

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We would like to commend you for your swift response and leadership in addressing the current humanitarian crisis in Pakistan. Due to the recent conflict between the Pakistani government and extremist groups, more than two million people have now been forced to flee the fighting.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 1.45 million people have registered as displaced since May 2, 2009, and 553,000 had fled because of earlier fighting. Most of these refugees are living in squalid, sweltering refugee camps which are seeing a shortage of tents, food, clothes and medical supplies, as the number of refugees increase day by day. A senior UNHCR official described the displacement crises as "one of the most dramatic in recent times," saying it rivals that caused by the Rwandan genocide in 1994.

The announced emergency aid to displaced Pakistani civilians will go a long way towards alleviating the current humanitarian crises. We also applaud your insight in the use of new technological tools to help raise contributions, such as the use of text-messaging.

We must now work towards a long term solution to reduce the threat of extremism in Pakistan which we believe can only be achieved through; 1) strengthening the Pakistani judiciary; 2) restoring the Civil Service of Pakistan; and 3) creating long term job-creation which would help counter al-Qaeda and Taliban recruitment efforts. We stand ready to work with you as the Obama Administration furthers these efforts.

Sincerely,



André Carson
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress