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Pakistan needs to aid flood relief: U.S. envoy

Last Updated: Thursday, September 16, 2010 | 12:53 PM ET [Comments40](#)[Recommend15](#)

The Associated Press



Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy to Pakistan, right, visits the shrine of a Sufi saint with Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Multan on Thursday.

(Khalid Tanveer/Associated Press)

The world will only be able to fund about 25 per cent of the tens of billions needed to rebuild Pakistan after the floods, and its government will have to make up the shortfall, the U.S. envoy to the country warned Thursday.

Richard Holbrooke said the U.S. would not condition its assistance to the country, but warned that Congress might not be generous if it felt that Pakistan was not taxing its own citizens enough.

Pakistan's rich have traditionally not paid much tax on their income or their property — either because they evade them or are exempt — and the country's collection rates are among the lowest in the world.

Critics have pointed to this shortage of revenue in recent weeks as Pakistani leaders have sought international aid. The country's economy is surviving on international assistance, and the floods are expected to badly slow economic growth further.

"I don't want to withhold money they need, but I think we have to be clear that the Congress is going to be reluctant to give money if the money is filling in a gap because people are not paying taxes," said Holbrooke during a visit to Karachi.

Monsoon rains triggered massive floods six weeks ago that spread across the country and are still continuing in parts of the south.

Some eight million people have been made homeless in what Pakistani and UN officials have said is one of the largest humanitarian disasters in living memory.

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at 7:43 PM ETit's about time some called out the corrupt

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[4Agree](#) [0Disagree](#)[Policy Report abuse](#)**[honeycombkidd](#) wrote:** Posted 2010/09/16

at 7:26 PM ETEvading tax / tax exempt ?!

Very little taxation = very little caring from the rest of the civilized world.

That is one reason citizens are taxed - to help pay for the operation of their country.

oh well - sounds like their problem to me.

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[6Agree](#) [0Disagree](#)[Policy Report abuse](#)**[icecool](#) wrote:** Posted 2010/09/16

at 6:57 PM ETkgms sfn wrote:

Posted 2010/09/16

at 5:50 PM ET

Good point - but this was never a Pakistani conflict.

Who started the invasion of Afghanistan? Then they need help.

The situation has been enforced upon them by the friendly USA.

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[4Agree](#) [4Disagree](#)[Policy Report abuse](#)**[dogleg](#) wrote:** Posted 2010/09/16

at 6:48 PM ETratpacker wrote: Posted 2010/09/16

at 5:32 PM ET

You can post all the photos of children suffering, etc. but enough is enough.

I still remember all the cheering when the twin towers went down, I remember all the "kill the Infidel" stuff.

Maybe you can find a southern US pastor who will be willing to hold a dance celebrating the hardships of these people.

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[Joe Gall](#) wrote: Posted 2010/09/16

at 6:32 PM ET Yeah, the Mossad agents were cheering at the twin towers went down.

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