

I rise today to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of the floods that began on July 29, 2010 in northwestern Pakistan. Twelve million people have already been affected, and the Pakistani government estimates that millions more could be affected as the floods spread to the lower half of Punjab and the Sindh region. Already, there are counted more than 1600 dead, and the flooded regions have become plagued by water-borne diseases such as cholera and dysentery. The death toll could escalate tragically if major dams, such as the Guddu and Sukkur, fail as a result of the flood waters.

The United States has taken an active role in responding to this disaster in Pakistan. The U.S. military has rescued hundreds of people and delivered tens of thousands of pounds of relief supplies. Hundreds of thousands of halal meals have been provided to victims and relief workers. The U.S. Agency for International Development is coordinating the \$35 million in U.S. assistance funds that will help provide food, health care, water, sanitation, and shelter for those displaced by the floods. I commend the humanitarian efforts of our troops and civilian personnel in the region. We must continue to do all we can to assist the Pakistani people at this terrible time.