

RELEASED IN FULL

CA



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

AUG - 5 2008

Dear Mr. Pitts:

Thank you for your letter of June 30 requesting that the Department of State deny the visitor visa application of the Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat, Mr. Narendra Modi.

The Department of State is extremely sensitive to your concerns and we are cognizant of the human rights abuses Mr. Modi has committed. The Department's detailed views on these abuses were published in our annual "*Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*" and "*International Religious Freedom Report*" from 2005. This information was originally introduced by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi and made available to the public on our website at www.state.gov.

We have thoroughly searched Department records and located no current nonimmigrant visa applications for Mr. Modi. However, should we receive an application, we assure you it will be adjudicated in strict accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), including Section 212(a)(2)(G) which states that "any alien who, while serving as a foreign government official, was responsible for or directly carried out, at any time, particularly severe violations of religious freedom, as defined in section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402) is inadmissible."

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Joseph R. Pitts,
House of Representatives.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles
Lahiguera, Senior Reviewer

H2008 0722 = 017



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew A. Reynolds".

Matthew A. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Frank Wolf,
House of Representatives.

-2-

DOC- S:\CA VO P I Written\Tracked Correspondence\2008\
H Responses\July\20080722017 H to Pitts

Draft: CA/VO/P/I: VWilson 7-24-08
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Clear:CA/VO: TEadson	-ok-
CA/VO: JKunsman	-ok-
CA/VO/P/I: CMuntean	-ok-
CA/P: SPalmieri	-ok-
SA/INS: JAshworth	-ok-
H: DBean	-ok-

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CLEARANCE



H 2008 0722=017

Initial for clearance or return for edits with remarks. Pass on in numerical order with final stop in H/CCU. **PLEASE, DO NOT** return to drafting office without sending to or notifying CCU first.

Name: Pitts/Wolf (+25)	Date: 08/01/2008 3:59 PM
Subject: Writing to request denial of the visitor visa application of Mr. Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat.	

	Initials	Date		
1. Hstaff – Log In	CAL	8/1		
2. Chartrand	QC	8/1		
3. Zate	SL	8/5		
4. Kamins	SL	8/5		
5. Starr	JS	8/5		
6. Daniels	CD	8/5		
7. Reynolds	HL	8/5		
8. Hstaff – Log Out				

COMMENTS:

- Return to Hazel Thomas, Ext. 7-0609
- File is on the Unclassified System under the HCCU Folder.
- Multi-Signer. Please do not mail. Return to the HCCU to be auto-penned and mailed.
- Copy of the March 2005 reply is enclosed.

Mod

DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TASKER



IPS CONTROL# **H2008 0722=017** ACTION BUREAU: **CA**

DATE: **JUL 22 2008**

IPS:

☒ SUBSTANTIVE ☐ CONSTITUENT

☒ IMAGE ENTIRE DOCUMENT ☐ IMAGE ONLY FIRST ☐ PAGES

BUREAU:

BUREAU ACTION REQUESTED: RESPOND TO CCU **2** DAYS FROM: **JUL 22 2008**

☒ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY MATTHEW A. REYNOLDS, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

☐ ADDRESS ENVELOPE TO DISTRICT OFFICE

☐ DIRECT REPLY TO CONSTITUENT BY OFFICE DIRECTOR WITH COPY TO CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE. PHONE 7-1608 WHEN COMPLETED

☐ FYI ONLY/NO RESPONSE NECESSARY

☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE DIRECTLY BY BUREAU

☐ OTHER ACTION: _____

FOR GUIDANCE/INFORMATION ON FORMATTING CONGRESSIONALS SEE:
<http://www.legislativeaffairs.state.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=publicdisplay&shortcut=JJPN>

Due Date **7/25/08**

****BUREAUS MUST MAKE TRANSFERS OF ACTION DIRECTLY WITH RECEIVING BUREAU'S FRONT OFFICE. The CCU has a listing of contacts. PLEASE NOTIFY CCU 7-1608 OF ALL TRANSFERS OF ACTION****

7/29 E-Mail Reminder

FROM: Matthew A. Reynolds (H)

Recommendation JUL 21 2008

☐ For the Secretary's
signature to the _____ bureau

☒ Tasked to the CA bureau
for signature by Matthew A.
Reynolds, Acting A/S MR

☐ Provide copy of H signed
response

COMMENTS:

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2008

The Honorable Dr. Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

In March of 2005, a number of us wrote to you to raise our deep concern regarding a possible visit to the United States of Mr. Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat, India. Under your leadership, the U.S. Department of State rightfully denied Mr. Modi a visa based on his part in the terrible Gujarat persecution of Muslims in 2002. Recently, we received a report that Mr. Modi may again apply for a visa to visit the United States, perhaps even with a request from state leaders in the U.S., to attend and speak at the August 29-31, 2008 World Gujarati Congress in the U.S. We respectfully request that the U.S. government deny Mr. Modi entry to the United States due to numerous reports of his involvement in horrific human rights violations in India.

As you may know, Mr. Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat during the 2002 riots in which over 2,000 Indian Muslims and non-Hindus lost their lives. Since that time, reports suggest that over 100,000 people remain displaced and are unable to return to their homes or communities. Numerous inquiries by Indian officials and non-government organizations have determined that the state government in Gujarat, lead by Chief Minister Modi, provided leadership and material support for the rape and murder of over 2,000 people, including women and young children, and the destruction of homes, businesses and resources primarily belonging to Indian Muslims. Mr. Modi made public statements and directed official actions seemingly calculated at justifying his orders to increase attacks on and kill religious minorities while ordering the police not to interfere.

After an extensive investigation of the violence in Gujarat, Human Rights Watch stated that the "attacks against Muslims (and other religious minorities) in Gujarat have been actively supported by state (BJP) government officials and by the police." In addition, The Citizens Tribunal in India, led by retired Supreme Court Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, concluded that the state government of Gujarat under the leadership of Chief Minister Narendra Modi was responsible for the violence perpetrated against religious minorities in Gujarat in 2002. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of State reported that in "Gujarat, there continued to be credible evidence of prejudice in favor of Hindus and an unwritten policy of impunity against the perpetrators of the 2002 religious violence."

Chief Minister Narendra Modi and his government continue to obstruct attempts to bring the perpetrators of the 2002 violence to justice. Mr. Modi and his administration closed the files

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

on over 2000 police cases where the non-Hindu victims filed reports of rapes, killings and destruction of their property. The Gujarat state administration claimed there was no evidence to prosecute those cases. However, most of the people named in cases against the police are associated with Mr. Modi's political party. In a recent unprecedented order, the Supreme Court of India ordered the reopening of all those cases to be tried in a neighboring state by a special bench of judges. The Supreme Court of India called Mr. Modi a "modern day Nero" and warned him not to meddle with the proceeding of the trials.

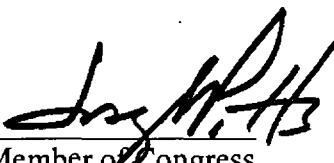
Furthermore, the U.S. State Department has discussed in one of its reports the role of Chief Minister Narendra Modi and his government in promoting attitudes of racial supremacy, racial hatred and the legacy of Nazism through his government's support of school textbooks in which Nazism is condoned. For example, in a high school social studies textbook, the "charismatic personality" of "Hitler the Supremo" and the "achievements" of Nazism are described at length. The textbook does not even acknowledge Nazi extermination policies or concentration camps except for a passing reference to "a policy of opposition towards the Jewish people and [advocacy for] the supremacy of the German race."

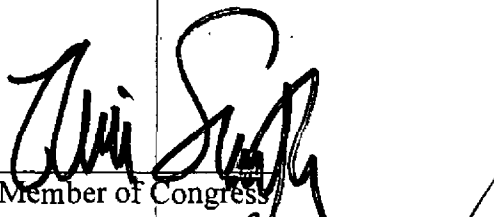
In addition to his reported culpability in the Gujarat riots and his promotion of racist ideology, there are widespread reports of Mr. Modi's leadership of the harassment of Christian religious and educational organizations over a number of years. Further, on a daily basis Chief Minister Modi and his government actively harass Christian leaders and Christian religious organizations who are involved in the relief and rehabilitation work of the victims of violence by extremist Hindus. Even further, Mr. Modi ordered a census, ruled illegal by the Gujarat High Court, of the Christian community – the same action he took prior to the orchestrated attacks on Muslims in 2002. Even Indian Hindus who oppose Modi's violent tactics against the religious minorities are harassed and intimidated by state authorities. And, under his leadership, the state of Gujarat passed an anticonversion law in strong violation of the Indian Constitution and international human rights norms to which India is a party.

We are deeply concerned that a visit to the United States by Chief Minister Modi is in violation of the International Religious Freedom Act and will provide tacit approval of his reprehensible statements, policies and actions that violate the core of the fundamental human rights upon which our nation is founded. We respectfully request your leadership in publicly condemning his actions and policies by once again denying Chief Minister Narendra Modi the right to enter our country.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Member of Congress
Joseph Pitts


Member of Congress
Chris Smith ✓

Page 2

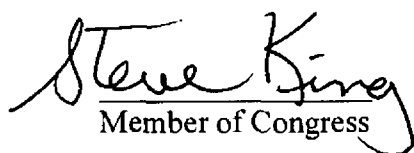
Secretary Rice – Narendra Modi

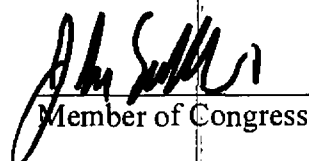

Member of Congress

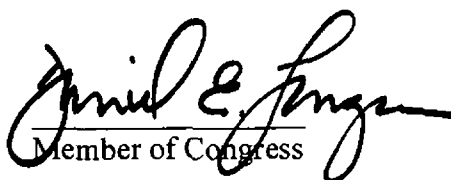

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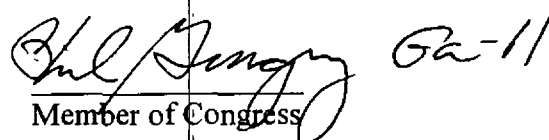

Member of Congress

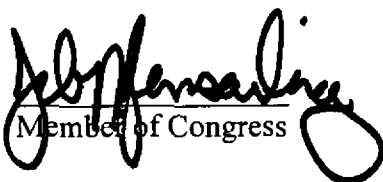

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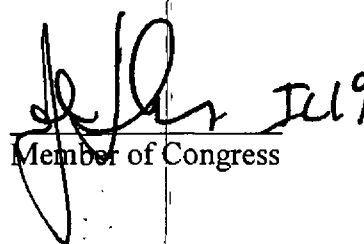

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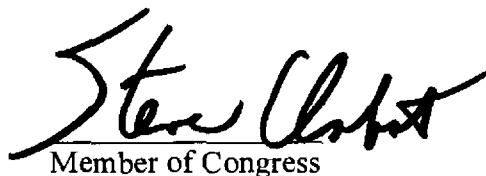

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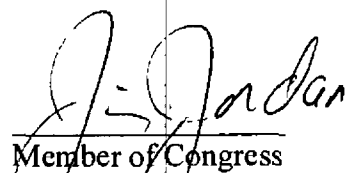

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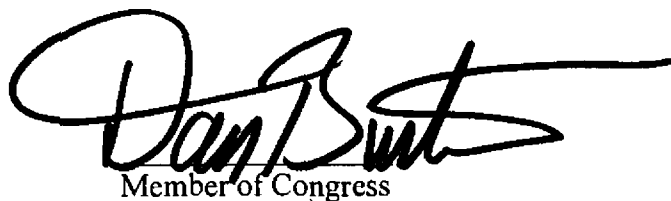

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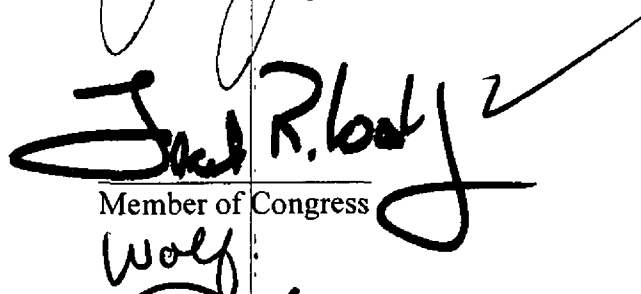
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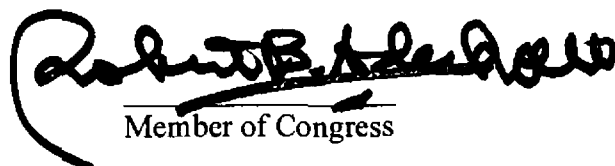
Secretary Rice – Narendra Modi

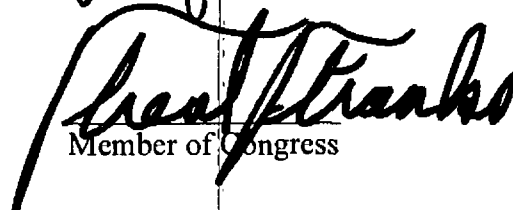

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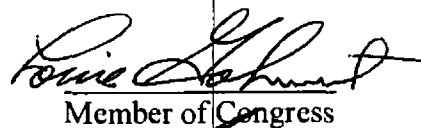

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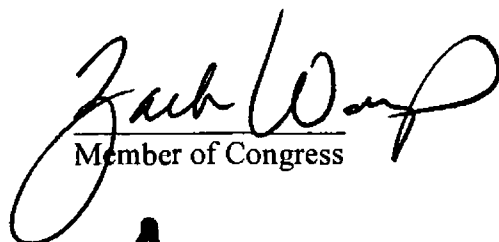

Member of Congress
Wolf

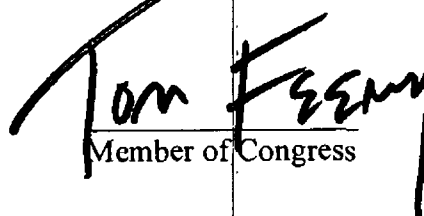

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Member of Congress

List of Cosigners on Letter to Secretary Rice – Chief Minister Narendra Modi

Congressman Joseph R. Pitts
Congressman Christopher H. Smith
Congressman Mike Pence ✓
Congressman Doug Lamborn ✓
Congressman Roscoe G. Bartlett ✓
Congressman Henry E. Brown, Jr. ✓
Congressman Steve King ✓
Congressman John Sullivan ✓
Congressman Daniel E. Lungren ✓
Congressman Phil Gingrey ✓
Congressman Jeb Hensarling ✓
Congressman John Shimkus
Congressman Steve Chabot ✓
Congressman Paul C. Broun ✓
Congressman Scott Garrett ✓
Congressman Virgil Goode ✓
Congresswoman Mary Fallin ✓
Congressman Jim Jordan ✓
Congressman Dan Burton ✓
Congressman Frank R. Wolf ✓
Congressman Robert B. Aderholt ✓
Congressman Trent Franks ✓
Congressman W. Todd Akin ✓
Congressman Louie Gohmert ✓
Congressman Zach Wamp ✓
Congressman Tom Feeney ✓
Congressman Ted Poe



CA
United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

APR - 5 2005

Dear Mr. Pitts:

This is in response to your letter of March 7 regarding your request that Mr. Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat, India be denied a visa to come to the United States. We appreciate your concerns over Chief Minister Modi's record relative to the exercise of religious freedom and thank you for taking the time to bring it to our attention.

This matter has been widely publicized and, in some cases, the reports have been inaccurate. The correct information is that our Embassy in New Delhi has refused Mr. Modi's application for a diplomatic visa under section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) because he failed to establish that he was coming to the United States for a purpose that qualified for a diplomatic visa. Consequently, Mr. Modi was not able to attend the Asian American Hotel Owners Association Conference in March.

In addition, the Embassy revoked Mr. Modi's existing B-2 tourist visa under section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Section 212(a)(2)(G) makes any alien who, while serving as a foreign government official, "was responsible for or directly carried out, at any time, particularly severe violations of religious freedom" inadmissible.

We hope this is helpful. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Matthew A. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Joseph R. Pitts,
House of Representatives.

H2005 0311 = 001

Thomas, Hazel B

To: ca-staffers-mailbox; Bean, Diane R
Subject: H20080722=017 Writing regarding the possible visit to the U.S. by Mr. Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat, India.

Importance: High



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(299 KB)

7/29/2008

The reply to the attached 2-Day Tasker is now 5 days past due. We would like to have the completed reply in the H-CCU no later than Thursday, July 31. If you have substantive questions, please contact Diane Bean, the H-LMO who is the liaison to your bureau. If you have questions regarding format or syntax, please contact the H-CCU. Thanks in advance for your prompt attention and action to complete this important task.

Hazel Thomas H-CCU
202/647-0609

For all correspondence that will be signed by the Secretary or other Principal: Please include a copy of the S/ES -CR clearance sheet for all congressional correspondence to be signed by the Secretary or other Principal. The Secretary of State now requires that all Substantive Congressional Correspondence (Yellow Borders) be responded to within 2 work days. The attached Substantive Correspondence is due in the Congressional Correspondence Unit (CCU) on the date indicated on the tasker. Constituent Correspondence must now be responded to within 7 work days. Reminder: Procedures for picking up Constituent Correspondence have not changed. Bureaus are still required to pick up Constituent Correspondence from the CCU daily in Room 7330. DATE DUE: 7/25/2008