



BRAD SHERMAN  
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His Excellency Asif Ali Zardari  
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
President Secretariat  
Aiwan-e-Sadar  
Islamabad, Pakistan

Dear Honorable President Zardari,

I was recently informed about the urgent and alarming case of a Hindu girl, Rinkel Kumari, who was abducted from her home in Mirpur Mathelo, in the Sindh province of Pakistan, and forcibly converted to Islam. I urge you to take action to ensure the safe return of this girl to her family.

According to her family, Rinkel was forcibly abducted from her home in the early hours of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Rinkel was reportedly held in custody by Naveed Shah with the help of Mian Mohammad Aslam, the son of Pakistan Peoples' Party Member of National Assembly Mian Mitho, in Bharchundi Shareef, where she was forced to marry a Muslim man and convert to Islam.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Rinkel's case was brought before a civil judge. The judge ruled in favor of Naveed Shah and Rinkel was taken into police custody for two days at Sukkur police station. Rinkel was allegedly threatened with violence while in police custody to make her change her statement. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, Rinkel appeared in court again. This time, her relatives were reportedly not allowed inside the court. During this second hearing, Rinkel was returned into Naveed Shah's custody. Rinkel's family is unaware of the whereabouts of their daughter.

Unfortunately, Rinkel Kumari's case is just one case of abduction and forced religious conversion in Pakistan. According to the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), around 20 to 25 forced kidnappings and conversions of Hindu girls take place every month in Sindh. I urge you take all necessary steps to bring an end to this practice and other harassment of Hindus in Pakistan.

Those who are responsible for Rinkel's abduction should be held accountable for their actions, and I urge that steps be taken to bring her kidnappers and captures to justice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress