

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS (NFIA)**

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PRESS RELEASE

**Appeal for Help to Victims of Apocalyptic
Earthquake in Asia**

The National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA), an umbrella organization of various other associations representing over 2 million Americans who trace their roots to India has initiated a campaign to raise funds for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Asia, that has claimed the life of over 100,000 people and left millions homeless without food and water. The NFIA started the fund with \$10,000 from its own account and plans to raise at least \$100,000 before the end of this month. The NFIA is reaching out 1000 people and pleading with them to write a check for at least \$100 towards this fund. The people can of course write checks for as much money as they desire. The effort also will continue in the next year.

As per its officials, the NFIA is approaching other organizations to join in this effort to help the poor victims. The Gandhi Foundation of Atlanta, the local Federation of Indian American Associations (FIA) such as FIA of National Capital Region, FIA of San Diego, FICA of Cleveland, and many other associations have already joined hands with the NFIA. Piyush Agrawal, the past president of the Association of Indians in America (AIA) has pledged to work with NFIA.

According to press reports, the earthquake of epic proportion struck deep beneath the Indian Ocean on last Sunday, unleashing over 20-foot walls of water that came crashing down on beaches in seven Asian countries across thousands of miles, smashing seaside resorts and villages and leaving dead bodies of little children, women and men in their wake.

“It is an extraordinary calamity of colossal proportion that the enormity of the disaster is unbelievable, until one sees the images of destruction and dead bodies of young children on

the television set,” remarked Rajen Anand, president of NFIA. “I do not know of anyone who is not likely to be moved by these images.”

The NFIA has member associations in all major cities and it will raise money through these contacts. The money will be sent to the International Red Cross or any other appropriate agency to use for all victims of this earthquake. The NFIA is also coordinating this effort with other national organizations trying to raise funds.

NFIA executive vice president, Pramod Kamdar of San Diego said that if people can write a check before the end of this month, they will be able to take a deduction from the taxes this year. NFIA is a non-profit organization within section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue service (Tax ID 7422998811).

“As a national organization, it is our global civic responsibility to help the victims of such natural calamities in whatever way we can,” said Radha Krishnan, the NFIA president-elect. “The best way at this time is to send money to provide clean water, food, medicines, and shelter to these people who have lost everything,” added. Satish Parikh, the NFIA secretary.

“We are appealing to all people to open their hearts and wallets to support the efforts of NFIA in whatever little ways they can,” pleaded Anand.

The Tax deductible checks can be mailed to NFIA 6912 Winter Lane, Annandale VA 22003 or given to any of the people listed below. Further information can also be sought from these contacts.

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| New York | Lal Motwani (718) 470-1026 | lmotwani@nyc.rr.com |
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| Detroit | O.C. Koshy (734) 483-1492 | sarkos1@yahoo.com |
| | Ramesh Patel (248) 302-3214 | ramesh.patel@gm.com |
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| | Ashok Madan (562) 498-0202 | ashok4u@aol.com |
| Orange County (CA) | Anna Prasad (714) 964-7743 | agprasad@att.net |
| Florida | Piyush Agrawal (954) 389-4465 | sudhapca@aol.com |
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