

**JIM COSTA**

16TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
WEB PAGE: [www.costa.house.gov](http://www.costa.house.gov)

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
CHAIR – SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK AND  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, OCEANS, AND  
WILDLIFE



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

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA, ENERGY  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS'  
DIALOGUE**  
CHAIR

**NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**  
MEMBER

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

This letter serves to express my concern about the dire situation facing Afghanistan's Sikh and Hindu communities and asks for immediate action to save lives. Given recent levels of violence in the country targeting these groups, I respectfully request that the United States Embassy in Kabul, the United States Refugee Admissions Program, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees collaborate to provide immediate assistance to these imperiled and vulnerable families.

Sikhs and Hindus have a long history in Afghanistan but now, tragically, face unprecedented threats to their survival. On March 25, 2020, more than two dozen Sikhs were brutally murdered in their Gurdwara in Kabul by ISIS-linked extremists. Violence targeting any place of worship is deeply troubling and, sadly, this is only the most recent of a long series of attacks on these communities. In July 2018, Afghanistan's only Sikh parliamentary candidate, Rawail Singh, was among 19 people, including 17 Sikhs and Hindus, killed by a suicide bomber in Jalalabad. Since then the threat posed by extremists against these communities has only increased.

The United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) regularly prioritizes refugee admissions based on humanitarian considerations. Given the level of threat these communities now face, I request that the U.S. Embassy in Kabul coordinate with USRAP to examine the situation, meet with Afghan Sikh and Hindu families, and evaluate them for resettlement under the Fiscal Year 2020 USRAP.

In addition, I request that the U.S. government work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide immediate protection for these communities and examine the possibility of relocating families to a location outside Afghanistan where resettlement screening can take place under more stable circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. By working together, we can protect these vulnerable individuals who are in great need of our assistance.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress

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April 17, 2020

Ambassador Ross Wilson  
Chargé d'Affaires  
United States Embassy in Afghanistan  
Kabul, Afghanistan

Dear Ambassador Wilson:

This letter serves to express my concern about the dire situation facing Afghanistan's Sikh and Hindu communities and asks for immediate action to save lives. Given recent levels of violence in the country targeting these groups, I respectfully request that the United States Embassy in Kabul, the United States Refugee Admissions Program, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees collaborate to provide immediate assistance to these imperiled and vulnerable families.

Sikhs and Hindus have a long history in Afghanistan but now, tragically, face unprecedented threats to their survival. On March 25, 2020, more than two dozen Sikhs were brutally murdered in their Gurdwara in Kabul by ISIS-linked extremists. Violence targeting any place of worship is deeply troubling and, sadly, this is only the most recent of a long series of attacks on these communities. In July 2018, Afghanistan's only Sikh parliamentary candidate, Rawail Singh, was among 19 people, including 17 Sikhs and Hindus, killed by a suicide bomber in Jalalabad. Since then the threat posed by extremists against these communities has only increased.

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In addition, I request that the U.S. government work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide immediate protection for these communities and examine the possibility of relocating families to a location outside Afghanistan where resettlement screening can take place under more stable circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. By working together, we can protect these vulnerable individuals who are in great need of our assistance.

Sincerely,

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MEMBER

April 17, 2020

High Commissioner Filippo Grandi  
The UNHCR Regional Representation in Washington  
1800 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 500  
Washington, D.C.  
20036

Dear High Commissioner Grandi:

This letter serves to express my concern about the dire situation facing Afghanistan's Sikh and Hindu communities and asks for immediate action to save lives. Given recent levels of violence in the country targeting these groups, I respectfully request that the United Nations provide immediate protection and assistance, in coordination with the United States, to these imperiled and vulnerable families.

Sikhs and Hindus have a long history in Afghanistan but now, tragically, face unprecedented threats to their survival. On March 25, 2020, more than two dozen Sikhs were brutally murdered in their Gurdwara in Kabul by ISIS-linked extremists. Violence targeting any place of worship is deeply troubling and, sadly, this is only the most recent of a long series of attacks on these communities. In July 2018, Afghanistan's only Sikh parliamentary candidate, Rawail Singh, was among 19 people, including 17 Sikhs and Hindus, killed by a suicide bomber in Jalalabad. Since then the threat posed by extremists against these communities has only increased.

Given the escalating level of violence, I request that the United Nations work to provide immediate protection for these communities and examine the possibility of relocating families to a location outside Afghanistan where screening for permanent resettlement can take place under safe and stable circumstances. These individuals are in immediate need of our assistance and support, and I hope that the United Nations and the United States can work together to help this vulnerable community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress