



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 23 2012

Dear Mr. Walsh:

Thank you for your letter of April 9 regarding your support for issuing a visa to Chief Minister Narendra Modi of the Indian State of Gujarat.

We appreciate your interest and views on this matter. Gujarat remains a very important place for American investment and has shown itself to be a welcoming environment where American business can flourish. Through our work at the Department of State, we continue to build and sustain the relationship between all our citizens and the people of India.

Visa applications are adjudicated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with criteria specified in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Although we cannot comment on any future visa application submitted by Mr. Modi, we can assure you that it will be given full consideration at the time of the application in accordance with U.S. immigration law.

We trust this information is responsive to your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me further on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Adams", written over a light blue circular stamp.

David S. Adams  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable  
Joe Walsh,  
House of Representatives.

**JOE WALSH**

8TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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April 5, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I write to you today to request that you consider granting a diplomatic visa to Chief Minister Narendra Modi of the Indian State of Gujarat.

In March of 2005, Mr. Modi was denied a diplomatic visa to visit the United States. A State Department official said at the time that he was forbidden entry to visit the U.S. under "Section 212 (a)(2)(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act." This section of the law makes foreign government officials ineligible for a visa should the State Department deem them responsible for or directly carrying out severe violations of religious freedom. It should be noted that when reading this section of law further, it specifically states that these violations cannot have occurred 24-months prior to application for a visa.

The communal riots that occurred in the State of Gujarat that took place in 2002 are undeniably tragic and resulted in many deaths of innocent Indians. This region has worked for years now to bring to justice those that committed serious crimes and many strides have been seen towards reconciliation among Muslims and Hindus in the region. Ten years have passed since the violence in Gujarat and much progress has been made. Mr. Modi has been recognized across the world for establishing Gujarat as the most business-friendly state in India and is widely believed to be a serious contender for the 2014 election for Indian Prime Minister. It is time the State Department reconsiders permitting Mr. Modi into the United States.

I appreciate you looking into this matter and hope you will take full consideration of this request to reconsider granting Mr. Modi entry into the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Walsh". The signature is stylized and written over a large, light-colored scribble or mark.

JOE WALSH  
Member of Congress