

DENNIS J. KUCINICH
10TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5871

14400 DETROIT AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107
(216) 228-8850

PARMATOWN MALL
7904 DAY DRIVE
PARMA, OH 44129
(440) 845-2707



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

www.kucinich.house.gov

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS,
STIMULUS OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
SPENDING

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE

November 30, 2011

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Panetta:

I write to express my deep concern over the recent alleged North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) airstrike in Pakistan and ask that you ensure the success of a full and transparent investigation into the incident. The response of the United States will be critical to maintaining our vital relationship with Pakistan and to the security of our troops in Afghanistan.

As you know, Saturday's airstrike that resulted in the death of 24 innocent Pakistani soldiers has further strained the U.S.-Pakistan relationship and increased anti-U.S. sentiment abroad. Reports indicate that U.S.-led coalition forces operating in Afghanistan are bracing themselves for reprisal attacks. The Pakistani government has now withdrawn from participation in the upcoming U.S.-led Bonn Conference on the future of Afghanistan and has closed vital supply lines to our troops operating in the country.

We cannot be successful in securing peace and security in the region alone. I urge you to ensure full U.S. participation in and cooperation with a full, impartial and transparent investigation into the airstrike. It is critical that those in the NATO and the International Security Assistance Force be held accountable for any actions that may have resulted in the death of 24 innocent Pakistani soldiers.

When forces act under the auspices of NATO, it inevitably has consequences for the United States and our allies. It is imperative the NATO command be held responsible for the incident in Pakistan. It is time to review all command and control protocols which may place the security of our allies' troops and, eventually, our own troops at risk.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress