



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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN, BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT
TRANSPORTATION AND MARITIME SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE
NATIONAL SECURITY, THE
BORDER, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES

November 21, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

President Biden,

The continued persecution of Christians in Pakistan is unacceptable and cannot go unanswered. I urge you to use every diplomatic tool of the United States to secure the release of religious prisoners and address ongoing human rights violations in Pakistan.

Shagufta Kiran is one of many Pakistani Christians who has been denied religious freedoms and persecuted based on her faith. She has been imprisoned, held in inhumane conditions, and sentenced to death for comments deemed disrespectful to Islam. Only with significant pressure from the United States and our international partners does Shagufta Kiran have hope of being released and reunited with her family.

The United States has provided Pakistan with over \$1.2 billion in foreign assistance over the last five years. This is a tremendous amount of American treasure being delivered to an oppressive foreign government with no regard for individual liberties or religious freedom. We must take action to stop the persecution of Christians abroad, and I am prepared to use the full weight of my office to prohibit foreign aid spending to nations that participate in such injustices.

Again, I encourage your administration to use the full diplomatic power of the United States to address these abuses. Shagufta Kiran and countless other religious prisoners depend upon our courage to act. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay Higgins".

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

CC:
Secretary Antony J. Blinken, U.S. Department of State
Commissioners, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom
President-Elect Donald J. Trump
Senator Marco Rubio, Nominee for U.S. Secretary of State