

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3001

December 23, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Dept. of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write to express our serious concerns regarding ongoing civil unrest in India.

The U.S.-India relationship is a source of pride and prosperity for both nations. We share democratic values, strive for economic equality and embrace our diversity. As a nation that is familiar with political protests we believe that the United States can offer counsel to India during their current period of social disturbance.

As national legislators we respect the right of the government of India to determine national policy, in compliance with existing law. We also acknowledge the rights of those in India and abroad who are currently protesting peacefully against agricultural laws that many Indian farmers see as an attack on their economic security.

In particular, we are compelled to reach out to you after seeing in the international press that protesting farmers from Punjab, who were marching peacefully to Delhi, were brutally subjected to water cannon attacks, barbed wire barricades, and tear gas by Indian security personnel.

This is an issue of particular concern to Sikh Americans linked to Punjab, although it also heavily impacts the Indian Americans belonging to other Indian states. Many Indian Americans are directly affected as they have family members and ancestral land in Punjab and are concerned for the well-being of their families in India.

In view of this serious situation, we urge you to contact your Indian counterpart to reinforce the United States' commitment to the freedom of political speech abroad.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

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Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
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