

**Consulate General of Pakistan
Los Angeles**

PRESS RELEASE

Seminar on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-Kashmir

The Consulate General of Pakistan in Los Angeles organized a seminar on August 5th, 2024, to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal-Kashmir. The event drew participation of academicians, members of the ethnic media, as well as representatives from major Pakistani-American community organizations based in Los Angeles. The event marked the fifth anniversary of India's unlawful steps in regard to Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

Consul General Mr. Asim Ali Khan briefed the participants on the significance of Youm-e-Istehsal-Kashmir and the grave situation in IIOJK. He underscored that despite the egregious violations of fundamental human rights perpetrated by India against the oppressed Kashmiri people, their determination remains unwavering. The Consul General reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching political, moral, and diplomatic support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir until they realize their inalienable right to self-determination, in accordance with pertinent United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiris. The Consul General also read special messages from the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on this occasion.

Dr. Hatem Bazian, a Professor of Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, delivered the keynote address on the occasion. He elaborated on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as a legacy of colonialism and India's continued illegal occupation. Dr. Bazian drew parallels between the unresolved international disputes of Kashmir and Palestine, highlighting the international community's, particularly the Western world's, silence on these critical issues. He emphasized the illegality of the Indian government's actions in Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) over the past five years from the perspective of international law, including its repression and demographic changes. He also noted the selective application of international law and differentiated moral standards at the international level regarding the Kashmir and Palestine issues.

Other speakers representing the media, the Pakistani-American community, and elected officials condemned the atrocities committed by Indian occupation forces in IIOJK and urged the international community to grant the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. They highlighted the critical importance of upholding human rights for all without discrimination and lamented the silence of Western countries and the failure of international dispute resolution mechanisms in addressing the Kashmir dispute.

The Consulate General also screened a documentary highlighting significance of the day and to highlight its implications in the context of regional peace and security.

5 August 2024
