

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2006

The Honorable Begum Khaleda Zia  
Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Old Shangshad Bhaban  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dear Madame Prime Minister:

We write to share with you our concern about the adequacy of the progress made in the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of the grenade attack that killed former Bangladeshi finance minister Shah AMS Kibria in January 2005.

As you know, a great deal of international attention has been focused on this case, including from the EU Parliament, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the State Department, and a number of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union also recently adopted its second resolution on this matter, expressing specifically, among other things, its belief that "the investigation has omitted to examine questions which are essential for shedding full light on Mr. Kibria's murder."

Although we appreciate the fact that Ambassador Chowdhury has assured many members of Congress of your government's commitment to conducting a thorough and transparent investigation to bring the perpetrators of this heinous act to justice, we must tell you that there does seem to us to be doubt as to whether the authorities have fully pursued all available leads that could clarify the full scope and circumstances of Mr. Kibria's assassination.

We think it is unfortunate that despite the existence of outstanding questions and possible leads, formal requests for further investigation have been rejected and the case was sent to the Sylhet Speedy Trial Court by administrative order. That is why, in the interest of justice, we very much hope that you will be able to provide answers to several questions that we believe remain outstanding.

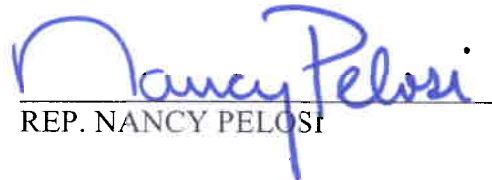
We want to stress that we do not intend by these questions to interfere with the prosecution of this case, but we are concerned that even the perception that the investigation was inadequate or failed to follow all possible leads could have a very negative affect on your country's welfare internally and its standing internationally.

- What effort is the government making to apprehend and question the two suspects still believed to be at large?
- Has the origin of the grenades used in the attack been determined? Have any forensic links been discovered between this and other attacks?
- Has the large amount of money found in the bank account of Mr. Quayyum, the primary person accused in the case, been explained or traced?
- Can you tell us what further information has been developed on why Mr. Quayyum believed he would receive a seat in Parliament in return for his cooperation in the assassination? Do you know who created this expectation and has any attempt been made to question them?
- How will your government respond to the legal petitions filed by the accused claiming that their confessions were obtained by police torture?

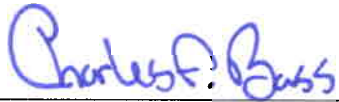
We would very much appreciate your attention and response to our questions because we believe that prosecuting this case without further inquiry under the time limits imposed by the Speedy Trial Court would go contrary to the public interest, to the interest of justice, and to the assurances many of us received from your government that justice will be achieved.



REP. BARNEY FRANK



REP. NANCY PELOSI



REP. CHARLES F. BASS



REP. GARY L. ACKERMAN



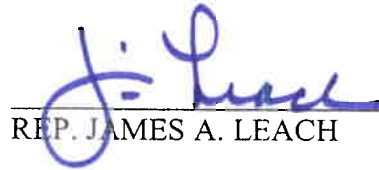
REP. CAROLYN B. MALONEY



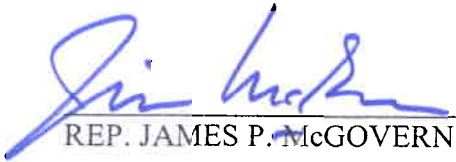
REP. JOHN W. OLVER



REP. TOM LANTOS



REP. JAMES A. LEACH



REP. JAMES P. MCGOVERN



REP. RICHARD E. NEAL



REP. MARTIN A. MEEHAN



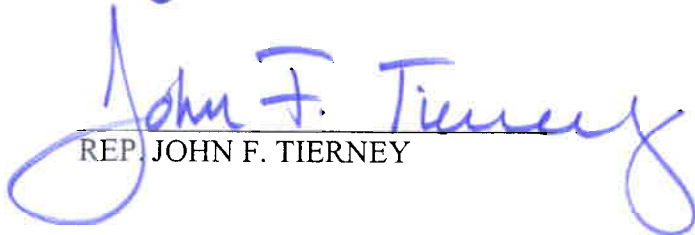
REP. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY



REP. JAMES R. LANGEVIN



REP. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD



REP. JOHN F. TIERNEY

cc: The Honorable Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State  
The Honorable Shamsher M. Chowdhury, Bangladesh Ambassador to the U.S.  
The Honorable Patricia Butenis, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh