



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Information Technology
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance
Member of Parliamentary Forum on Youth
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District

06 December, 2011

Dear Shri Krishna,

I draw your attention to the disturbing case of Captain Saurabh Kalia of 4 JAT Regiment of the Indian Army, who was one of the first officers martyred by Pakistani intruders at the young age of 22, after Pakistan invaded the Kargil region of Jammu and Kashmir in May 1999.

The Pakistan army had captured Captain Saurabh Kalia and his patrol party of five other brave soldiers on May 15, 1999 on the Indian side of the LOC. They were kept in captivity for over three weeks and subjected to unprecedented brutal torture, evident from the bodies handed over by the Pakistan Army on 09 June, 1999. The postmortem revealed that the Pakistan army had indulged in the most heinous acts of burning their bodies with cigarettes, piercing ear-drums with hot rods, removing eyes, and chopping off various limbs and organs of these soldiers, besides inflicting all sorts of physical and mental tortures before shooting them down.

Noting the brutality and establishing that a war crime has been committed, the Ministry of Defence wrote to the Ministry of External Affairs urging it take necessary action to declare this act of brutality as a war crime.

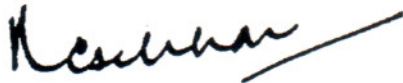
However, I have recently been informed that even after twelve years of this brutal and inhuman tragedy, the Ministry of External Affairs is yet to take up the matter with the UN Human Rights Council. It is extremely shocking and shameful that this matter has been treated lightly and the sacrifices of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives while guarding the nation has been disrespected. This may also send a demoralizing signal to the Army personnel fighting for the nation that our Prisoners of War in Pakistan cannot be taken care of.

The country should be proud of the patriotism, determination, tenacity and valour of these brave soldiers, and it is our duty to ensure that their family members do not feel that the nation does not value the sacrifices made by these bravehearts.

On behalf of the families of these brave martyrs, I urge you to immediately instruct your Ministry to urgently take up the matter with the UN Human Rights Council to declare this heinous act as a war crime and move the international court of justice to expose and pressure Pakistan to identify and punish all the perpetrators of this brutal crime. I also request you to order investigations into why this matter was delayed for over 12 years.

I look forward to your response at the earliest in this regard.

Yours Sincerely,



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri S. M. Krishna
Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs
Government of India
New Delhi

Copy to :

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri A. K. Antony, Hon'ble Minister of Defence