legislative process.
- Supporting the interests of the Pakistani-American community and working with them as they seek integration into the mainstream of American society.
- Improving and developing long term political and security relationships between the United States and Pakistan; as well as supporting Pakistan as it continues to move towards being a full-fledge democracy.
- Improving Pakistan's relationship with India and its neighbors and promoting an agenda dedicated to creating a comprehensive peace plan for South Asia.
- Supporting enhanced U.S.-Pakistan economic relationships through mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreements.
- Supporting increased academic interaction between the U.S. and Pakistani scholars, researchers, and universities.

The people of the United States, through their representatives, must express solidarity with the people of Pakistan as they go through the most difficult time in their history.

We urge you to join the Pakistan Caucus today, as this will send a strong message of concern and support back to our most allied of allies. If you would like to join the Caucus or have any questions, please contact Dana Thompson (Jackson Lee) at (202) 225-3816 or Brian Fauls (Burton) at (202) 225-2276.



Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Very truly yours,



Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress