

**Speaker**



**National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

**Asad Qaiser**

**Islamabad, the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

**Excellency,**

I am writing to inform you of the deteriorating human rights situation in the disputed territory of Indian illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IHOJK) owing to the repressive actions being undertaken by the Indian Government against the innocent Kashmiri people.

On 5 August 2020, it will be a full year since India's illegal and unilateral actions aimed at changing the demographic structure of IHOJK to further disempower and disenfranchise the Kashmiri people. The situation since then has continued to deteriorate.

The current Indian leadership is bent upon perpetuating India's illegal occupation of parts of Jammu & Kashmir by brutally crushing the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their fundamental rights, especially the right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions.

Taking advantage of the world community's preoccupation with the Covid-19 pandemic, Indian occupation forces have further intensified their inhuman crackdown with characteristic brutality and complete impunity. All fundamental freedoms and basic human rights are in abeyance. Mass extra-judicial killings in fake "encounters" and so-called "cordon-and-search" operations, particularly targeting Kashmiri youth; burning and looting of Kashmiris' houses to inflict collective punishment on communities; and indiscriminate use of pellet guns and live ammunition against unarmed peaceful protestors, remain the norm - qualifying as grave human rights violations and crimes against humanity by any definition of international law.

Women and children are the worst affected by the inhuman curfew, blockade and cordon and search operations. They are experiencing torture and inhuman treatment, trauma and sexual violence, with no access to basic necessities especially health services. Such Indian actions are in gross violation of fundamental principles of human rights which call for the protection of women and children in armed conflict, ending impunity and enforcing accountability.

Meanwhile, the Kashmiri leadership and thousands of young Kashmiris, including political activists and civil society representatives, remain under arbitrary detention and incarceration.

The continuing gross human rights violations in IHOJK have been repeatedly exposed by reports of the UN Human Rights machinery, international media, human rights organizations and world parliaments. The UN Office of the High

Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has extensively documented the gross and systematic violations of human rights in IIHOJK in two separate reports, issued in June 2018 and July 2019. The Spokesperson of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and multiple UN Special Procedure Mandate Holders have expressed serious concerns regarding the Indian Government's human rights violations in IIHOJK. Pakistan is also submitting, for official circulation, a document recording India's human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

I am deeply grateful to Parliamentarians and Congressmen from the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and many other Parliaments who have written to their leadership, tabled Resolutions and publicly expressed their concerns regarding the human rights situation in IIHOJK.

In view of the worsening conditions in IIHOJK, arising from India's hegemonic designs and genocidal plans, and the consequential threat to regional and international peace and security, the international community has an in-escapable responsibility to address the situation urgently and decisively.

It is imperative that the Government of India be urged to immediately lift the continuing military siege and rescind the illegal and unilateral actions since 5 August 2019, remove restrictions on communications, movement and peaceful assembly and immediately release the incarcerated Kashmiri political leadership. India also must allow access to the UN observers, international human rights and humanitarian organizations, observers and international media to the occupied territory.

The world community must use all tools at its disposal to hold India accountable for its continuing illegal actions and crimes against the Kashmiri people.

I call upon you to urgently take note of this humanitarian crisis which poses a serious threat to peace and security in South Asia and beyond. The international community must demand that India allow a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN auspices as prescribed in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



(Asad Qaiser)

**H.E. Mr. Henrik Dam Kristensen**  
**President of the Danish Parliament**  
**Kingdom of Denmark**  
**Copenhagen**