

HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION

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To:

Antony Blinken
United States Secretary of State

From:

Hindu American Foundation
Middle East Forum
Armenian National Committee of America
Hellenic American Leadership Council
American Friends of Kurdistan
Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council
World Sindhi Congress
Indo American Kashmir Forum
Sindhi Foundation

Dear Secretary Blinken,

Our coalition, consisting of the Hindu American Foundation, Middle East Forum, Armenian National Committee of America, the Hellenic American Leadership Council, American Friends of Kurdistan, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, World Sindhi Congress, Indo American Kashmir Forum, and Sindhi Foundation, write to you today concerning Pakistan's appointment of Masood Khan to the position of Ambassador to the US.

Mr. Khan's appointment has been met with some controversy. Counter-extremist researchers noted that Mr. Khan's overt support for various terrorists, terrorist organizations, and radical groups, is a matter of public record.¹ Recently, news reports indicate that the State Department has "paused" accepting Mr. Khan's nomination.² We urge further action.

While it is certainly true that the US will have differences of opinion, even on very significant, fundamental issues, with many states around the world, Mr. Khan's record is not just one of taking the side of his country, but one of specific, overt support for members US designated terrorists organizations. For example, he has publicly lionized terrorists affiliated with Hizbul Mujahideen, a US designated terrorist group, and has even appeared on stage with Rehman Khalil, who himself is a designated terrorist and the founder of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), which the U.S. State Department designated as a terrorist organization as well.³ Khan is also an open supporter of Jamaat-e-Islami, a group responsible for mass murder, mostly of ethnic minorities, during the Bengali genocide of 1971.⁴ These are just a few examples of the most egregious portions

¹ "A Terror Supporter Goes to Washington," By: Sam Westrop, National Review, November 15, 2021. Available at: <https://www.meforum.org/62780/a-terror-supporter-goes-to-washington>

² "US Congressman urges Biden to reject Pak's ambassador-designate; terms him 'terrorist sympathiser'," By: Sajjad Hussain, Feb. 1, 2022 The Print. Available at: <https://theprint.in/world/us-congressman-urges-biden-to-reject-paks-ambassador-designate-terms-him-terrorist-sympathiser/818082/>

³ "A Terror Supporter Goes to Washington," By: Sam Westrop, National Review, November 15, 2021. Available at: <https://www.meforum.org/62780/a-terror-supporter-goes-to-washington>

⁴ Id.



of Mr. Khan's record.

Mr. Khan plainly sees these sorts of violent, terroristic sub-state actors as legitimate tools of international affairs. This cannot be overlooked as merely differences of opinion, but a challenge to the fundamental values on which international statecraft rests.

We urge you to reject Mr. Khan as Pakistan's Ambassador to the US. The US needs to have a relationship with Pakistan, but it does not need to normalize this kind of overt support for sub-state terrorist actors by accepting one of their most powerful and public apologists as an ambassador.

Sincerely,

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