

Consulate General of Pakistan  
Toronto  
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Press Release

Kashmir Solidarity Day (2019)

To express solidarity with the people of the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Consulate General of Pakistan, Toronto and the Friends of the Kashmir Committee, Toronto organized the Kashmir Solidarity Conference in Toronto on 9 February 2019. The conference was addressed by peace activists Mr. Ken Stone, Rev. Karen Rodman as well as the Coordinator of the Friends of Kashmir Committee, Mr. Zafar Bangash as well as the Consul General of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui.

In his inaugural remarks, the Coordinator of the Friends of Kashmir Committee Mr. Zafar Bangash gave an overview of the Kashmir dispute. He urged India to stop state terrorism and act as a partner in efforts to promote peace and security in the region.

In his address, Mr. Ken Stone of Canadian Peace spoke in detail about the human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Stone remarked that free and impartial plebiscite was the only solution to the Kashmir dispute. He condemned the media for failing to report on Kashmir. Mr. Stone called upon the participants to persuade the Canadian government to raise the issue with the Indian government and seek a just solution of the problem in line with the United Nation Security Council's resolutions on Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Rev. Rodman, said that the only solution of the Kashmir issue was free and impartial plebiscite but not in the presence of 700,000 soldiers. Recalling the recent visit of the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to Toronto during which she had called upon Canada to stand against oppression, Rodman reminded all the states of their obligations to the Kashmiri people who are currently under foreign occupation,

In his remarks, the Consul General spoke in detail about the efforts by the occupying power to delegitimize the just struggle of the Kashmiri people. With reference to various humanitarian and human rights instruments, the Consul General reminded the audience of the legitimacy of the Kashmiri struggle. The Consul General also spoke about the need for early resolution of the dispute for durable peace and prosperity in South Asia. In this connection, he particularly mentioned various initiatives by Pakistan to resolve the issue through a political dialogue.

At the end, Mr. Ahmed Khawja, a member of the Friends of the Kashmir Committee proposed a resolution which, inter alia,



- Called on India to cease forthwith all human rights violations against Kashmiri people;
- Called on the government of India to allow UN/Independent investigations into the human rights situation, to establish responsibility and determine appropriate punishment for the perpetrators of such heinous crimes that are against International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law;
- Called on India to withdraw all its troops including Armed Constabulary from Jammu and Kashmir, particularly from cities, towns and villages to enable resumption of normal life and create a suitable environment for the plebiscite to be held under the auspices of the UN as enshrined in UNSC resolutions on Kashmir;
- Requested the United Nations to assume its responsibility of organizing the plebiscite under its supervision;
- Urged the UN and other relevant forums to investigate all massacres, gang-rapes, fake-encounters, forced disappearances, wilful blinding by using pellet guns, committed by the Indian forces and terrorist organizations such as RSS and bring the perpetrators to book;
- Requested all governments to exert bilateral pressure on India to ensure its compliance with international obligations flowing from Humanitarian and Human Rights Law as well as UNSC resolutions;
- Requested all international organizations including the UN, UNHCHR and the OIC to play a meaningful and effective role in the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The resolution was adopted unanimously by the Conference. On the sidelines, a documentary on the current humanitarian situation in IoK was also screened followed by a photo exhibition on the current situation in IoK.

**Toronto**

09 February 2019