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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0402

June 11, 2012

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME,
TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
COMPETITION, AND THE INTERNET
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND EURASIA
(VICE CHAIRMAN)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM,
NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA,
GLOBAL HEALTH, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Ros-Lehtinen:

I write to respectfully request that you include language in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013 or in security-related assistance legislation this year that would limit security-related assistance to Pakistan until Dr. Shakil Afridi is released from prison. While I know you and your staff have been working diligently with my staff on this issue, I wanted to express some specific concerns and offer recommendations.

Under your leadership, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal year 2012 included critical limitations on security-related assistance to Pakistan requiring certification that Pakistan has made "demonstrable progress" in combating terrorist groups before certain security-related assistance to Pakistan could be provided. Recent actions by the Pakistani government have led to renewed efforts by Congress to further scrutinize our security-related assistance to Pakistan.

As you know, Dr. Shakil Afridi has been a significant asset to the U.S. Prior to the U.S. Navy Seal raid of Osama bin Laden's complex in Abbottabad, Pakistan, Dr. Afridi was instrumental to the U.S. in identifying the location of al Qaeda operatives and eventually discovering bin Laden's hide-out. After the successful raid that led to bin Laden's death, Dr. Afridi was arrested, and, on May 24, 2012, a Pakistani tribal court found him guilty of treason and sentenced to him to thirty-three years in prison. Further, recent news reports have indicated that the harsh punishment of Dr. Afridi was "approved at the highest level of government to make a point to both the U.S. and to Pakistani citizens. It's clear that the government wanted to make an example of Afridi."^[1]

As a Member of both the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, I have been closely monitoring our assistance to Pakistan. I appreciate the significance of our strategic relationship with Pakistan and the role Pakistan plays in U.S. efforts combating terrorism. However, after reviewing the facts of this case and reading recent news reports from Pakistan, I believe that the U.S. must immediately respond to this offense by further limiting our security-related assistance to Pakistan on the condition that Dr. Afridi is released from prison.

[1] "Daily Brief: Deepening Tensions Between the United States and Pakistan." Council on Foreign Relations, 25 May 2012. Web. <<http://www.cfr.org/about/newsletters/archive/newsletter/n642>>. (Quoting *Newsweek's* Ron Moreau and Sami Yousafzai).

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I appreciate your continued attention to and work on our relationship with Pakistan, and, again, I respectfully request that you include language related to Dr. Afridi in forthcoming Foreign Relations Authorization or security-related assistance legislation. If I can be of any assistance to you or the House Foreign Affairs Committee, please don't hesitate to contact me or Stephen Chandler in my office at (202) 225-2506 or stephen.chandler@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim", with a large, sweeping flourish above the letters.

Tim Griffin
Member of Congress