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*foreign affairs*  
**ORIGINAL**

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| INITIALS |     |
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| APPR:    | RLR |
| DRAFT:   | KRU |
| CLR 1:   | EGL |
| CLR 2:   | LOC |
| CLR 3:   | ... |
| CLR 4:   | ... |
| CLR 5:   | ... |
| CLR 6:   | ... |

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SA/PAB-DRL/NEMS:KRURS/CRICH:KRU  
01/23/96 79823 SAPAB/PAKPOL/L-FLJ96.DOC  
SA:RLRAPHEL

SA:EGLANPHER      SA/PAB:LOCOLDREN      NSC:  
P:JMARTY (INFO)      S/S:      S/S-O:

IMMEDIATE LAHORE

PRIORITY ISLAMABAD, PESHAWAR PRIORITY, KARACHI PRIORITY,  
NEW DELHI PRIORITY, GENEVA PRIORITY

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: LETTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ASMA JAHANGIR  
FROM THE FIRST LADY

REF: 95 LAHORE 2040

1. (SBU) PLEASE DELIVER LETTER PARA 3 TO HUMAN RIGHTS  
ACTIVIST ASMA JAHANGIR FROM THE FIRST LADY. NO SIGNED  
ORIGINAL WILL FOLLOW. THE FIRST LADY DOES NOT PLAN TO  
RELEASE THE LETTER, BUT HAS NO OBJECTION IF MS. JAHANGIR  
WISHES TO DO SO. POST MAY DRAW ON TALKING POINTS PARA 4  
WHEN DELIVERING THE LETTER.

2. (SBU) TEXT OF LETTER FROM HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO  
ASMA JAHANGIR

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MS. JAHANGIR:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 2, 1995. I WAS  
DISTRESSED TO LEARN OF THE OCTOBER ATTACK ON YOUR HOME.  
THE NEWS THAT NEITHER YOU NOR ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY  
WERE SERIOUSLY HURT WAS A GREAT RELIEF TO ME. DESPITE THIS

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INCIDENT, I KNOW THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE COURAGEOUS STANDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

THE PRESIDENT AND I GREATLY ADMIRE YOUR EFFORTS AND THOSE OF OTHER DEDICATED HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AROUND THE WORLD. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ALL WHO SPEAK UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. YOUR GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF OUR HIGH REGARD FOR YOUR WORK AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR SAFETY. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO RECENTLY VOICED HER OWN CONCERNS FOR YOUR SAFETY AND ORDERED THAT HER GOVERNMENT PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR YOU.

I RESPECT YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO MEET WITH YOU DURING MY VISIT TO PAKISTAN AND I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.

SINCERELY,

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

END TEXT.

3. (SBU) NOVEMBER 2 LETTER FROM ASMA JAHANGIR TO HRC

BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

YOU MAY RECALL THAT WE MET ON YOUR LAST VISIT TO ISLAMABAD AT THE LUNCH HOSTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN. I AM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN AND AN ADVOCATE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN. WE MET SOON AFTER I HAD (UNDER GREAT DIFFICULTIES) CONCLUDED MY DEFENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN BOY SALAMAT AND HIS CO-ACCUSED, WHO ARE NOW IN GERMANY.

I REALIZED THAT THIS DEFENCE COULD COST ME MY LIFE BUT IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF DEFENDING RELIGIOUS MINORITIES AND THOSE WHO ARE HOPELESSLY SUPPRESSED BY MILITANT GROUPS I WAS CONVINCED OF TAKING THIS RISK. MY COLLEAGUES FELT THE SAME. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT WE MUST CONFRONT THE FORCES OF BIGOTRY IF HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE TO RECEIVE ANY RESPECT IN OUR SOCIETY. WE WISH TO STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATING OUR SOCIETY WHILE LIVING HERE RATHER THAN ESCAPE THEM, WHICH BY ITSELF ADDS TO THEIR STRENGTH.

RECENTLY, ON THE 19 OF OCTOBER 1995, SEVEN ARMED MEN ENTERED OUR FAMILY HOUSE AND TOOK THE ENTIRE EXTENDED

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FAMILY HOSTAGE. THESE MEN CARRIED SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, GUNS, PISTOLS ETC. BUT ALSO BROUGHT ALONG WITH THEM SHARP KNIVES, PAPER CUTTERS, ROPES, COTTON WOOL AND ADHESIVE TAPES. IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT MY FAMILY ESCAPED UNHURT BECAUSE ONE OF MY SISTERS ALERTED ME IN TIME FOR ME TO BRING THE POLICE AND SEND ARMED MEN INTO THE HOUSE. AFTER MUCH EXCHANGE OF FIRE THE ATTACKERS ESCAPED VIA MY HOUSE BUT LEFT BEHIND THEIR CAR AND WEAPONS ETC.

ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN ARRESTED. HIS ARREST CONFIRMED MY FEARS THAT THE ATTACK WAS MADE BY A MILITANT SECTARIAN PARTY IN ORDER TO "TEACH US A LESSON" FOR DEFENDING THOSE ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY. THE MAN ARRESTED CONFESSED TO THE POLICE THAT THE PLAN WAS TO BUTCHER AND MURDER MY ENTIRE FAMILY ALONG WITH ME SO THAT "ANTI-ISLAMIC" MOVEMENTS COME TO AN END. THIS INCLUDED MY TWO NIECES OF SEVEN AND NINE YEARS WHO WERE ALSO ROUNDED UP. THE MAIN TARGETS WERE MY SISTER HINA (ALSO A LAWYER) AND MYSELF.

SO FAR THE REST OF THE CULPRITS HAVE NOT BEEN ARRESTED. IN THE MEANWHILE A SECTARIAN MILITANT GROUP HAS DENIED THEIR LINK TO THE INCIDENT BUT ACCEPT THAT THE SEVEN PERSONS IDENTIFIED BY THE POLICE ARE THEIR MEMBERS. THEY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE DEFENDERS OF BLASPHEMOUS PEOPLE ARE BLASPHEMOUS THEMSELVES.

IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE MOST MILITANT RELIGIOUS GROUPS ARE ENGAGED IN PROTECTING CRIMINALS WHO COMMIT ORDINARY DACOITIES AND WORK AS HIT-MEN FOR THE RELIGIOUS PARTIES. THE CRIMINALS SHARE THEIR LOOT WITH THE PARTY AND IN RETURN THE PARTY PROVIDES THEM PROTECTION. THE ATTACK ON MY FAMILY OR ME IS NOT OVER. THE MILITANTS ARE DETERMINED TO SILENCE THE VOICES OF SANITY THROUGH ALL MEANS OF INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT AND EVEN MURDER.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN PROVIDING US PROTECTION. HOWEVER, POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS COULD FORCE HER TO TAKE A SOFTER ATTITUDE IN THE FUTURE. I WRITE THIS TO YOU BECAUSE I FEEL OUR LAW ENFORCING AGENCIES ARE UNABLE TO PROTECT US, UNLESS THERE IS STRONG SUPPORT TO US FROM ALL CONCERNED. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, WE ARE TRYING HARD TO STRENGTHEN OUR SUPPORT OF COURSE WE CAN ONLY CONFRONT TERRORISM WITH DEMOCRATIC MEANS AVAILABLE TO US, WHICH IMMEDIATELY PUTS US AT A GREAT DISADVANTAGE. WE REQUIRE EXTREME PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE AS WELL. THIS IS WHY I WRITE TO REQUEST YOU TO ASSIST ME IN EXERTING PRESSURE ON OUR GOVERNMENT, EITHER DIRECTLY OR YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN OUR COUNTRY, SO THAT THE POLITICAL FORCES CAN CURB

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EXTREMIST ELEMENTS HERE. SECONDLY, I FEEL THAT THE ENTIRE ISSUE OF MILITANCY IN THE NAME OF RELIGION IS AN EMERGING TREND WHICH REQUIRES THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY SO THAT IT CAN BE DEALT WITH BY WISE POLITICIANS LIKE YOURSELF, RATHER THAN THROUGH SENSATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE WHICH IS SOMETIMES COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WE FEAR THAT IF LIBERAL ELEMENTS IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES ARE FORCED INTO SILENCE OR EXILE, WE MAY NEVER REGAIN A SANE WORLD COMMUNITY.

YOURS SINCERELY

ASMA JAHANGIR

END TEXT

4. (SBU) TALKING POINTS

-- I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PASS TO YOU A LETTER FROM FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON RESPONDING TO YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 2.

-- WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT MRS. CLINTON'S APPRECIATION FOR YOUR WORK AND CONCERN FOR YOUR SAFETY IS SHARED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

-- IN THAT RESPECT, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED THE ISSUE OF YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY WITH PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SEVERAL TIMES.

-- ASSISTANT SECRETARY RAPHEL RAISED THE ISSUE OF YOUR SAFETY WITH THE GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB IN NOVEMBER. AMBASSADOR LODHI HAS ALSO HEARD OUR CONCERNS REGARDING YOUR SAFETY IN WASHINGTON.

-- IN YOUR NOVEMBER 2 LETTER, YOU MENTION YOUR CONCERN THAT EXTREMIST FORCES POSE AN EVER INCREASING THREAT TO DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED ITS CONCERNS ABOUT EXTREMISM WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN.

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