



KASHMIR

The Stand Still Delima

Understanding the Kashmiri Issue and Call-to-Action

Introduction

Kashmir is under siege and silence is no longer an option. On Monday, August 5 2019, the Indian government abrogated article 370 of the Indian constitution, which gave the state of Jammu and Kashmir special status within the Indian Constitution. The article was instituted by India's early leadership to give a certain degree of autonomy to its only Muslim-majority state — one it had incorporated without the consent of its people, who would have preferred independence or accession to Pakistan.

The Indian government also abrogated article 35A, which gives the local Kashmiri state the right to define who is a "permanent resident" of the state. Permanent residents are able to own property or buy land. This was a condition that the pro-accession local leadership insisted upon to protect Kashmir's Muslim-majority status, and was the last thing Kashmiris were holding onto to preserve some semblance of their nationhood.

A few days before the abrogation announcement, the Indian government put Kashmir under military curfew and ordered all Hindu pilgrims and non-Kashmiris to leave the valley. The following restrictions were also put in place:

- no access to the outside or with each other
- no access to cellular phones and landlines
- no access to television or internet

This is nothing short of a crisis for the entire humanity. The Indian atrocities continue unabated. Every week dozens of Kashmiris are losing their lives.

For more than five decades, the people of Indian Held Kashmir have been denied their inalienable right to self-determination. The people of Kashmir are helpless. The international community has abandoned them to the Indian repression.

More than 100,000 killed during the last decade, over 15,000 Kashmiri women violated, over 5,000 Kashmiri youths imprisoned in India, interrogation center and torture cells, more than 20,000 kids orphaned, 8,000 to 10,000 involuntarily disappeared, over 200 totally blinded with pellet guns.

Current Situation

By repealing Article 35A & 370 of the constitution, people from the rest of India will now have the right to acquire property in occupied Kashmir and settle there permanently. Kashmiris see the move as an attempt to dilute the demographics of Muslim-majority Kashmir with Hindu settlers.

This act of abrogating these two articles is an open contravention of UN resolution #122 adopted on January 24, 1957; # 123 adopted on February 21, 1957 and # 126 adopted on December 2, 1957. These resolutions prohibit any unilateral action to change the disputed nature of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It is also against Tashkent Declaration of 1966, Simla Agreement of 1972, and Lahore Declaration of 1999 between Pakistan and India.

It is beyond doubt that the longer the uncertainties continue and the longer the United Nations and world powers ignore Jammu & Kashmir, the more dangerous and intractable the crisis becomes in light of the fact that both Indian and Pakistan are nuclear powers. The crisis requires immediate diplomacy that recognizes the explosive situation on the ground in Jammu and Kashmir and takes immediate measures to avert it before it explodes.

Under all international agreements and United Nations Security Council resolutions, Kashmir is not the internal matter of India or Pakistan. It is a disputed territory whose status is yet to be determined by its people.

Call-to-Action

USCMO is calling our community and its leadership to support the Kashmiri issue in every aspect possible. Here are few action items recommended for all:

Each Imam is requested to make Du'a on Eid Al-Adha and Jummu'ah for all the oppressed of the world, including Uighurs, Rohingya Muslims, Palestinians and Kashmiris.

Here are a number of items that all of us can do to take action:

- Write letters and make phone calls to the White House and key members of Congress:

White House: White House: 202-456-1111

Congressman Eliot Engel, Chairman House Committee on Foreign Affairs:
202- 225-2464

Congresswoman Karen Bass, Chairwoman House Foreign Sub-committee on
Global Human Rights: 202-225-7084; 323-965-1422 (Los Angeles, CA)

Senator Bob Menendez, Ranking Member Senate Committee on Foreign
Relations: 202-224-4744; 973-645-3030 (Newark, NJ)

Senator James Risch, Chairman Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:
202-224-2752

- Call your members of congress and ask them to support peace in Kashmir and an end to the carnage.
- Write to major and minor media outlets
- Write letters to the editor and opinion columns
- Meet with human rights organizations and NGOs to educate them about Kashmir and enlist their influence on behalf of the Kashmiri cause to lobby President Trump to fulfill his promise of mediation.
- Organize seminars and lectures on university campuses and Islamic centers with speakers available from the Kashmiri American Community.
- Organize video showings and exhibitions on Kashmir.
- Enlist the assistance of local church groups to write letters to Members of Congress about Kashmir.
- Request one of the more than 200 World Affairs Councils in the United States to arrange a program on Kashmir because of the nuclear danger there the greatest in the world-and unspeakable daily suffering. The WAC's should be asked to invite Kashmiri participants because the Kashmir conflict primarily concerns Kashmiris, and cannot be solved without their consent. World Kashmir Awareness Forum will provide speakers.
- During annual Islamic Center gatherings, invite a Kashmiri or non-Kashmiri to speak about Kashmir.
- Organize local sidewalk demonstrations with appropriate official permits in front of the Mayor's office or local newspaper to publicize the Kashmiri plight and need for activist action by the United States.

Rally Alert!

National Rally to Support Kashmir

Embassy of India - Washington, DC
Friday August 16, 2019
12:00 PM

