

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 12, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

We are writing to urge you to recommend that President Bush raise the issue of political violence in Bangladesh at the U.N. World Summit on September 14-16.

We are concerned that Bangladesh has become increasingly plagued by political violence and instability. If these alarming trends continue, there could be serious consequences for regional peace and security as well as international terrorist activity in the region.

Attacks on high profile leaders such as Sheik Hasina, the leader of the Awami League; Anwar Choudhary, the British High Commissioner; and the devastating January assassination of Shah A.M.S. Kibria, the former Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary, Finance Minister, U.N. Under-Secretary General, and U.N. Special Representative to Cambodia for Humanitarian Relief; illustrate the depth of the problem of political violence in Bangladesh. Indeed, the hundreds of coordinated attacks across Bangladesh that occurred on August 17, 2005 indicate that the violence is on the rise.

Initiatives to prevent catastrophic terrorism will be addressed at the Summit, and the possibility of Bangladesh becoming a failed state and a base of operations for international terrorist organizations should be part of those discussions.

In this context, we believe that the investigation of the murder of Shah Kibria should be raised and addressed. We appreciate the role of the Department in urging the Bangladeshi Government to conduct a thorough and effective investigation, but we believe assistance from the international community is necessary to ensure that this goal is achieved.

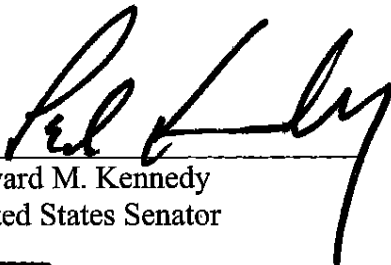
According to the Department's Country Reports on Human Rights, Bangladesh is plagued by corruption and judicial inefficiency. The lower courts are under the authority of the Executive, and they lack independence. The widely respected non-governmental organization, Transparency International, has given Bangladesh one of the worst ratings in the world for corruption, emphasizing that "corruption has assumed serious proportions and it has infected every nook and corner of the society." Out of 145 countries surveyed, Bangladesh is tied with Haiti as the country most widely perceived as corrupt.


To increase prospects for a full, fair, and independent investigation, we urge President Bush to propose that the United Nations:

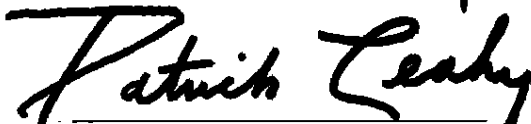
- Send an investigative team from an existing office -- such as the Office of Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions -- to review the investigation and determine whether it has been conducted effectively and whether everyone involved in the murder has been charged.
- Appoint a U.N. Special Envoy for Bangladesh to examine the Kibria case and investigate and report on the broader issue of political violence.
- Send independent U.N. monitors to Bangladesh if the Kibria case goes to trial.


We believe this case has great importance for the cause of justice in Bangladesh and that the steps outlined above are urgently needed. Thank you for your consideration.

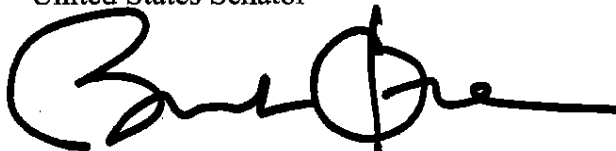
Sincerely,

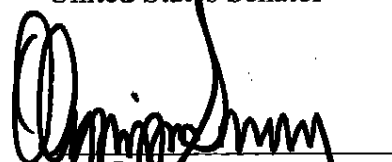
  
Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senator


  
John E. Sununu  
United States Senator

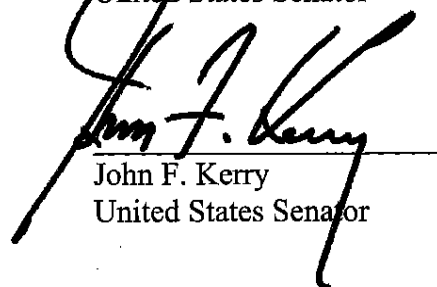
  
Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senator

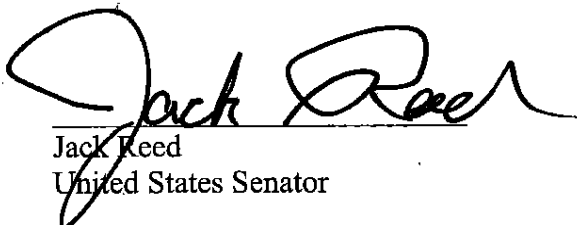
  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
United States Senator


  
Barack Obama  
United States Senator

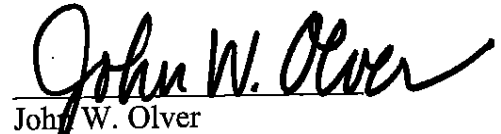
  
Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senator

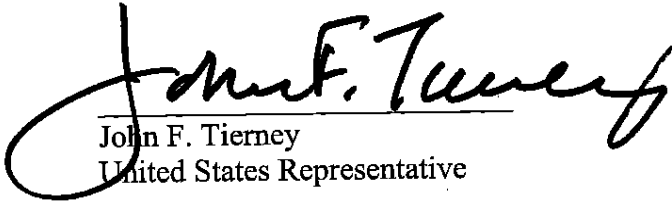
  
Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator


  
John F. Kerry  
United States Senator


  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

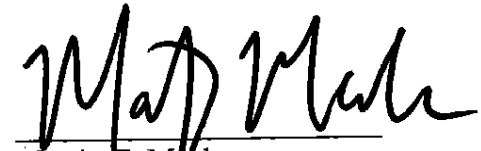
  
Barney Frank  
United States Representative


  
John W. Olver  
United States Representative

  
John F. Tierney  
United States Representative

  
James P. McGovern  
United States Representative

  
Gary L. Ackerman  
United States Representative

  
Martin T. Meehan  
United States Representative

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
United States Representative