

*Dear Senator/Congressperson*

*With the worst affected areas in northern Pakistan and India remaining largely inaccessible, the ONLY way to get humanitarian and medical aid and heavy equipment to these earthquake victims is through air drops using helicopters.*

The most critical relief need remains helicopters to carry aid, heavy equipment and search and rescue teams with K 9 dogs.

I, the Pakistani American Community, the South Asian community in America, and the entire nation of Pakistan are genuinely grateful for the aid promised by the US government and thankful in particular for the 8 helicopters that have been committed to the relief effort.

However I appeal to you to commit at least 50 more helicopters over the next few weeks in order to rescue and rehabilitate the victims and to prevent this human tragedy from reaching truly catastrophic proportions.

### **Here is why Helicopters are needed so badly:**

**North West Frontier Province:** The worst affected areas are Balakot, Mansehra, Shangla, Haripur, Battagram, Allai, Kaghan and Oghi.

**Pakistani Kashmir:** The worst affected areas in Rawalakot, Bagh, Pallandri, Hajira, Kotli

Both these mountainous regions are a maze of extremely narrow valleys and ravines. The earthquake and resultant landslides have broken, blocked with large stones or completely destroyed most roads/passages. The roads are so narrow that only one vehicle can pass at a time. Access to the seriously quake ravaged areas is limited to by foot only and it takes hours. The towns of Bagh and Balakot and other surrounding areas have been completely leveled by the quake. Images of destruction, desolation and wreckage with children trapped, dying or already dead underneath.

Survivors have no food, water or medicines, they're scrounging around for whatever they can lay their hand on; they will die from injuries, hunger or suicide. Voices are still crying out for help from the underneath the rubble but they cannot be dug out with just bare hands and shovels alone. Rescue teams that have reached far flung areas are running low on supplies and that's leading to further frustration, anger and chaos.

Survivors from remote villages high up in the surrounding mountains carry the injured down the steep, rocky mountainside all the way to Bagh in the hopes of finding relief but there is nothing except misery and the stench of death.

The focus of the relief effort is on the more accessible areas and not inaccessible ones. But those in the inaccessible areas need our help too. Otherwise the death toll will rise to unthinkable levels.

**The only possible solution is to have 50+ helicopters in the area immediately and do airdrops and rescues before winter and despair utterly set in.**

I sincerely hope that you listen to my plea and are able to secure the helicopters that are so desperately needed.

With profound thanks,