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July 9, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

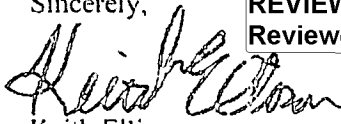
I understand that you received a letter from Representative Joe Walsh of Illinois in April requesting that the State Department reverse its 2005 decision to deny Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat, India, a visa to travel to the United States. I urge the State Department to continue its visa ban of Chief Minister Modi.

As you are aware, in 2005, the U.S. State Department refused to grant Chief Minister Modi a diplomatic visa to the United States and revoked his tourist/business visa because of Chief Minister Modi's role in the 2002 massacre of Muslims in Gujarat. In his letter, Representative Walsh states that much progress has been made in Gujarat since the 2002 massacre that killed an estimated 2,000 people and displaced 100,000 into refugee camps. Representative Walsh's letter also indicates that justice has been brought to those responsible, and that there has been a reconciliation between Hindus and Muslims in Gujarat.

While Representative Walsh wants the State Department to reverse its decision based on a technical reading of the statute, I believe that a change in policy toward Chief Minister Modi would be ill advised. Under Chief Minister Modi, those responsible for the 2002 Gujarat massacre (including himself) have largely received impunity. Moreover, under Chief Minister Modi, religious minorities in Gujarat are still not able to practice freely.

While Representative Walsh wants you to reward Chief Minister Modi for establishing Gujarat as a business-friendly state, I commend your leadership in protecting the rights of religious minorities. Thus, I implore that the State Department continue to uphold Chief Minister Modi's travel ban to the United States.

Sincerely,



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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