

June 22, 2005: Pakistan: Hearing on Capitol Hill to examine U.S.-Pakistan relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2005 Contact:

Anne Johnson, Director of Communications, (202) 523-3240, ext. 27 WASHINGTON - The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) will hold a public, on-the-record hearing on Thursday, June 30 on "The United States and Pakistan: Navigating a Complex Relationship." The hearing is scheduled for 2:00pm - 4:00pm in the Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 138. The State Department continues to characterize Pakistan's human rights record as "poor." Yet, Pakistan is considered by the Administration to be a key ally in the war on terrorism and the country has received a substantial increase in U.S. assistance since 9/11. There is concern among some observers, however, that current U.S. policies have resulted in a muting of U.S. criticism of the Musharraf government's democracy and human rights practices, which may ultimately be undermining U.S. anti-terrorism efforts. Since 2002, the Commission has recommended that Pakistan be named a "country of particular concern," or CPC, for severe violations of religious freedom. To date the State Department has not designated Pakistan a CPC.

What: "The United States and Pakistan: Navigating a Complex Relationship" When: Thursday, June 30, 2005, 2:00pm - 4:00pm Where: Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room 138.

To examine the current state of U.S.-Pakistan relations, Commissioners will hear expert testimony from the following confirmed witnesses: Christine Fair, Research and Studies Program, U.S. Institute of Peace; Husain Haqqani, Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Ambassador Karl Inderfurth, Director and Professor, International Affairs Program, The George Washington University; Danielle Pletka, Vice President, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute. Witness testimony and a transcript of the hearing will be made available on the Commission's web site at www.uscirf.gov after the event.

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