Kashmir Under Siege

Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Washington, D.C.

August 2019 Newsletter
Kashmir Special Issue
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **Message from the Ambassador: Stand with Kashmir**

2. **Telling the World: Pakistan Leaders Highlight Kashmir**
   - 2.1. Prime Minister Khan’s Message
   - 2.2. Prime Minister Khan’s New York Times Op-Ed
   - 2.3. FM Qureshi’s Statement
   - 2.4. PM Azad Jammu & Kashmir Visits D.C.
   - 2.5. Engaging Across All Platforms

3. **A Voice for Kashmir: Pakistan Diplomats Speak Out**
   - 3.1. Ambassador Khan’s Washington Post Column
   - 3.2. U.S. Press Coverage of Pakistan’s positions on Kashmir

4. **Stand With Kashmir: Solidarity Protests for Kashmir**
   - 4.1. Pakistan Independence Day/Kashmir Solidarity Day
   - 4.2. Kashmir Protests Around The USA

5. **The World Is Watching**
   - 5.1. The Administration
   - 5.2. The View from the Hill
   - 5.3. The U.S. Media
   - 5.4. The Global Community
   - 5.5. Kashmir Caged

6. **Embassy Outreach**
   - 6.1. Pakistan Day
   - 6.2. Ambassador Khan Visits Michigan
   - 6.3. Hosted at the Embassy
   - 6.4. Dr. Khan Attends Swearing-in of New USAID Mission Director To Pakistan
AMBASSADOR’S MESSAGE

This month’s newsletter is dedicated to the brave people of Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK), who are living through one of the worst periods of oppression in their 71-year struggle for self-determination.

As I write these words, some 13 million Kashmiris are imprisoned in their homes, cut off from the rest of the world. The beautiful Kashmir valley has been transformed into a huge concentration camp. Disturbing reports are emerging everyday of minors being picked up from their homes in midnight raids, of hospitals running out of medicines, of Kashmiris dying in their homes because they lack access to basic medical care.

Despite inflicting these horrors, arresting 4,000 Kashmiris, and deploying nearly one million troops, India has been unable to break the will of the Kashmiri people. Over 500 protests have been staged in IOK since August 5 - despite the armed siege and curfew.

Pakistan will always stand with the people of Kashmir. In pursuance of the Government’s instructions, the Embassy and Consulates General of Pakistan in the United States marked our 73rd Independence Day as Kashmir Solidarity Day. We renewed our resolve to provide every political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people.

Accordingly, we have been busy this month highlighting the plight of Kashmir in our meetings with the White House, the State Department, and members of Congress, as well as U.S. media, think tanks, and civil society organizations. In fact, despite Congress being in recess, we have been able to engage with many Senators and House Representatives.

We have also been mobilizing the Kashmiri and Pakistani American community. I have personally addressed several events held to celebrate Pakistan’s Independence Day, which were attended by large numbers of Kashmiri diaspora. I traveled to the Midwest, where I had another opportunity to engage with local U.S. lawmakers and members of our community.

In August, I also met with editorial boards of leading U.S. news outlets, such as The New York Times, Bloomberg and The Washington Times, and appeared on channels like Fox News and Bloomberg. Further, I reiterated Pakistan’s support for President Trump’s offer to mediate the issue in an Washington Post column.

My message has been the same: a grave humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Occupied Kashmir, which will have serious implications for regional peace. Pakistan stands with Kashmir.

Because our collective efforts, several members of Congress have issued statements expressing concern at the human rights situation in Occupied Kashmir. All leading U.S. newspapers have reported extensively on Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, with several publishing editorials echoing Pakistan’s position on the need for resolving the longstanding dispute.

Finally, the Embassy and Consulates hosted Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan of Azad Jammu Kashmir, who met many representatives of U.S. human rights organization, think tanks and media, besides mobilizing Kashmiris across the United States, during a brief visit.

In September, the Embassy will be preparing for Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to the UN General Assembly - perhaps the most important visit of its kind in recent history. PM Khan will be meeting several world leaders to highlight the Kashmir issue. In his address the Prime Minister will expose the realities of India’s occupation of Kashmir and urge the international community to play its role in resolving this dispute, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

We have a collective responsibility to speak up for the people of Kashmir. That is why I am urging Pakistani and Kashmiri Americans to continue to talk to their elected representatives, important opinion makers, and human rights organizations on the plight of the Kashmiri people and the urgency of resolving the Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan stands with Kashmir.

Dr. Asad M. Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States.
This month, Pakistani officials, foremost among them Prime Minister Khan, leveraged all available fora and platforms to go to any lengths to let the world know of India’s naked aggression towards the people of Kashmir.
Telling the World: PM Khan Addresses Nation On Kashmir Crisis

Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed the nation earlier this month, where he vowed Pakistan "will go to any lengths" to support the cause of the oppressed Kashmiri people.

Outlining the government's strategy to deal with the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir, Khan said the entire nation will stand with the Kashmiri nation until they have achieved their freedom.

PM Khan further committed himself to acting as a global ambassador for the people of Kashmir, and raise their plight at every global forum, including the upcoming U.N. General Assembly meetings in September.

The Prime Minister also warned the international community about the gravity of India’s ongoing escalation, especially if the dispute moved towards military conflict between the two nuclear-armed countries.

The full speech of the Prime Minister can be watched here.

FACT - Since 1989, when the liberation struggle in IOK started, more than 100,000 Kashmiris have been killed, 22,000 women widowed and 108,000 children orphaned.

#Kashmirbleeds
“With the nuclear shadow hovering over South Asia, we realize that Pakistan and India have to move out of a zero-sum mindset to begin dialogue on Kashmir, various strategic matters and trade.

On Kashmir, the dialogue must include all stakeholders, especially the Kashmiris.

We have already prepared multiple options that can be worked on while honoring the right to self-determination the Kashmiris were promised by the Security Council resolutions and India’s first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.”

Prime Minister Imran Khan, New York Times, August 30

Read the full op-ed from the PM here.
"As long as Kashmiris don't get freedom, we will stand with them."

PM Khan addressing a rally in solidarity with Kashmir held in Islamabad, August 30 - one of thousands across the country.

Watch the full speech here.

FACT: The United Nations office of High Commissioner for human rights has issued 2 successive reports in June 2018 and July 2019 documenting gross and systemic violations of human rights by India in the Occupied-Kashmir.

#SaveKashmir
Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi wrote a letter to the United Nations Secretary General, Presidents of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly requesting an urgent meeting on the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

Referring to a report by The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) outlining the gravity of the humanitarian situation in Kashmir, FM Qureshi noted that “gross and systematic violations of human rights are being enabled by India through the continued application of its draconian laws in IoK and abetted by a culture of impunity rampant among security forces.”

The Foreign Minister noted that the relevant UNSC resolutions state that a “final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.”

He urged the UN to call on India to stop all human rights abuses, refrain from unprovoked firing across the Line of Control, and ending any actions that could bring about a material change in the situation on ground, in violation of UN resolutions on.

Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan’s call to establish a UN Fact-Finding Mission to visit IoK to assess the on-ground situation. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s support for the OHCHR’s recommendation for establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate into the gross human rights violations and urged to appoint a UN Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir.

FM Qureshi August Phone calls on Kashmir:
Foreign Minister of Swiss Federation
Foreign Minister of Nepal
Foreign Minister of Maldives
Foreign Minister of Japan
United Nations Secretary General
Secretary General OIC
Foreign Minister of Turkey
Foreign Minister of Belgium
Foreign Minister of Kuwait
Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan
Telling the World: Embassy of Pakistan in Washington Marks Kashmir Solidarity Hour

FACT: People’s rights to peaceful assembly, free movement and observance of religious obligations are being trampled upon. The Muslim population was prevented from offering Eid Al Azha prayers in large congregations last week. Srinagar’s historic Jamia Masjid remained locked.

#KashmirHour
The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Raja Farooq Haider Khan visited Washington D.C., August 26-27, 2019, to meet with key Congressional leaders, State Department officials, members of the Kashmiri and Pakistani Diaspora, and various media outlets.

In an interview with Newsweek, the Prime Minister highlighted India’s human-rights abuses in IoK adding that "India should be stopped and it’s the duty of the United States of America … It's the duty of the American government, the American people."

PM Haider Khan addresses a gathering of Kashmiri and Pakistani Americans at the Embassy of Pakistan, where he spoke about the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation and humanitarian crisis in IoK. Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Prime Minister AJK Raja Farooq Haider Khan met with Guy Taylor, national security team lead of The Washington Times.

Prime Minister Azad AJK Raja Farooq Haider Khan briefed Daniel Lippman, Politico White House Correspondent about the latest situation in Kashmir.
Telling the World: Engaging Across All Platforms

We must send a strong message to Kashmiris that our nation stands resolutely behind them. So I am asking all Pakistanis for half an hour tomorrow stop whatever you are doing & come out on the road to show solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

5:31 AM · Aug 28, 2019 · Twitter for Android

I am so proud of our people in the way they came out today in solidarity with the Kashmiris - letting them know our nation stands resolutely with them as they confront the brutal, fascist Modi govt's annexation & ethnic cleansing agenda in IOKJ. #KashmirHour

9:22 AM · Aug 30, 2019 · Twitter for Android

The Pakistani nation has also let the world know about the Nazi-style takeover of India by the RSS-BJP's Hindu Supremacist ideology & the danger it poses not only to the region but the world.

2:03 AM · Aug 31, 2019 · Twitter for Android
A VOICE FOR KASHMIR

Throughout the month of August the Pakistani Embassy in Washington D.C. and our Consulates across the country have been working to ensure that the voices of the people of Kashmir are heard, and that their plight under a brutal military occupation will not be ignored.
“When Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan met last month with President Trump at the White House, the American leader said he would help mediate between Pakistan and India on the latter’s 72-year occupation of the disputed Jammu and Kashmir region. Trump’s offer was a sign of immense goodwill that the people of Kashmir enthusiastically applauded.

The Indian government’s alarming announcement last week that it would revoke Article 370 of the Indian constitution is a slap in the face of this renewed American commitment to solve one of the world’s most dangerous and intractable conflicts. It makes plain to the world the depth of India’s arrogant indifference to the region’s peace and stability ...

… The time is now for the United States to make good on Trump’s offer of mediation — not for Pakistan’s sake or for India’s sake, but for the sake of the only people who have not been heard since India gagged them a week ago: the people of Kashmir themselves.”

Read the full article here
A Voice For Kashmir: Pakistani Diplomats Shine Spotlight on Kashmir in the U.S. Press

PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his condemnation the paper over India's intransigence in Kashmir. PM Khan said he would no longer seek dialogue with Indian officials, and expressed concern that India might undertake a deceptive “false-flag operation” in Kashmir to try to justify military action against Pakistan. He said Pakistan would be forced to respond to such an aggression. Prime Minister Khan said that Modi intended to carry out a genocide of Kashmiri Muslims and demanded that United Nations peacekeepers and observers be allowed in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Read more here.

AMBASSADOR DR. KHAN MEETS NEW YORK TIMES ED-BOARD

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with The New York Times editorial board at the NYT headquarters in New York. Ambassador Khan said the crisis in Kashmir could force Pakistan to move troops from its western border with Afghanistan to its eastern one with India thereby affecting Afghan Peace Talks. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s support for the Afghan peace process and said that Pakistan hoped the American talks with the Taliban would succeed. Read more here.

AMBASSADOR DR. ASAD M. KHAN SPEAKS TO BLOOMBERG NEWS

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan speaking with Bloomberg's Scarlet Fu on "Bloomberg Markets: The Close."

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan briefed the editorial and news team of Bloomberg about Pakistan’s position on recent developments after India’s unilateral action in Kashmir and its impact on the peace and stability in South Asia. (right) Watch the full interview with Bloomberg TV here.
AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan gave a detailed interview to Paul Beckett, Washington Bureau Chief of the Wall Street Journal. Ambassador stressed that the international community should take the situation in Kashmir seriously and look at it closely, because it is a serious humanitarian challenge that poses a serious threat to peace and security. Ambassador stated that Pakistan will not be the first to initiate anything, but Pakistan will certainly respond in a befitting way if its sovereignty is challenged or threatened in any way. He also said that Prime Minister Imran Khan will be most likely attending the General Assembly session and using the platform to highlight the issue and the gravity of the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Read the interview here.

AMBASSADOR DR. KHAN ON ‘BRET BAIER IN SPECIAL REPORT’ ON FOX NEWS

WASHINGTON TIMES: PAKISTAN PLEADS FOR US HELP TO EASE INDIA’S GRIP

Ambassador Dr. Khan had a detailed discussion with the Washington Times’ editorial team, briefing them on the latest situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The Ambassador said that the United States and the international community must do more to pressure India to end its militarized curfew over Kashmir. He pointed out that India's recent moves in Kashmir are not just about the dispute over land but the right of self-determination of the people. Ambassador stated that India has actually laid down the ground to influence the demography of the state as it wants to alter the ethnic composition of the state. Read more here.

AMBASSADOR SPEAKS TO WASHINGTON DIPLOMAT

Ambassador Khan met with The Washington Diplomat for an in-depth interview in which he spoke about Pakistan-U.S. relations, Pakistan’s economy, as well as the Afghan peace process and regional security. Speaking on the Kashmir crisis, the Ambassador said “there is a growing recognition (in both the White House and the Pentagon) of that fundamental shift that has taken place in Pakistan, with our prime minister and our leadership being committed to putting our house in order, to pursue peace regionally, to create conditions domestically and to enable the economic rejuvenation and revival of the country.” He added that the international community’s thinking about India may also be changing in light of recent tensions in Kashmir— which may explain been India's prime minister's response to the renewal of the U.S.-Pakistan alliance in Afghanistan. Read the full interview here.

A Voice For Kashmir: Pakistani Diplomats Shine Spotlight on Kashmir in the U.S. Press
Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan met with Mr. Dave Lawler, World News Editor of AXIOS.Com. Ambassador Khan called for a stronger global pushback against India and said Pakistan would "go all the way" to "defend the rights" of Kashmiris. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan’s claims of a coming "genocide" in Kashmir were sparked by the severity of the crackdown and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s complicity in 2002 riots that saw hundreds of Muslims killed. Ambassador Khan denied that Pakistan would itself foment violence in Kashmir but predicted that Modi would use such fears to cover up the repression, justify the presence of additional troops in Kashmir, and then pass the buck on to Pakistan. Ambassador stated that the BJP’s vision for Kashmir was the same as its vision for all of India: “To turn it into a Hindu state.” Ambassador Khan emphasized that President Trump had made a “good faith” offer to mediate in Kashmir before conceding that Pakistan “would hope to see more.” Read more.

Press Minister Responds to the New York Times

In a letter to the New York Times, responding to the article, “Pakistan Finds Few Options in Its Dispute With India” Press Minister Abid Saeed said,

“The most obvious option is for India to loosen its stranglehold on Kashmir and act in the spirit and the letter of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions. India, while taking actions consistent with the aggression and repression it has perpetrated in the internationally recognized disputed region of Kashmir for decades, has gone a dangerous step further by totally renouncing those legal commitments and thumbing its nose at President Trump’s offer to Prime Minister Imran Khan to mediate the dispute. Pakistan stands ready to do what is right for the Kashmiri people, who have suffered enough.”
STAND WITH KASHMIR

August saw Kashmiri-Americans, in places like Texas and Michigan, and Americans of all stripes stand up to denounce India’s illegal actions in Kashmir.
The Embassy of Pakistan marked the 73rd Independence Day with a ceremony to express solidarity for our Kashmiri sisters and brothers facing violations of human rights in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan hoisted the Pakistani flag with the national anthem in the backdrop. Kashmiris from the DC-Virginia-Maryland area, holding Kashmiri flags, also attended the ceremony.

Independence Day messages of President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan were read out by senior officers of the Embassy. In their messages, both leaders emphasized the need to remain united to preserve the independence and path towards development and prosperity. Their messages reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to extend moral, legal and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir.

The Embassy also arranged a photo exhibition showing sufferings of the Kashmiris at the hands of Indian occupation forces to highlight India’s blatant disregard for humanity and human rights in Kashmir.
Stand With Kashmir: Kashmir Protests Around The USA

Hundreds of people protested against the Indian occupation of Kashmir outside the United Nations HQ in New York. Members of the Sikh community were also present in support of Kashmiris.


Members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities held a protest in Houston, Texas against atrocities of the Indian Armed Forces in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Members of Kashmiri and Pakistani communities in Washington DC protested outside the Indian Embassy against Indian aggression in Kashmir.
THE WORLD IS WATCHING

An overwhelming number of American policy-makers, press outlets, international organizations, human rights groups and others, have added their own voices to the wave of global condemnation.
Prime Minister Imran Khan called U.S. President Donald Trump this month to brief him about India’s illegal actions and lockdown in Occupied Kashmir, which had precipitated a serious humanitarian crisis with security implications.

Subsequently, on August 19, President Trump called Prime Minister Khan to apprise him of his conversations with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and underscore the need for restraint and dialogue.

As recently as August 20th, President Trump once again renewed his offer to mediate a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir issue - an offer Pakistan has welcomed, but India has so far rejected.

**Watch President Trump’s remarks on Kashmir**

We continue to be very concerned by reports of detentions and the continued restrictions on the residents of the region. We urge respect for human rights, compliance with legal procedures, and inclusive dialogue with those affected …

We call on all parties to maintain peace and stability along the Line of Control and to prevent cross-border terrorism. We continue to support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and other issues of concern.

The United States is watching the situation in Jammu and Kashmir closely. We continue to call for calm and restraint, including on rhetoric...We note the broader implications of the developments in Jammu and Kashmir and the potential for increased instability in the region.”

U.S. State Department Spokesperson
US lawmakers urged India to end the occupation of Kashmir, citing concerns about ongoing communications blackouts, increased militarization of the region, enforcement of curfews and human rights violations by India.

“As the world’s largest democracy, India has an opportunity to demonstrate for all its citizens the importance of protecting and promoting equal rights, including freedom of assembly, access to information, and equal protections under the law.

Transparency and political participation are the cornerstones of representative democracies, and we hope the Indian government will abide by these principles in Jammu and Kashmir.”

Senator Bob Menendez, Ranking Member Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Representative Eliot L. Engel, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee
The World is Watching: The View From The Hill

Congressman Adam Smith, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee:

“There are legitimate concerns about the ongoing communications blackouts, increased militarization of the region, and enforcement of curfews. The constituents I met with all had family in Kashmir or Jammu. Some have visited the region since the change in Indian policy.

They were afraid for their own lives, and terrified for the safety of their family members who remain in the region.

They saw a region under siege with its residents isolated, without an ability to communicate at all outside of the region. The Indian government must take steps to reduce these fears and offer greater transparency for the world to see what is happening there.

Recognition for the potential disparate impact of this decision on the region’s Muslim population and other minority groups – now and in the future – is imperative.”

Congressman Don Beyer:

“Very concerned about the situation in Kashmir, particularly the ongoing communications blackout. Have heard from constituents cut off from their families who are worried about what will happen to them. Despite the blackout, the world is watching.”

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar:

“We should be calling for an immediate restoration of communication; respect for human rights, democratic norms, and religious freedom; and de-escalation in Kashmir. International organizations should be allowed to fully document what is happening on the ground.”

Congressman Ted Lieu:

“I am hearing from constituents who cannot contact family members in Kashmir and have no idea if they’re safe. Democracies like India should not be engaging in a communications blackout that has lasted over three weeks. We need de-escalation, not the hiding of what’s happening.”
The World is Watching: The View From The Hill

Congressman Andy Levin:

“The India of Narendra Modi is not the India I fell in love with. Prime Minister Modi may have broken Indian law. He has trampled democratic norms and fundamental human rights. And he has heightened long-simmering tensions between India and Pakistan, both nuclear-armed powers. Rather than unilateral action, this decades-old, immensely complex issue will require thoughtful solutions crafted by the parties and global community working together. We must not let actions like those taken by India become a global trend... the United States House of Representatives must stand up for human rights in Kashmir and around the world, ideally on a bipartisan basis, and with the Senate at our side.”


Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal:

“Deeply troubled by reports of Indian Government’s arrests of 2,000 in Kashmir. This on top of reported plans for large-scale government detention camps for Muslims. Using fear and hyper-patriotism to suppress dissent is as detrimental in India as it is in America. Democracy requires transparency, due process and freedom of assembly and speech. These are absolutely essential, even in the most complex of situations.”

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke:

“Prime Minister Modi has no right to do what he is doing to the people of Kashmir. And it is up to us to raise our voices for justice, to raise our voices for self-governance and for no discrimination based on religion. Prime Minister Modi should know better. We all must raise our voices ... This will be an issue front and center for the US Congress to deal with and we are going to deal with it.”
August 9, 2019

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

My Pakistani-American and Kashmiri-American constituents have long brought the issue of Kashmir to my attention. I write today with grave concern over the current situation in Kashmir and Jammu – a potential flashpoint for conflict between nuclear-armed neighbors India and Pakistan, who have a long history of tension and war. Please advise me what steps you intend to take to address this situation for the people of Kashmir and Jammu.

For decades, unrest in Kashmir has been simmering. When I have brought my concerns to the attention of the area and members of the administration, it has been made clear to me (and understandably so) that the United States was intensely interested in Pakistan’s western border with Afghanistan and the freedom with which terrorists and other criminals crossed that border on a regular basis. The point made to me repeatedly was that there could be no attention paid to the problems in Kashmir or the eastern border with India until the western border was sufficiently addressed.

Now, I am concerned that Prime Minister Modi’s recent actions in Kashmir have contributed to tensions that are now higher than ever, and Kashmir must become a major focus of the administration.

Prime Minister Imran Khan’s recent visit to the United States demonstrates that our countries are now working together to counter terrorism and other security issues along Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan. The Indian government’s recent actions in the territories of Jammu and Kashmir demand that we also focus on this area as well.

On Monday August 5, 2019, the Indian government revoked Article 370 of India’s Constitution, a provision that has been in place since 1949 to guarantee the state of Jammu and Kashmir a special status with its own constitution, flag, and autonomy over almost all matters other than defense and foreign affairs. In taking this step, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi cut off internet and communications services to the state, placed hundreds of political leaders under house arrest, imposed a curfew on the millions of residents of the state, and deployed tens of thousands of Indian troops into the state, who joined several hundred thousand troops already deployed in one of the most militarized locations in the world.

Hundreds of American citizens visiting the territory have been left stranded with limited options to communicate and leave the territory, and the Kashmiri families of thousands of American citizens remain cut off from communication with their families and under martial law. I am concerned about the safety of our citizens and their families, as well as the human rights of all Kashmiris who are impacted by these measures.

This action by the Indian government risks provoking mass social unrest, as the people of Kashmir have long sought greater autonomy, freedoms, and the opportunity for self-determination. These new restrictions on the autonomy of the state and the rights of Kashmiris could also embolden extremists and terrorists to act.

The April 2019 New York Times article, “Under Modi, a Hindu Nationalist Surge Has Further Divided India” stated, “Mr. Modi’s supporters say the prime minister and his allies are simply restoring Hindus to its rightful place at the core of Indian society. They argue that there is nothing wrong with emphasizing India’s Hindu history and traditions in a more muscular way.” Many experts warn that the Modi government’s move could embolden Hindu nationalists to engage in acts of violence and discrimination against India’s minority religious groups, including Muslims, Christians, and Sikhs, who are facing increasing attacks throughout the country. I am especially concerned with this action as Eid al-Adha, a significant Islamic holiday, begins tomorrow on August 10.

Please let me know as soon as possible what actions our government intends to take and please advise if I may be of any assistance. We must, as you know, hold true to our values of respecting the human rights of all people, including religious minorities, and we must use our influence to encourage our allies to do the same. We also must do all we can to help prevent a violent confrontation.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress
“The situation in Kashmir remains deeply concerning, with thousands of civilians still detained without charges and with no access to the outside world. Fundamental human rights like free speech and access to information must be protected.”

“Pakistan & India have a chance for peace and to protect human rights at the United Nations Security Council meeting tomorrow. I’m urging, as someone who knows the region, for both nuclear powers to take this opportunity to protect human rights and to promote peace.”
The World is Watching: The U.S. Media

**The Washington Post**

“Modi has stoked Kashmir’s anger and stained all India’s democracy”

Mr. Modi is playing a dangerous game. His sunny vows of transparency aside, the stripping of Kashmir’s autonomy was done in darkness and in the most coercive way possible. Mr. Modi might have fulfilled a dream of Hindu nationalists going back to the 1950s, but he also stained that democracy and most likely stoked anger in Kashmir that will fester long into the future.

Mr. Modi’s promise of “new heights” might turn out to be a dark day for Kashmir and for India’s democracy. The value of any goal must be doubted if it can be achieved only by these dark, oppressive means.

Washington Post [Editorial], August 16, 2019

**The New York Times**

“The Indian government’s decision to revoke the semi-autonomous status of Kashmir, accompanied by a huge security clampdown, is dangerous and wrong. Bloodshed is all but certain, and tension with Pakistan will soar …

the United States, China, the United Nations and other powers with influence over India and Pakistan must urgently do what they can to prevent India’s folly from escalating into a perilous and unpredictable regional crisis.”

New York Times [Editorial], August 5, 2019

FACT: The Kashmir issue is one of the oldest on the UN Security Council (UNSC) agenda, and is recognized as a multi-party dispute since January 1948. #Kashmirwantsfreedom
“India Is Making a Mistake in Kashmir”

The issue India ultimately needs to address in Kashmir …is the lack of agency felt by too many Kashmiris, exacerbated by a suffocating security presence they view as an occupation. Forcibly imposing the central government’s will over the state will only intensify those grievances… Until India finds some way to make Kashmiris feel like full citizens, in control of their lives and their destinies, their land will remain what it has been for far too long: a troubled place, and a threat to peace and prosperity.”

Bloomberg Editorial, August 7, 2019

“India’s Power Grab in Kashmir Puts a Volatile Region at Risk of Conflict and Violence”

“These unilateral, aggressive and provocative acts by the Indian government do no credit to the world’s largest democracy. Restricting civil liberties and cutting off communications are hallmarks of thuggery, not freedom. And needlessly exacerbating tensions in this tensest of regions is irresponsible.”

Los Angeles Times Editorial, August 6, 2019

FACT: Since 1989, when the liberation struggle in IOK started, more than 100,000 Kashmiris have been killed, 22,000 women widowed and 108,000 children orphaned.

#Pakistanstandswithkashmir
The World is Watching: The Global Community

“The shutdown of the internet and telecommunication networks, without justification from the Government, are inconsistent with the fundamental norms of necessity and proportionality. The blackout is a form of collective punishment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, without even a pretext of a precipitating offence. We are gravely concerned about allegations that the whereabouts of some of those detained is not known as well as the general heightened risk of enforced disappearances, which may proliferate against the backdrop of mass arrests and restricted access to the internet and other communications networks.”

UN OHCHR experts, August 22. Read more here.

“The Secretary-General has been following the situation in Jammu and Kashmir with concern… The position of the United Nations on this region is governed by the Charter of the United Nations and applicable Security Council resolutions. The Secretary-General also recalls the 1972 (Simla) Agreement on bilateral relations between India and Pakistan, which states that the final status of Jammu and Kashmir is to be settled by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Secretary-General is also concerned over reports of restrictions on the Indian-side of Kashmir, which could exacerbate the human rights situation in the region. The Secretary-General calls on all parties to refrain from taking steps that could affect the status of Jammu and Kashmir.”

Secretary-General on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Read more here.

“The people of Jammu and Kashmir should not be treated as pawns in a political crisis, and the international community must come together to call for their human rights to be respected.”

Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General of Amnesty International. Read more here.
The World is Watching: The Global Community

The Indian government can’t just claim to be lifting restrictions in Kashmir, but needs to ensure that everyone’s rights are respected…Officials should cease using broad, repressive means to curtail the flow of information, or to prevent people from peacefully assembling and expressing their views.” - *Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch*. Read more [here](#).

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expresses “deep concern over the recent developments in IoK including the escalation of violence by the Indian forces and the measures taken by the Indian authorities that might affect the status of the territory and the rights of the Kashmiri people”. *Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Sami Bakr Diab, August 6, 2019*. Read more [here](#).

Genocide Watch issued an alert urging the members of the United Nations to warn India against committing genocide in Indian occupied Kashmir. The watchdog, created to predict and prevent genocide and other forms of mass murder, in a statement issued in Washington asked the international community to prevent the impending genocide in occupied Kashmir. The organisation also gave a list of risk factors for genocide that are early warnings of massacres in the occupied territory and they include prior genocidal massacres and continuing impunity for such killings, continued armed conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, an exclusionary ideology of Hindutva by Modi led government, communication blackout and cut-off of the territory with rest of the world and widespread violations of basic human rights. Read more [here](#).
The World is Watching: Kashmir Caged

Some of the recent findings of a delegation of Indian politicians after a five-day fact-finding mission to occupied Kashmir.

- There is intense and virtually unanimous anger in Kashmir against the Indian government’s decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A, and also about the way this has been done.
- To control this anger, the government has imposed curfew-like conditions in Kashmir. Except for some ATMs, chemists’ shops and police stations, most establishments are closed for now.
- The clampdown on public life and effective imposition of curfew have also crippled economic life in Kashmir, that too at a time of the Eid-ul-Fitr festival that is meant for abundance and celebration.
- People live in fear of harassment from the government, army or police. People expressed their anger freely in informal conversation, but no-one was willing to speak on camera.
- The Indian media’s claims of a rapid return to normalcy in Kashmir are grossly misleading. They are based on selective reports from a small enclave in the centre of Srinagar.
- As things stand, there is no space in Kashmir for any sort of protest, however peaceful. However, mass protests are likely to erupt sooner or later.
EMBASSY OUTREACH IN THE UNITED STATES
The Pakistani-American community of DC-Maryland-Virginia region celebrated Independence Day Festival at Bull Run Park, Virginia. Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan addressed the gathering and congratulated the community on the occasion. He shared with them an overview of the latest developments in Pakistan-U.S. ties. Ambassador Khan expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri people and urged the community to lend full support to this cause.
Embassy Outreach: PAKISTAN DAY

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS 33RD ANNUAL PAKISTAN DAY FESTIVAL

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan was Chief Guest at the 33rd Annual Pakistan Day festival held at Bull Run Park, Virginia.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL

The Pakistani-American community of DC-Maryland-Virginia region celebrated Independence Day Festival at Bull Run Park, Virginia. Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan addressed the gathering and congratulated the community on the occasion. He shared with them an overview of the latest developments in Pakistan-U.S. ties. Ambassador Khan expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri people and urged the community to lend full support to this cause.
Embassy Outreach: Ambassador Khan Visits Michigan

Ambassador Khan with Senator Gary Peters and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell in Michigan

The Ambassador with Congresswoman Haley Stevens and prominent Pakistani Americans Ashraf Qazi and Asad Malik in Michigan

Ambassador Khan and prominent community members from Michigan

Back to Table of Contents
Embassy Outreach: Hosted at the Embassy

DR. KHAN HOSTS CHAIR, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY RESEARCH

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan hosted the Chairman and members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food Security and Research at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC on 20 August 2019. The delegation was visiting US to exchange views on possibilities of collaboration in Biotechnology for increasing agricultural productivity.

AMBASSADOR HOSTS SOUTH ASIA EXPERTS

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan hosted a working luncheon for the South Asia experts from Washington Think Tanks and briefed them in detail on the evolving crisis in Kashmir and its implications for the broader region.

AMBASSADOR HOSTS GLOBAL UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAM STUDENTS

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan received a group of 135 University students visiting U.S. under the Global-UGRAD Exchange program from across Pakistan. Ambassador Khan said that Educational exchanges remain a key pillar of our relationship with the US.
Embassy Outreach: Dr. Khan Attends Swearing-in of New USAID Mission Director To Pakistan

Ambassador Dr. Asad M. Khan delivered remarks at Swearing-in ceremony of Ms. Julie Koenen, Mission Director to Pakistan. Our development partnership with USAID goes decades back in history and we are committed to continue this partnership going forward.

FACT: The BJP has added 180,000 troops to the more than 700,000 already terrorizing Kashmiris for close to three decades #Kashmirisdying
India, End the Occupation.
FREE KASHMIR NOW!

WE WANT FREEDOM