

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to you to voice our serious concerns regarding the potential sale of eight Block C/D 52 F-16 aircraft to the Government of Pakistan.

Pakistan has not shown that it is a reliable partner to the United States and has actively undermined our national interests in the region. Until Pakistan is able to demonstrate meaningful changes in its actions, it is inappropriate to finance the sale with U.S. taxpayer funding.

As is well known, Pakistan has long harbored and provided safe haven to terrorist groups that launch destabilizing attacks on its neighbors, India and Afghanistan. The Pakistani and Taliban-linked terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed, listed by the US government since 2001 as a designated foreign terrorist organization, is believed to be behind the recent attack on India's Pathankot Air Force base, which killed seven Indian nationals. On February 3, Hafiz Saeed, one of the masterminds of the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks in which six U.S. citizens were killed, called for additional attacks against India. Despite being designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, a \$10 million bounty on his head by the U.S. government and pleas from India to rein in Saeed, he remains free.

In Afghanistan, Pakistan also continues to use terrorism as an instrument of state policy. The recent spike in Taliban and Haqqani Network attacks on U.S. troops reminds us of the dangers of the double game played by Pakistan, which has long sought to control Afghanistan through these proxies.

Pakistan has also continued to engage in nuclear proliferation activities and is strengthening its military complex at the expense of civilian institutions. Given its history as a nuclear proliferator, it is also troubling to continue to provide Pakistan with a platform that can deliver nuclear weapons.

Given that the United States has already supplied Pakistan with over \$30 billion dollars in foreign assistance from FY2002-FY2016 and Pakistan still has not changed its behavior in any significant way, it is unconvincing that giving Pakistan more taxpayer dollars to finance the purchase of F-16s will somehow break that trend. Pakistan has the ability to become an integral partner in the international community and be part of the solution on ending terrorism and the instability that plagues the region. Until that time comes, however, we urge you not to use taxpayer money to finance the sale of F-16s to Pakistan.

Sincerely,



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress