Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 20, 2026

The Honorable Azam Nazeer Tarar
Federal Minister for Law and Justice
Ministry of Law and Justice
Blocks S & R, Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad 44000, Pakistan

Dear Minister Tarar:

We write to express our concern for Ms. Neha Faqir, a Pakistani Christian woman whose reported abduction, religious conversion, and subsequent judicial proceedings have drawn international attention.

As Members of the United States Congress who value the longstanding relationship between the governments of the United States and Pakistan, we believe that our two countries and the people of South Asia benefit greatly from their close cooperation. Our governments have long engaged one another on matters of mutual concern, including security, economic development, and the advancement of the rule of law. Because the issues presented in these proceedings touch upon internationally recognized principles of religious freedom, due process, and the protection of vulnerable religious minorities, we respectfully urge the Government of Pakistan to take appropriate action to ensure a just resolution of this matter.

According to publicly available reports, as well as information provided by those assisting the Faqir family, the eighteen-year-old Ms. Faqir disappeared on March 24, 2026, was subsequently reported to be residing at a madrassa and to have converted to Islam, and later appeared before the Lahore High Court under circumstances that have raised serious questions about the cause of her disappearance and whether she was able to communicate her wishes independently. We are particularly concerned by reports that her family was not permitted to speak with her before or during those proceedings.

This case has attracted international attention not only because of the disturbing nature of the underlying allegations, but because it appears to reflect a longstanding pattern documented by Pakistan's own civil society, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, United Nations experts, and other independent observers concerning allegations of abduction, forced marriage, and coerced religious conversion of members of Pakistan's religious minority communities.

The Constitution of Pakistan provides important safeguards that bear directly on this case. Article 20 guarantees every citizen the right to profess and practice his or her religion, while Article 25 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the law. These constitutional guarantees are also consistent with Pakistan's commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the rights to freedom of religion, equal protection of the law, liberty and security of the person, and a fair hearing before an independent tribunal.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that your Ministry take all appropriate steps within its authority to ensure Ms. Faqir's physical safety and well-being; ensure she has confidential access to independent legal counsel and an opportunity to communicate freely and privately with her family; and ensure that any further judicial proceedings are conducted under conditions that allow her to express her wishes freely and without intimidation or undue influence.

We appreciate your engagement on issues affecting Pakistan's religious minorities and respectfully request your personal attention to this matter. Members of Congress from both parties are following this case closely and hope its resolution will demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to the rule of law and to the protections guaranteed by its Constitution. We would appreciate any information you are able to provide regarding the steps your government is taking to ensure these protections.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

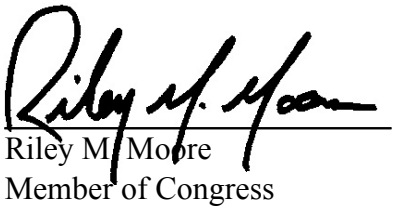
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

French Hill
Member of Congress

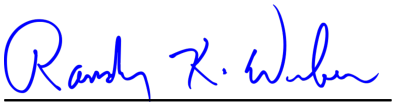
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress

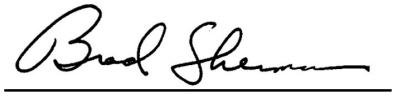


Riley M. Moore
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress