BANMODI

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Not Casework

Congressman Joe Knollenberg
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Dear Congressman Knollenberg:

I am writing to express my concern at reports that Mr. Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of the Indian State of Gujarat, is applying for a US visa. Modi is widely held responsible for perpetrating the massacre of over 2,000 people in 2002.

Modi was barred in 2005 from entering the United States. per Section 212 (a) (2) (g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, that makes any foreign government official who "*was responsible for or directly carried out, at any time, particularly severe violations of religious freedom*" ineligible for visa.

Indian press reports now indicate that he has or will reapply for an American visa. I strongly urge you to ask the State Department to reject his application based on the criteria the United States set in 2005.

Prominent national and international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and India's own National Human Rights Commission, have implicated Modi for the 2002 massacres that killed over 2,000 people and displaced another 150,000.

Several thousand victims of pogrom of 2002 remain homeless and without access to judicial courts. All this is in direct contravention to civilized values everywhere at all times.

Modi has not only continued his policy of repression of minorities, but in fact he brought in legislation in April 2008 effectively prohibiting religious conversion in Gujarat, delivering a massive blow to freedom of belief.

Since 2002, Modi has been involved in extra-judicial killings and fake police encounters using the state police apparatus as confirmed by the Supreme Court convictions of guilty police officers and the testimonies of top police officials like RB Sreekumar opposed to the atrocities.

A recent expose by India's investigative journal *Tehelka* also caught on tape the state prosecutor appointed by Modi confessing to work in concert with the perpetrators of the 2002 massacres. In the same expose, another prominent politician who had brutally killed pregnant women confessed to Modi protecting him from conviction by transferring several Judges hearing his case in the local courts.

In light of Modi's deplorable record of participation in pogroms of 2002, continued denial of justice to victims of pogroms, and curtailment of religious freedom, I urge you to ask the State Department to place a permanent, irrevocable ban on the entry of this pogrom-perpetrator into United States.

Sincerely

(Signature) Amr

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