



EMBASSY of THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN in WASHINGTON DC



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

Pak-US relations continued to gather momentum, built over the past year, through further intensification of high level exchanges between Washington and Islamabad. In February we hosted Federal Minister Of Interior, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan in Washington, DC. The Interior Minister held meetings with Secretary of State John Kerry and senior officials from the US administration. Under discussion were bilateral relations with particular focus on the peace and security situation in the region.

The Interior Minister also represented Pakistan at the Summit Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism

sponsored by the White House. As one of the worst victims of terrorism and violent extremism, Pakistan not only understands the related challenges but also empathizes with those nations that face these inhumane and mindless acts of violence. The Interior Minister shared with the world leaders gathered at the Summit, Pakistani nations' resolve to effectively tackle the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism.

Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), who visited Pakistan this month had very useful and productive meetings in Islamabad where he appreciated the sacrifices made by Pakistan in its efforts to root out terrorism and extremism and the successes achieved so far.

In February we also observed Kashmir Solidarity Day to reaffirm our unwavering support of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their valiant struggle to achieve their inalienable right of self-determination. Pakistan is committed to a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute on the basis of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

Meanwhile I have had a very busy month meeting up with representatives from the Senate and Congress. In months ahead I look forward to increased bilateral interactions that will go a long way in expanding economic, trade, energy and counterterrorism cooperation between Pakistan and the U.S.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY

The right to self-determination is a revered principle of international law. But even after more than 67 years, this fundamental right is being denied to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite adversity, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have continued their long and strenuous struggle. It is our firm belief that the Indian security apparatus can never crush their spirit of freedom and aspiration for self-determination.

We reiterate our unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their just struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. It is only through the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions that the Kashmir issue will be amicably resolved.

Full Message at http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news704B_02052015_Kashmir.php

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE ON KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY

I solemnly reaffirm the steadfast support of the people and government of Pakistan extended to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their struggle to achieve their inherent right to decide their future through self determination. The committed people of Kashmir have consistently being denied their fundamental right despite the pledge given by the United Nations and incessant efforts of the international community.

I join the entire Pakistani nation in sharing the grief experienced by thousands of Kashmiris widowed and orphaned in the Indian occupied Kashmir.

Full Message at http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news704_B_02052015_Kashmir.php

FEDERAL MINISTER OF INTERIOR CHAUDHRY NISAR ALI KHAN MEETS SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY

Minister of Interior Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan was received by Secretary of State, John Kerry at the Department of State where they discussed matters relating to bilateral relations with particular focus on the peace and security situation in the region. The Interior Minister and Secretary Kerry expressed satisfaction over the pace of bilateral cooperation between the two countries under the strategic dialogue process. Secretary Kerry expressed appreciation for Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and extremism, and commended its resolve and the steps being taken to tackle terrorism in a comprehensive manner. He also lauded the Prime Minister's initiatives for regional peace and development. Both sides recognized the need for the United States and Pakistan to closely coordinate and cooperate with each other and with Afghanistan to ensure peace and stability in that country.



Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan Shakes hands with U.S. Secretary Of State John Kerry (Source: U.S. Department of State)

Remarks at U.S. Department of State:

http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/news707_02192015_US_State_Deptment_RemarksUS.php

INTERIOR MINISTER REPRESENTS PAKISTAN AT THE SUMMIT MEETING ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan represented Pakistan at the Summit Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism sponsored by the White House. In his remarks the Interior Minister said that violent extremism was an affront to core human values and threatened all societies. The Interior Minister appreciated the U.S. Administration leadership for taking the summit initiative that could lay the basis for forging common ground against the common enemy of violent extremism. The Interior Minister presented a five points strategy at the Summit meeting which could form the conceptual bed rock of a global action plan in dealing with violent extremism. The five point action plan dwells on (i) Strengthening local communities, (ii) Winning the trust of mainstream peace loving majority, (iii) building resilience in local communities against radicalization, (iv) addressing the push factors driving people to extremism; and (v) focusing on education to promote tolerance and communal harmony. Sharing Pakistan's recent anti-terrorism actions the Interior Minister said that the operation Zarb-e-Azb and Pakistan's National Action Plan were tangible and concrete demonstration of comprehensive and determined Law Enforcement actions being taken by Pakistan.

MINISTER OF INTERIOR MEETS WITH AMBASSADOR SUSAN RICE (NSA)

Minister of Interior, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan met with Ambassador Susan Rice, the U.S. National Security Advisor (NSA). The two leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest in both bilateral and regional context. Expressing satisfaction on the state of play in the bilateral relationship, both sides agreed to continue the momentum of cooperation generated in the wake of last Ministerial session of the strategic dialogue process held in Islamabad. Noting the timely US initiative to convene the Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, the Interior Minister apprised NSA Rice about the ongoing military operations and steps being taken in follow up to the National Action Plan to eliminate terrorism. NSA Rice appreciated the sacrifices and commitment of Pakistan in the fight against terrorism and extremism. She commended the resolve of the leadership and people of Pakistan to deal with terrorism in a comprehensive manner. NSA Rice assured the Interior Minister of the continued US support for Pakistan's efforts to eliminate terrorism.

DG ISI VISITS THE US

DG ISI, LIEUTENANT GENERAL RIZWAN AKHTAR VISITS THE U.S.

Director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lieutenant General Rizwan Akhtar visited the U.S. to hold talks with top US intelligence officials on regional security, Afghanistan and counter terrorism. This was his first visit to the U.S. since he became the head of ISI last year.

US SENATOR JACK REED (D-RI) CALLS ON THE ADVISER

US Senator Jack Reed, Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee visited Pakistan where he met with both civilian and military leadership. He called on the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs. The discussions covered Pakistan-US bilateral relations and the security situation in the region. The Adviser highlighted Pakistan's comprehensive and robust measures to counter terrorism and extremism and also briefed the Senator about the improvement in Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan. Senator Reed expressed deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by Pakistan in the efforts to root out terrorism and extremism and the success achieved so far.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SUPPORTS SOIL FERTILITY SYMPOSIUM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in concert with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted a soil fertility symposium for 50 technical experts from the public and private sectors in Pakistan. The symposium was part of an ongoing effort to improve the efficacy of fertilizer application among farmers in Pakistan. The one-day symposium focused on the importance of a balanced nutrient regime to reduce their costs and maximize yields, helping to improve their profitability while reducing the harmful environmental effects of over-applying fertilizers.

USAID DIRECTOR OPENS 2015 PAKISTAN AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

The Pakistan Agriculture Conference and Exposition 2015 opened in Islamabad to showcase the latest technological advances in the agriculture industry and provide government agencies and the private sector a forum to discuss agriculture engagement strategies. In his keynote speech, Director for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Pakistan Gregory Gottlieb highlighted the importance of Pakistan's agriculture development. He said 'We believe our agriculture projects will continue to contribute to the growth of Pakistan's economy. Working together with a strong cadre of local farmers, agribusinesses and policymakers, the United States and Pakistan's joint efforts in agriculture development will contribute to a stronger, brighter future for all Pakistan.'

CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH



Ambassador Jilani with Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)



Ambassador Jilani with Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)



Ambassador Jilani with Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Majority Leader



Ambassador Jilani with Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ), member House Foreign Affairs



Ambassador Jilani with Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)



Ambassador Jilani with Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ), Chairman Asia Pacific Subcommittee of House Foreign Affairs Committee



Ambassador Jilani with Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)



Ambassador Jilani with Rep. Tom Cotton (R-AR)



Ambassador Jilani with Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Ranking Member House Intelligence Committee



Ambassador Jilani with Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY

THE EMBASSY HOSTS KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY EVENT



Clockwise. Ambassador Jalil Jilani, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Electricity Raja Faisal Rathore, Former Foreign Secretary Riaz Muhammad Khan and Ambassador Touqir Hussain, Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies delivering remarks on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day

The Embassy hosted a seminar to pay homage to Kashmiri martyrs and express solidarity with people of Kashmir, still suffering under repressive Indian occupation rule. Speaking at the event, Ambassador Jilani said that “The UN Security Council resolutions have the legitimacy of the international contract, accepted by both India and Pakistan before the international community. Therefore, denying the pledge would be a violation of that contract.” He renewed Islamabad’s moral and diplomatic support for Kashmiris’ legitimate struggle for right to self-determination. Noting India’s trend to effect a demographic change in the disputed territory as well as New Delhi’s plan to change the special constitutional status of the territory have caused deep concern and alarm in the region. Ambassador Jilani added that the importance for India and Pakistan to resolve the longstanding issue in accordance with the UN resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. The event was also attended by Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Electricity Raja Faisal Rathore, Former Foreign Secretary Riaz Muhammad Khan and Ambassador Touqir Hussain, Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins’ School of Advanced International Studies. The speakers highlighted why India, which blatantly violates Kashmiris’ human rights, denies their democratic rights and rejects calls for implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir can no way qualify to be a member of the world body’s Security Council.



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