



“GENESIS OF KASHMIR DISPUTE AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS”

DATE: 27th October 2016, Thursday

Time: 9 AM to 1 PM

VENUE:

**Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services,
Ataturk Avenue, F/5-2, ISLAMABAD**



SEMINAR REPORT

27th October 2016

FIRST SESSION

A Seminar on the “Genesis of Kashmir Dispute and Humanitarian Crisis” was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Young Parliamentary Forum, in collaboration with Center for Strategic and Contemporary Research, Islamabad. The event took place at the auditorium of Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services in Islamabad.

The event was divided into two sessions. The first was a morning session in which many speakers as well as video speeches of international personalities were displayed. It was followed by a second session in which a panel of experts orated on several subjects and took part in an interactive seminar.

Opening Remarks :



Mr. Salman Javed, Director CSCR inaugurated the seminar by giving opening remarks and introduced the respective topics with brief background of speakers. First he highlighted the importance of Kashmir Black Day and how the Human Rights are being violated in IOK by Indian Security Forces since their occupation in Kashmir.



Welcome remarks were given by Honorable Member of the National Assembly and media coordinator of YPF, Miss Romina Khurshid

Alam, to the respectable speakers and participants of the Seminar. She added that their presence indicated their concern for the issue of HR violations in Kashmir. She stressed on the need for further involvement by all quarters specifically the diplomatic circles, the academia, the intellectuals and the young generation in order to achieve a just and equitable solution to the Kashmir institute.

Mr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria :



The first speaker, Mr. Nafees Zakaria, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, highlighted the genesis of the dispute in his talk titled ‘Black Day: Connivance, Deceit and un-ending Tale of Genocide of Kashmiris by India’.

In his speech he traced the genesis of Kashmir disputed, a legacy of British rule. He drew references from Alastair Lamb’s 30 years research on Kashmir and Victoria Schoffield’s Account as well as quoted from Sir Christopher Beaumont’s Memoirs, which were made public by his son in 2006.

Mr. Zakaria also suggested some books as a reference, written by foreign authors, which revealed how changes were made as a matter of connivance between Lord Mountbatten and Congress Leaders in the 3 June partition plan.

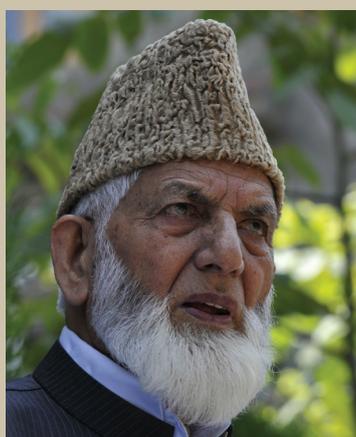
Mr. Nafees quoted from authentic sources that how deceitfully territorial changes were made to favour India. Some boundaries were also narrowed down to North-West, which gave a land route to India to reach the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir by interfering in the Radcliffe Commission of 8th August 1947. Furthermore, the final award of Radcliffe Commission arrived on 12th August and did not publish until 16th August 1947. He concluded that the Kashmir dispute is a consequence of the

violation of basic principles of partition plan and manipulation of demarcation of boundaries with the connivance between Lord Mountbatten and Congress leaders.

Highlighting the painful dimension of human rights violations by Indian occupation forces, Mr. Zakaria traced the trail of HR abuses in IOK from 1990s and highlighted how situation has become worse for Kashmiris.

In the context, he showed a presentation with a documentary entitled: 'Kashmir - Heaven Made Hell', and pictures of the pellet guns' victims pertaining to the ongoing uprising in IOK in which several human rights abuses being employed against peaceful protestors as well as mass graves being unearthed. He asserted that Indian atrocities in Kashmir were actually an act of genocide and that it makes a strong case for an independent international trial on the charges of crimes against humanity and genocide against Indian forces.

Honorable Syed Ali Shah Geelani :



A message from Mr. Syed Ali Shah Geelani, former chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, and one of the senior most members of APHC, was presented by Mr. Muhammad Rashid Masood Zaka, who is a member of the board of directors of PIPS. In the message Mr. Geelani highlighted similarities of brutalities between the Indian and Israeli occupations. He asserted that despite Indian atrocities, New Delhi had failed in breaking the spirit of the Kashmiri people. He displayed gratitude for the nation of Pakistan for always standing with the Kashmiri people.

He blamed Indian occupation and intransigence for the conflict in Kashmir. He pointed out that India was utilizing a two pronged strategy to frame the Kashmiri freedom struggle as terrorism and to trap all dialogue over Kashmir in the trap of bilateralism. He agreed that current geostrategic compulsions make the resolution of the Kashmir dispute difficult. He stressed on the need for gradual creative approaches and means to create a movement in the positive direction towards the realization of people's political rights & goals of freedom.

Honorable Mr. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq :



Mirwaiz Mohammad Umar Farooq is the chairman of the Awami Action Committee, one of the two key factions of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. An audio message by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was also aired in which he highlighted the situation on ground and how the rest of world is cutoff from them. He added that communication is another problem and they have also been facing a curfew for more than 100 days. Apart from deprivation of basic household facilities, Kashmiris are unable to feed their families. The security machinery of India had once again embarked on the strategy of ruthlessly crushing Kashmiris and their resistance to unprecedented brutality. The idea is to terrorize the population into submission.

The entire population of the valley is barricade inside their homes, mobile phone, internet activities are disconnected the press gagged and journalists are harassed and attacked on daily basis. Essential supplies are blocked and hospitals are being attacked with grave consequences for those needing emergency medical attention. Forces are vandalizing all over the valley in residential places, destroying houses and household items vehicles, breaking windows glass, betting up inmates and in some places burning harvested crops and destroying apple fields.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick :



Mushaal Hussein Mullick is a human rights activist and the wife of Yasin Malik, who is the Chairperson of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). She presented her views about 'Half Widows and Forced Disappearance', in which she gave her personal views about the struggle of Kashmiri women. She also spoke about her husband Yasin Malik, who is the Chairperson of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). She emphasized the irresponsibility of medical staff regarding wrong medication which led to paralysis Yasin Malik's right arm. Currently he is admitted in a local hospital without any extra medical facilities and his condition is getting worse.

Kashmir has the highest number of half widows in the world. The most significant targets are leaders of the Kashmiri movement. One of the Kashmiri leaders Asiya Andrabi, has had her husband arrested 24 years ago and is facing the longest arrest in Asia causing her to bring up all her children single handedly. She told how she herself got humiliated when she visited her husband in central jail.

Kunan Poshpora is a notorious rape case, in which Indian forces gang raped the whole village and the statement department issued so many statements, there were proofs about it but till date none of the Indian forces has been held accountable. This shows that New Delhi is using a policy of crimes against women as a tool of subjugation.

Mr. Syed Fiaz Naqshbandi :



Syed Fiaz Naqshbandi, senior representative of APHC (M), spoke about 'Kashmir: A Legal Perspective Indian Laws and Human Rights.' He briefly discussed the history of 27th October and gave message to the whole world that we condemn Indian occupation and wants an end and let enjoy us the fragrance of peace. He added that the situation was much intensified back in 1947 and ultimately the Kashmir matter went to the US. Some resolutions also passed giving the right of self-determination to Kashmiris. Once the resolutions are passed it is binding on member states but these resolutions have been agreed by India as well as by Pakistan.

Besides these resolutions were for the PM of India at that time Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru who had made commitments before the world that India will provide the right of self- determination to Kashmiris. India with the aim influencing world opinion has adopted policy to declare that UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir are outdated therefore, they have become irrelevant. The resolutions of UN on Jammu and Kashmir are not irrelevant because of its non-implementation. The non-implementation cannot distract from its continuous validity. UN resolution is effective, valid and relevant until it is implemented. There are only three situations where UN resolutions become irrelevant.

First, when the time has been mentioned in the UN resolutions second, when the member states went to an agreement that resolved an issue. Third, when the UN passes another resolution by cancelling the other resolution. The excessive use of forces and ammunitions on protestors by Indian Armed forces is a violation of UN basic human rights protocols. At the end he appealed to all member states to send fact finding mission to IOK, so that facts become apparent and he urged the IC to send humanitarian aid and medical assistance in Kashmir and ask India to stop all kinds of human rights violations and help in resolving Kashmir issue as per UN resolution.

Murtaza Shibli :



Murtaza Shibli, a senior journalist who has written extensively on the Kashmir issue, spoke about 'Kashmir: Humanitarian Crisis-Sharing Personal Experience.' He spoke about his time in Indian Occupied Kashmir where he witnessed the hardships of Indian brutality firsthand. Kashmir has the highest number of military persons on earth. Which is over one million, it includes the army, paramilitary forces and police who is so militarized that police also has high-class rifles usually used by the army. Since India making a lot of progress in economic terms that trickle-down effect and inventory of occupation is very clear.

It has militarized the police, which is almost one soldier for six Kashmiris, life is totally under siege. Most of the time a curfew is imposed and now India has breached its own record of curfews. Most of the time it is undeclared, so it does not become officially embarrassed at all, which is the reason the streets of Sri Nagar are vacant most of the time. The resistance is now in the 5th generation. He has witnessed writing on the walls which is very common like "go India, go back", causing Indian forces to attack houses and shops and people have been forced to erase these messages.

Honorable Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq :



Honorable Member of the National Assembly and Secretary General YPF, Miss Shaza Fatima Khawaja, delivered special message of honorable speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq about the Kashmir issue. Mr. Ayaz Sadiq first praised the audience for sparing time for this occasion and appreciated YPF, MoFA and CSCR.

He said that all had gathered here to learn about roots of defenseless and vulnerable Muslims of IOK. Now almost seven decades have passed that India has been trying to crush genuine movement of Kashmiris to their right of self-determination with complete impunity and



Kashmiris have paid a huge price for their struggle. There is systematic effort by India to bring about demographic changes in IOK which is evident by statistics of Muslims whose percentage has been reportedly declined from 79% from 1947 to 68% in 2016 of now.

Indian efforts to equate Kashmir Muslim movement with terrorism have been rejected by the international community. The fact of the matter is that India has unleashed world state terrorism against unarmed Kashmiri Muslims as is evident from narration of atrocities by none other than Kashmiri victims themselves before this sitting. He said that since 8th July, Kashmiris have not been able to offer Jumma prayers and this confirms the persecution of Muslims in Indian Occupied Kashmir and exposes India's false claims of democracy and of being a secular country. Indian brutalities are attracting the world's attention to Indian Occupied Kashmir but India continues to deflect their focus.

SECOND SESSION

Dr Muhammad Khan :



Dr Muhammad Khan has served as the head of Department of International Relations in NDU and was also the Chief Editor of Journal of Contemporary Studies. Session II was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Khan and he spoke about 'Kashmir Dispute and Bearing on Regional Peace and Security.' His speech was primarily focused on security and stability with respect to Kashmir issue which can affect peace in South Asia. An examination of history shows that peace in South Asia cannot be upheld until and unless we resolve the issue of Kashmir.

After these come the UN resolutions, especially the ones passed in March 1951 and January 1957. These were to decide whether Indian Occupied Kashmir and Azad Jammu and Kashmir assembly would decide their fate. Despite all these facts, India started calling Kashmir its integral part. This is a dichotomy in Indian political leadership. The Indian constitution clearly states that Kashmir has a temporary status and it will be ruled by article 370 of Indian constitution. This article is not valid for any other state of India.

When Sushma Swaraj treated Kashmir as an integral part of India, she was violating the Indian constitution giving rise to some contradictions. Furthermore there is a nuclear dimension of Kashmir issue. Kashmir is situated in three most important nuclear states of this region (Pakistan, Indian & China). Unfortunately, India is a country which has been a trouble creator as far as all its neighbors are concerned particularly for Pakistan and to some extent for China. So this trouble-creator nature of India has indeed made this region a hotspot, and Kashmir is basically the cause which has affected peace in South Asia.

Honorable Member National Assembly, Mr. Jaffar Iqbal :



Honorable Member of the National Assembly and Senior Vice President of PML (N), Mr. Jaffar Iqbal spoke about, 'HR violations in Kashmir and its political perspective.' With respect to Kashmir Issue, he said that it is easy for us to express the pain of sufferers in words, with poetry or with photography but it is difficult to live such lives. If we have to talk for this occasion, we could deliver a very good speech, but we have to analyze what we have gained from our struggle during these seventy years.

He recounted his time in many camps of Kashmiri and Afghan refugees in Pakistan. It is very hard for anyone to leave his or her home and move towards an unknown place. He reiterated the need to expend all efforts to incorporate a comprehensive strategy for a solution. Addressing Kashmiris, he added, that our hearts beat with the hearts of Kashmiris. We are always with Kashmiris and consider Kashmir as our integral part.

But our spirit should not be limited to delivering good speeches and resolutions. It is not possible that some major powers will assist us to gain Kashmir or to compel India to abandon it. Kashmir will not be presented to us on a plate. We have to make some effort. We have the power to speak for their legitimate rights. He concluded his speech with the words of Faiz Ahmed Faiz to encourage people to fulfil the cause.

Lord Nazir Ahmad :

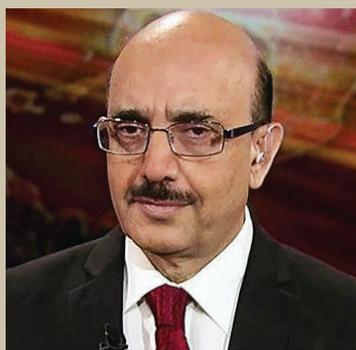
A video recording of Lord Nazir Ahmad, who was a member of the British House of Lords and often speaks about Muslims and Human Rights, was also displayed. In his video message, he reminded the audience that today is 27th October, the day when Indian armed forces landed in Kashmir and occupied it forcefully. At that time the Indian government was under Jawaharlal Nehru who told the world in the UN that we are sending these troops just to maintain the law and order situation there, but the people of Kashmir will be given their right of self-determination.

He also made a promise that free and fair elections will be conducted which is a basic right of Kashmiris. Then they all enacted a fake spectacle that Maharaja Hari Singh has signed the instrument of accession, but Alastair Lamb wrote in his book that this is not possible according to the timeline and even if we agree that he signed such treaty, the rulers of Junagarh and two other states who wanted their accession with Pakistan, were also not allowed. If these rulers were not allowed to annex with Pakistan, then who gave the permission to Hari Singh to accession with India?

Kashmiris from that time till now have been facing brutalities; even this word is insufficient to explain their situation, by the Indian Army. But now the time has come for Kashmir to be freed from brutal Indian rule. After the assassination of Burhan Wani, 15,000 young men have been injured, 115 have been assassinated, 500-700 children have been affected due to the use of pellets guns by Indian forces. We have to convey to the world that there must not be another Black Day and till next year, there must be freedom for Kashmiris.

Miss Hina Malik :

The CEO of Voice of Women Society in the UK, Ms Hina Malik said in another video message that she was standing outside the British parliament in solidarity with the Muslim Kashmiri women and children. She said that being a mother, a daughter, a sister and wife, all these atrocities that are taking place are taking away men from our lives, which are making the children orphans and the women widows. She stressed that the Kashmiri people are looking to the West for support and here we are standing outside this parliament which is big advocate of human rights. The civil society has raised their voices for Kashmiri brothers and sisters in the parliament and vowed to continue to raise their voices until they are heard and a solution and resolution is achieved.

Honorable President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Mr. Masood Khan :

President Masood Khan is the head of state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. A Special Key note Message Video recording for the Seminar was sent from the office of Mr. President. In his message he ensured that the atrocities committed by India will be on international forums. He also mentioned the importance of this seminar and ensured that he will raise the issue in UK conference which he chaired on 27th October.

Giving a historical overview, he stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were denied their right of self-determination, there was a fear

and an expectation that Jammu and Kashmir would accede to Pakistan. This natural and legitimate process was halted by India by the use of force and repression and they never arranged a referendum in its true sense. The UNSC in its several resolutions validated the Kashmiris' right to decide their political future through a plebiscite to be held by the UN in the past 70 years.

India has used naked coercion, economic blandishment, and shame electoral processes to crush the will of the Kashmiris. It has tried very hard to legitimize its occupation but the people of occupied Kashmir clearly reject Indian occupation. After 70 years, the streets of the cities, townships, and villages of Jammu and Kashmir are still resonating with a slogan of freedom and a definitive no to Indian rule. The UN has been hesitant to hold a plebiscite but Kashmiris have been holding a plebiscite, a referendum every day. They still demand their freedom and denounce Indian domination and repression.

Since the current wave of unrest which began on 8th July 2016, India has killed hundreds of Kashmiris, blinded hundreds and critically injured several thousand people. The black day this year has become even more tragic and catastrophic. The whole of Jammu and Kashmir is ignited by the spirit of liberty. Today, young men and women in occupied Kashmir too are chanting the slogans of "give me liberty or give me death" which is reminiscent of the war of independence fought by another nation in a distant land a century ago.

Concluding Remarks :



The seminar was concluded with the note of thanks by Honorable Member of the National Assembly, Miss Romina Khurshid Alam, she stated "No matter who you are, no matter from where you are, I believe you all are Pakistani but you all are humans more and as Humans, our conscience must be shaken at the atrocities committed by a state on innocent and oppressed civilians of Indian Occupied Kashmir. I thank Mr. Nafees Zakria for not only being here but also providing us guidance and organizing this seminar. I also thank Mr. Salman Javed for his tireless effort to bring the issue in limelight with this event. Mr. Fiaz Naqshbandi the representative of Mirwaiz Umer Farooq, Mr. Murtaza Shibli, Miss Mishaal Hussein Mullick, distinguished speakers, media and SDPI. I thank all of you from the core of

my heart on behalf of YPF, MoFA, CSCR and excellent work done by those who worked behind the scenes for the success of this seminar"









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