
JAMES CAAN'S OUT: DRAGON FLIES TO PAKISTAN IN LIGHT OF RECENT FLOODS DEVASTATING THE COUNTRY

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James Caan, star of BBC2's hit show *Dragons' Den*, and Chairman of the British Pakistan Foundation, has taken the decision to fly out to Pakistan himself to help in the relief work which is currently struggling to deal with the magnitude of the disaster.

Over 20 million people are suffering today due to the harsh rains and subsequent floods that have washed over the country. People have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their families and their lives, yet of those who survive, they face an even bigger catastrophe with the onslaught of disease spread through the dirty water which is leading to an epidemic of cholera.

"Since learning about the catastrophic rains that have swept through Pakistan, I have not been able to focus on anything other than the people of Pakistan. It touches me not just because I'm a Muslim, nor a Pakistani, but merely because I am a humanitarian. Whilst in London, I have been doing all I can to raise funds and awareness to help those on the ground. But the situation has created a new definition of an emergency, and I am desperate to go out there and support those suffering myself."

The recent trip of Ban Ki Moon, emphasized the desperate situation in Pakistan, detailing the extent as the worst natural disaster he had ever seen. International response to the floods has been minimal in comparison to the Tsunami and Haiti, and there is a huge shortfall of basic supplies such as food, shelter and drinking water.

"The UK Government has shown a commitment to Pakistan in recognition of the scale of the devastation. Having had recent discussions with both Nick Clegg and Andrew Mitchell at an Islamic Relief event in aid of the Pakistan Floods, they both are deeply concerned about the current situation on the ground, with Andrew expressing an interest to visit the region himself."

"Clearly, we haven't even scratched the surface yet with donations for the emergency relief. International Response to the disaster is minimal and no doubt, this is because of the current perception of Pakistan. But this isn't about race, religion or politics. This is a humanitarian crisis, to which we all have a responsibility."

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