

Kashmir Crisis:

A Time to Act

Background

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



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 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 notice, the Indian government put Kashmir under a **24/7** 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.

Talking Points

- (1) The blockade and curfew have created a humanitarian crisis in the region. More than 9 million Kashmiris do not have access to medicine, food, communication, and other basic daily life necessities.
- (2) 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.
- (3) By repealing Article 35A 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.



- (4) The act of abrogating articles 35A and 370 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.
- (5) 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 India and Pakistan are nuclear powers.

Hindutva: The Real Threat

India's ruling party, BJP (Bharatiya Janta Party), espouses an ultranationalist and supremacist ideology known as Hindutva. This virulent ideology (distinct from the religion of Hinduism) seeks to expand the existing hegemony of upper-caste Hindus, intensify the ongoing horrendous persecution of Muslims and other minorities and relegate them to the status of second-class citizens.

The RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) movement which is the fountainhead of the

Hindutva ideology, is the real power behind the ruling BJP. This movement has unleashed riots, massacres, and lynching. It is now emboldened to begin a full-scale genocide. Some of the front organizations of the RSS such as the VHP (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) and Bajrang Dal are considered religious militant organizations by the CIA.

The real and present danger faced by Muslims and other minorities in India can be gauged by the fact that the RSS actually idolizes Adolf Hitler. Members of this group also assassinated Mahatma Gandhi for not supporting Hindutva supremacism.



Action Items

- Sign our petition to tell Congress to #StandWithKashmir: www.icnacsj.org/kashmir.
- Call or set up meetings with your elected officials in the House and Senate and urge them to help end the occupation of Kashmir.
- Be active on social media by sharing what's happening in Kashmir, thanking editors and journalists who are raising voices about Kashmir, etc.
- Follow and share CSJ social media pages where we constantly update with the latest news and action items about Kashmir.
- Join and organize rallies/events on Kashmir in your local areas.
- Make sincere du'a for the people of Kashmir.