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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONGRESSIONAL
CORRESPONDENCE TASKER**



IPS CONTROL# **H2005** 0315-020 ACTION BUREAU: SA

DATE: MAR 15 2005

IPS:

SUBSTANTIVE CONSTITUENT

IMAGE ENTIRE DOCUMENT IMAGE ONLY FIRST PAGES

BUREAU:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles
Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

MAR 15 2005

BUREAU ACTION REQUESTED: RESPOND TO CCU **2** DAYS FROM:

REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY MATTHEW A. REYNOLDS, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

ADDRESS ENVELOPE TO DISTRICT OFFICE

DIRECT REPLY TO CONSTITUENT BY OFFICE DIRECTOR WITH COPY TO
CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE. PHONE 7-1608 WHEN COMPLETED

FYI ONLY/NO RESPONSE NECESSARY/PHONE 7-1608 WHEN RECEIVED

REPLY FOR SIGNATURE DIRECTLY BY BUREAU

OTHER ACTION: please coordinate with CA
See #H20050311-008 for reply
DUE DATE: MAR 17 2005

****BUREAUS MUST MAKE TRANSFERS OF ACTION DIRECTLY WITH RECEIVING BUREAU'S
FRONT OFFICE. The CCU has a listing of contacts. PLEASE NOTIFY CCU 7-1608 OF ALL
TRANSFERS OF ACTION****

FROM: Nancy Powell (H) *[Signature]* MAR 11 2005
THRU : Brian Gunderson

Recommendation

- For my signature
- Tasked to the *SA* *ca* bureau for Nancy Powell's signature
- Provide copy of Nancy Powell's response

COMMENTS:

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2005

The Honorable Dr. Condoleezza Rice
 Secretary of State
 U.S. Department of State
 2201 C Street, N.W.
 Washington, DC 20520

RECEIVED
 2005 MAR 11 A 9:25
 2005 MAR 10 P 11:04
 LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Dear Madame Secretary:

We are writing to encourage and request the denial of entry into the United States to Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat, India, in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)), for his repeated engagement in particularly severe violations of religious freedom. Under the revised Act, foreign government officials who are responsible for or directly carried out particularly severe violations of religious freedom – at any time - are inadmissible. Mr. Modi is the planned chief guest of the 2005 Annual Convention and Trade Show of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to be held on March 24-26, 2005.

Since taking office as Chief Minister of Gujarat on October 7, 2001, Mr. Modi has pursued a campaign of extremism targeting religious minorities. The most egregious violation of religious freedom engaged in by Mr. Modi was the orchestrated attacks in Gujarat, 2002, where approximately 2,000 Muslims were killed. The aftermath of the riots further demonstrates that Mr. Modi and his BJP government are not in compliance with the spirit or the standards of the International Religious Freedom Act. Of particular note is the statement by the Supreme Court of India in 2004 that trials surrounding Gujarat will never be fairly held due to Mr. Modi's state leadership. Furthermore, the investigation into the impetus for the riots - a train fire that killed dozens, mostly Hindus – found that it was not planned or executed by religiously-motivated Muslims. That conclusion, announced in January 2005, was contrary to what the Gujarat government had widely propagated in order to incite the people, and lends credence to the theory that Mr. Modi's government planned and assisted in the execution of the riots. Mr. Modi's government involvement is also supported by the State Department's 2003 and 2004 International Religious Freedom reports.

The following are just a few examples of Mr. Modi's continued violations of religious rights over the past 24 months as listed in the 2004 and 2003 reports published by the International Religious Freedom office at the State Department:

2004

- The Gujarat State Higher Secondary Board, to which nearly 98 percent of schools in Gujarat belong, requires the use of certain textbooks in which Nazism is condoned. In the Standard 10 social studies textbook, the "charismatic personality" of "Hitler the Supremo" and the "achievements of Nazism" are described at length. The textbook does not acknowledge Nazi extermination policies or concentration camps except for a passing reference to "a policy of opposition towards the Jewish people and [advocacy for] the supremacy of the German race."

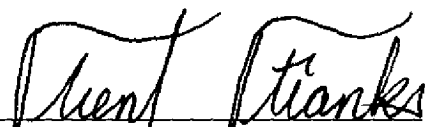
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

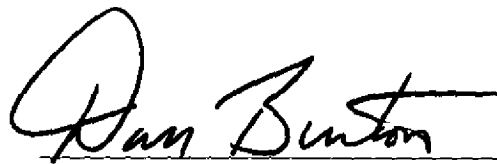
2003

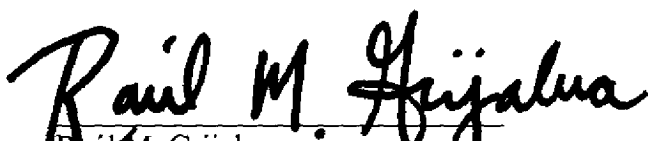
- During the period covered by this report, the states of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat passed anticonversion laws. Under both laws, those "forcing" or "alluring" people to convert are subject to criminal action. Since that which constitutes forced conversions or allurement is not specified, human rights groups, Christian religious leaders, and Dalits have expressed concern that authorities will use these laws selectively in the future to shut down educational, medical, and other social services provided by Christian groups to Dalits and "tribals".
- The Gujarat state government aggressively surveyed Christian families and Christian agencies during the reporting period, allegedly under the orders of Chief Minister Narendra Modi. The survey activities were carried out by police, often in the middle of the night. The survey was first implemented in February and continued through May, even after the Gujarat High Court ruled in March that the survey was illegal.

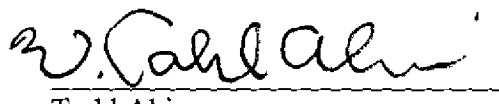
Madame Secretary Rice, we ask that you do not allow this egregious violator the privilege of entering the United States, in keeping with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Narendra Modi's planned campaign of religious violence and persecution has been evidenced through his leadership and is due cause for him to be denied entry.

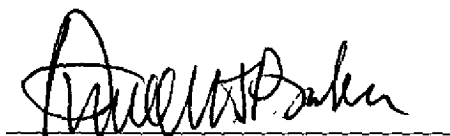
Sincerely,


 Trent Franks
 Member of Congress


 Dan Burton
 Member of Congress


 Raúl M. Grijalva
 Member of Congress


 Todd Akin
 Member of Congress


 Richard H. Baker
 Member of Congress

Paul M. Higgins