

KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY SEMINAR

LONDON

05 FEBRUARY 2020

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Participants of this Seminar came together to review human rights abuses against Kashmiri people and discussed other aspects, such as the genesis of the dispute, women victims, on-going humanitarian crisis since 5 August 2019, documented accounts of crimes against humanity, role of international community, regional security and the issue's socio-economic impact. The participants have noted with concern that:

1. Kashmir dispute remains on UN Security Council agenda since 1947;

2. Grievous human rights dimension has been added to this political dispute over decades;
 - There is a long trail of human rights violations, massacres, mass graves, mass rapes, mass blinding, and genocide duly documented by internationally recognised organisations (Amnesty International Report: Losing sight in Kashmir; International People Tribunal's Report: Buried Evidence, 'Do you remember Kunan Poshpora', a tale of harrowing incident of mass rape of Kashmiri women, OHCHR reports on HR situation in Kashmir, 'Being the other' on Nov. 1947 genocide of Kashmiri Muslims, by Saeed Naqvi, etc.);

1. 8 million Kashmiris remain under siege since 5 August, cut off from the outside world;

2. Journalists/media have been denied access;

3. Means of communications remain unavailable;

- Demands by the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights Geneva, OIC, IPHRC, EU and APPG on Kashmir for an independent Fact-Finding Mission to Jammu & Kashmir State under Indian control have been constantly denied;

- Presence of 900,000 Indian Forces in Jammu & Kashmir makes it the world's highly militarised zone;

1. Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and Public Safety Act 1978 are being used without accountability in violation of all the HR conventions and relevant international laws;

2. Reports of prolonged detentions of Kashmiri leaders, activists of self-determination and young Kashmiris, custodial killings, torture and abuses, denial of religious freedom and systemic change in the demography of Jammu & Kashmir, continue to emerge;

3. The siege has taken toll on the lives of infants, children, terminally ill patients, etc; and

- Genocide Alert issued by Genocide Watch for Jammu & Kashmir.

The participants of the Seminar, therefore, call for:

1. Immediate and unconditional lifting of siege and revocation of the unilateral measures of 5 Aug 2019;

2. Immediate, unconditional and independent access to the Fact-Finding Missions;

- International community's immediate intervention to ensure delivery of justice to the Kashmiri victims;

1. Reduction of military presence in J&K;

2. Repeal of AFSPA and PSA;

3. Immediate measures to de-escalate tension in the region;

- International Community and UNSC take note of the serious humanitarian and human rights violations under IV Geneva Convention, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ICC Statute and a series of international human rights treaties and instruments;

- Resolution of Kashmir dispute on priority in accordance with relevant UN Security Council's Resolutions;

We, President AJ&K, Sardar Masood Khan, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Lord Qurban Hussain, Debbie Abrahams MP, Yasmin Qureshi MP, Afzal Khan MP, Naz Shah MP, Muhammad Yasin MP, Ben Emmerson QC, John Howarth, Phil Bennion, Professor Nazir Shauk, Cllr & NEC Member Yasmin Dar and other participants of this seminar express resolve to continue with efforts to redress the human rights situation in Jammu & Kashmir, in particular, and sustainable resolution of the outstanding dispute.