Mr Valentyn K. Symonenko,

President

Mountaineering and Climbing Federation of Ukraine

Dear Mr President

I write to you at the darkest and saddest hour of Pakistan’s mountaineering history. We suffer through shock and grief, and are traumatized on the brutal massacre of the innocent mountaineers on the night of 22nd June 2013 at the Diamer Base Camp on Nanga Parbat, in Gilgit –Baltistan. In this unfortunate incident, 10 guest mountaineers and one local support staff were gunned down by these enemies of humanity generally known as terrorists. We condemn this heinous and outrageous crime in strongest terms and do not have any excuse except to say that we apologize to the international mountaineering community over this unfortunate incident, in general and to the aggrieved associations, and bereaved families of all these brave mountaineers, in particular.

It is unfortunate that victims of this heinous crime included the outstanding and reputed mountaineers Mr Igor Sviergun, Mr Badavi Kashaiev and Mr Konyayev Dmytro of your Association who were an asset to your mountaineering community and to Ukraine.

On behalf of all members of Alpine Club of Pakistan and on my own behalf I take this opportunity to express our deepest and heartfelt condolences, share grief and sincerely apologize for the tragic loss of these mountaineering comrades from Mountaineering and Climbing Federation of Ukraine. Please convey our condolences, regrets and sympathies to the bereaved family. May souls of these departed ones rest in eternal peace in the heavens. On 25th June Alpine Club of Pakistan held a condolence meeting at Islamabad to mourn unfortunate demise of these great mountaineers and to remember them and condole with the bereaved families.

At this juncture I may mention that general masses and Government of Pakistan are shocked and shattered by this unfortunate incident. Civil society all across the country has raised strongest voice and has mourned the tragedy of these innocent mountaineers. You may already know that the government of Pakistan has taken a very serious notice of this incident and military operation is taking place in the area. The government has immediately started to discuss to arrange fool proof security measures for the visiting mountaineers and trekkers with the help of all stake holders. I take this opportunity to reassure you and all mountaineers from Mountaineering and Climbing Federation of Ukraine visiting Pakistan that Government of Pakistan from now on is taking all conceivable measures to provide utmost security to the guest mountaineers and to make it safe to climb the spectacular and most challenging mountain of Karakoram, Western Himalayas and the Hindukush in Pakistan.

With profound regards.

Manzoor Hussain, Lt Col. (Retd)
President,
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Pakistan