

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

June 9, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
United States Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing to express great concern for the 2.5 million people have been displaced from Pakistan's Swat Valley since April. The Pakistani government and military were completely unprepared for the massive number of internally displaced peoples (IDPs) created by operations against the Taliban and are overwhelmed by trying to meet even their most basic needs. These IDPs are highly vulnerable to exploitation, violence, disease, and other hazards.

As you have previously stated, the Bush administration approach to Pakistan was largely incoherent. The results certainly show that. As part of our aid to Pakistan in this time of need, we must broaden our engagement beyond military assistance to address the root causes Islamic extremism in the region that threatens our shared interests. The Pakistani government must embrace reforms aimed at better governance, enhanced economic opportunity for their people, and spreading the uniform rule of law to all provinces. Only then will its people have more faith in their leaders than in the Taliban.

As you know, the United States has responded to the challenge of helping Pakistan in this moment of need. The Obama administration requested over \$400 million in aid to for Pakistan in the fiscal year 2009 appropriations bill, which will follow the \$170 million already provided to help meet humanitarian needs in the Swat valley. Assisting Pakistan in its efforts to help IDPs in the Swat Valley is an opportunity for the United States and the international community to take the first step in building the trust of the Pakistani people in our effort to encourage and assist in their reforms. We cannot ignore their great humanitarian need, nor ignore our shared strategic interests. However, the United States cannot meet the entire need on our own. The international community must rapidly respond to the United Nations \$543 million aid appeal for IDPs in the Swat Valley in order to ensure aid continues to reach the people that need it most.

I know you are committed to broadening and strengthening the U.S. – Pakistan relationship based on our shared interests. I urge you to use your upcoming visit to the G-8 summit in Trieste to remind the international community of this urgent need, and urge them to participate in other actions needed to assist IDPs and to help Pakistan with its economic development and governance reforms. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator