



May 13, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write to you on behalf of the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) in regards to the recent election turmoil in the South American nation of Guyana. In particular, we are deeply concerned by the voting irregularities that took place in national elections on March 2. We are similarly troubled by the continued failure to complete the election process in a fair, credible, and transparent manner.

While we appreciate your condemnation of this subversion of democracy and share your concerns, we urge you to avoid leveling sanctions on the Guyanese government as a whole. Guyana suffers from extreme poverty and such broad based sanctions would have a devastating impact on the lives of thousands of Guyanese citizens who eke out a meager living just to survive.

Instead, we urge you to impose targeted and personal sanctions specifically against those officials in the coalition led by People's National Congress - Reform and Guyana Elections Commission, who have been identified as subverting the electoral process.

We believe that this course of action will help hold those who have committed electoral fraud accountable for their actions and push the country towards implementing democratic reforms, without destroying the fragile Guyanese economy.

As an American nonprofit advocacy and human rights organization, we have been closely monitoring the human rights situation in Guyana for over 15 years and publish an annual human rights report comprehensively detailing human rights violations against Hindus in Guyana, where Hindus constitute 25% of the country's population, and around the world. Furthermore, last year, we conducted an on the ground fact-finding mission to Guyana, where we met with diverse stakeholders.

We continue to remain in close communication with Guyanese Hindu community leaders on the ground in Guyana and those here in the U.S., who still maintain close ties to their country of origin. They all concur that targeted sanctions against specific officials responsible for

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committing electoral fraud rather than broad based sanctions against the country is in the best interests of all the Guyanese people regardless of ethnic or religious background.

We hope to work with you on this urgent matter and please inform us should you need additional information or other materials on this subject.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suhag Shukla', written in a cursive style.

Suhag Shukla, Esq.
Executive Director
Hindu American Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samir Kalra', written in a cursive style.

Samir Kalra, Esq.
Managing Director
Hindu American Foundation

CC:
The Honorable Sarah-Ann Lynch
U.S. Ambassador to Guyana