



Kashmir Special Edition

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF PAKISTAN**

Los Angeles

2019-2020



**Spotlighting Kashmir (IOK) atrocities across West Coast**

**[www.pakconsulatela.org](http://www.pakconsulatela.org)**



## **Message by H. E. Asad Majeed Khan** Ambassador of Pakistan to the USA

Pakistan, ever since its independence, has remained steadfast in extending its moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmir cause and has never wavered from its principled stance despite Indian belligerence and aggression. People of Jammu & Kashmir too, have deep love for Pakistan and no amount of Indian State brutality could ever suppress this affinity. Kashmiris, to this day, are continuing with their just struggle for the right to self-determination promised to them by the United Nations through its Security Council resolutions. This is also a collective moral obligation of the free world, which remains unfulfilled.

While the history of state brutality in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK) is decades old, its severity reached new highs since Indian government's abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A of the constitution on August 5th last year. Thus, putting an end even to the nominal and sham autonomy given to the Kashmiris. To brutally quell any resistance and dissent by the Kashmiri people, IOJK has been converted into the largest prison in the world with gross human rights violations perpetuated by the Indian state. Even today, IOJK remains under a state of continuous lockdown. Furthermore, the Coronavirus pandemic has been used to impose a lockdown within a lockdown. Kashmir is, in effect, under a "double lockdown."

The world stood witness to this unrelenting Indian brutality as the perseverance of Kashmiris exposed Indian aggression against innocent people. The plight of Kashmiris received unprecedented attention in the United States electronic and print media. The tireless efforts made by Kashmiris and Pakistani-American Diaspora to bring the issue to congressional attention deserve special mention. Numerous US Senators and Congressmen openly expressed concern about human rights abuses taking place in IOJK. For the first time, the plight of innocent Kashmiris echoed in the Congress during Special Hearings of the Asia Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee as well as the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. The US Congress is also considering two resolutions specifically focused on atrocities in IOJK. All this would not have been possible without joint efforts of civil society, media, Kashmiris and Pakistani-American Diaspora. Today, there is more awareness in the United States about the crisis in Kashmir than ever before. However, we must not become complacent and these efforts must continue. I would urge you to regularly update the people around you, including your congressional representatives, about the latest situation in IOJK. Lastly, I want to congratulate the Consulate General of Pakistan, Los Angeles, for its efforts to enlighten the people living on the West Coast, about the Kashmir Issue. This Special Edition, highlights some of the activities undertaken by various stakeholders, based in the West Coast, during the last few months, for the Kashmir cause. I am sure, you will find it useful. Let us all continue to work together to uphold the rights of Kashmiri people and the principles of human rights and freedom.



## Message by Abdul Jabbar Memon Consul General of Pakistan, Los Angeles

Since August 5th, 2019, The Government of India has imposed a merciless lockdown over eight million people in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Today, the use of torture, enforced disappearances and restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly are stark realities in this territory. India's occupying forces are currently, with complete impunity, perpetrating unspeakable crimes against the Kashmiri people. The indefensible curfew and communications blackout going on for nearly 10 months is illustrative of state-sponsored oppression that India has wreaked on innocent Kashmiris for decades. The COVID-19 pandemic has put additional strain on the affected population of Kashmiris as India has further tightened its grip over Occupied Jammu & Kashmir by deploying over 900,000 troops in order to limit public life. This situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir requires creating further awareness among the public living on the U.S. West Coast about the human rights' atrocities being committed by the Government of India.

As the pandemic continues, because of lockdown in our area of jurisdiction, it remains a daunting challenge for the Consulate General how to effectively continue spreading the truth about the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Within the Consulate's jurisdiction, the consular corps, university student communities, elected federal representatives of the U.S. government including members of Congress as well as the larger 'West Coast civil society are the key advocacy groups with whom we continue to engage and convey our message. The objective was conveniently achieved by sensitizing the Pakistani community, engaging the Kashmiri American diaspora across the U.S. West Coast and maintaining outreach with student leaders at some of the top universities in this region. We trust that these groups play an effective role in voicing truth about India's atrocious conduct in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The guidance and support of the Ambassador of Pakistan Dr. Asad Majeed Khan remains extremely vital to the outreach campaign. The dynamic assistance of the Deputy Consul General Mr. Shoaib Sarwar has been key to maintaining effective communication and liaison with all concerned stakeholders within the Consulate's jurisdiction. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Asif Mahmood who gracefully extended valuable support to arrange our various interactions with members of local, state and federal governments. Dr. Mahmood was instrumental in petitioning the first-ever hearing on the situation in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir conducted by the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee last year. "Kashmir Special Edition" has been an important effort in exposing India's socio-political & military malfeasance within Occupied Jammu & Kashmir by highlighting all the interactions with key congressional representatives, peaceful protests by West Coast residents, visual images of Indian forces' atrocities viewed through digital screens on mobile vans and seminars held at various places.

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly slowed the pace of the outreach campaign, but this mission is committed to reviving our efforts on digital platforms through hosting webinars and video conferences on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir. No doubt, this is a battle of hope against overwhelming odds and courage over fear but through it all, the Kashmiri people have persisted, unrelenting with the utmost pride, to deny India's gratification of subjugating them. Pakistan will remain committed to advocating for the Kashmiri cause at every available forum.



## Message by Dr. Asif Mahmood

I have been living in the United States for the last 30 years and I certainly have great pride in being an American. I am a citizen of a nation where freedom, equality and liberty are important components enshrined within its Constitution. It's a country where human rights are respected and the rule of law reign supreme and justice is dispensed with after fair and due process. Faith in such towering principles has become part of my conscience and it pains me greatly when I witness injustice happening elsewhere in the world. I would urge anyone with a moral compass to stand up and speak the truth.

Since August 5th 2019, through illegal unilateral actions, India has attempted to deprive the Kashmiri people of their very identity. The global civil society including major human rights & advocacy organizations, the global media and the larger international community are unanimous in their opposition to India's belligerent incursions in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. During this critical phase, when members of the Pakistani & Kashmiri Diasporas approached me for assistance in reaching out to the U.S. members of Congress to address these atrocities, I extended them all possible support in this effort. My continued support stems from my core principles and the dire urgency for action. I understood that Kashmiris severely affected by India's brutal repression couldn't be left alone. I took it as a moral responsibility to initiate and arrange multiple meeting with public servants across the spectrum to expand awareness about India's atrocities against innocent Kashmiris. The series of official meetings with Congressional leaders proved productive and yielded a significant response in the form of an historic hearing on Kashmir by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, Pacific and Non-Proliferation.

I acknowledge the role of the Ambassador of Pakistan Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and Consul General Abdul Jabbar Memon and his team for their effective and timely coordination which made this task manageable and made it a result-oriented initiative. I am also happy to share that many of my Indian friends including Indian origin Members of US Congress who stood by my side through this time, continue to remain supportive of these efforts. They continue to provide me all possible moral and material support in bringing to the forefront this important cause. This is a question about what's right and what's wrong. As a citizen on this country, I have a responsibility to side with the truth and do what is right. I hope and I pray that all Americans who firmly believe in the values embedded within our constitution, will do the same.



## Message by Victoria Schofield

Author of **Kashmir in the Crossfire**

British Author, Historian, Biographer and Journalist

I first visited the valley of Kashmir in 1981. Since that time, both as a journalist and historian, I have devoted a large part of my writing career trying to understand the complexities of the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir which first began when the subcontinent was partitioned in 1947 and India and Pakistan fought its first war, leaving the former princely state de facto divided along a ceasefire line (renamed line of control (LOC) in 1972). Since then, despite intermittent talks between the respective governments of India and Pakistan, no resolution of the issue was agreed; while successive Indian governments claim that the entire state is an integral part of India by virtue of the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India in 1947, Pakistan maintains that the accession was 'fraudulent' and consequently has no validity.

When I spoke at the Congress briefing on Human Rights in South Asia on 8 October 2019, I was asked a pertinent question: 'Why, should the United States' government be interested in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir?', which, since the early 1990s has been the location of an ongoing insurgency against India in the valley of Kashmir. At the time of my visit to Washington DC, the Kashmiri inhabitants of the valley were in the grips of an unprecedented 'lockdown'; all internet facilities had been suspended and a curfew imposed following India's controversial announcement on 5 August revoking Article 370 of the Indian Constitution granting 'special status', (a pre-requisite when the Maharajah agreed to join the newly created Indian dominion in 1947); instead the state was to be divided into two new 'Union Territories': Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (including those areas administered by Pakistan).

My answer was simple: 'Because it is too dangerous to neglect, the consequences of instability not only affecting the lives of those living in the region but worldwide: both countries possess nuclear weapons, they are sitting on a demographic time bomb, and, as their populations increase exponentially, they are running out of water; compared with military expenditure, development, poverty eradication and education is low on their list of priorities. This volatile situation, I said, which has persisted for over seventy years, affects the entire international community. Most importantly, when the Kashmiris right to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' – such as we in the western world enjoy – is systematically and arbitrarily curtailed, from a humanitarian perspective, their suffering should be on all our consciences.

Victoria Schofield is the author of *Kashmir in the Crossfire* (1996), *Kashmir in Conflict* (2000, 2003, 2010). A revised edition will be published in 2021.

# US Congress raises concern over Kashmir (IOK)

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Honorable Kenneth I. Juster  
United States Ambassador to India  
U.S. Embassy New Delhi  
Shantipath, Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi – 110021  
INDIA

The Honorable Paul W. Jones  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
U.S. Embassy Islamabad  
Diplomatic Enclave Ramna 5  
Islamabad  
PAKISTAN

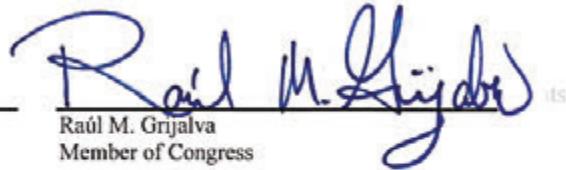
Dear Ambassadors Juster and Jones,

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. It has now been nearly more than a month since the Indian government shut off communications to, from, and within Kashmir. This is a deeply ominous sign that is incompatible with both democratic and human rights norms. Coupled with the enforced curfew, it represents an unacceptable restriction on the freedoms of expression, assembly, and movement.

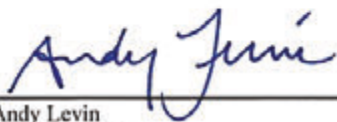
Several of our offices have heard from several Kashmiri-Americans who have, like Kashmiris around the globe, been unable to reach their family members and loved ones within Jammu and Kashmir. Although the reporting of what is happening inside Kashmir has necessarily been piecemeal and incomplete because of the communication shutdown, the reports we are all



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



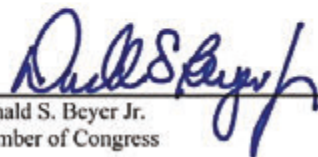
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

## Congressional Briefing on Kashmir (IOK)



## Congressional Hearing on Kashmir (IOK)



## Engaging Conversation with Senator Kamala Harris on Kashmir (IOK) crisis.

"We have to remind the Kashmiris that they are not alone in the world. We are keeping track on the situation. There is a need to intervene if the situation demands".

--- Senator Kamala Harris





## Exchanging views with Senator Cory Booker on Human Rights Violations in Kashmir (IOK)



"We are a nation that stands for values whether its freedom of expression, whether its freedom of speech and to be silent when challenges are going on whether they are in Kashmir, whether with Uighurs in China, we must speak up with a collective voice for human rights and for the well-being of all peoples. It's a service to democracy when people are not silent and speak up for these values."

--- Senator Cory Booker

## Briefing Senator Ed Markey on Kashmir lockdown and communication blockade



"The Rohingya fled a campaign in Burma to erase their existence only to face a campaign in Bangladesh to erase their experience. Indonesia, Kashmir, Bangladesh: there is a disturbing trend of the most vulnerable populations in Asia being silenced with communications blackouts."

--- Senator Ed Markey

## A wide ranging discussion on Kashmir (IOK) conflict with Senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee & Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, Congressman Brad Sherman



"Yesterday, I hosted several of my colleagues in a meeting with Ambassador Wells, the top State Department official focused on South Asia. Most of our discussions focused on Kashmir, both the immediate human rights situation and the legal status of Kashmir. We will soon be holding a hearing in my Subcommittee to discuss human rights in South Asia. We will discuss, among other things, the need to restore communications and restore civil liberties in Kashmir (IOK)."

**— US Congressman Brad Sherman**



# Meeting with Congressman Eliot Engel



# Meeting with Congressman Ami Bera



# An Intense discussion with members of U.S. Congress on Kashmir conflict



★ Congressman Brad Sherman ★ Congressman Tom Malinowski ★ Congressman Mike Levin  
★ Congressman TJ Cox ★ Congressman Jeff Van Drew



# Discussing Kashmir (IOK) crisis with US House of Representatives



# Meetings with US Congressmen



**Congressman Jim Acosta**



**Congressman Alan Lowenthal**

## An engaging conversation with Congresswoman Judy Chu & Congressman Gil Cisneros on Human Rights abuses in Kashmir (IOK)



"Thousands of families in the US have been unable to contact family in Jammu and Kashmir since the blackout started on August 5. Today, 14 Members of Congress are urging India to demonstrate leadership, lift the restrictions, & address humanitarian concerns"

— **Congresswoman Judy Chu**



"The situation in Kashmir is deeply troubling. I'm closely monitoring the situation and hope that when Congress comes back into session, that we act to ensure the people of Kashmir are treated with respect and their basic human rights are protected."

— **Congressman Gil Cisneros**

## Updating Congressman Mike Levin about Indian brutalities in Kashmir (IOK)



"We must call attention to the situation in Kashmir, where the Indian government has left millions stranded without any way to contact family and friends. Schools have been closed and public meetings banned. This is not how democracies are supposed to act."

— Congressman Mike Levin

## Meeting with US Representative Tony Cardenas to discuss the Kashmir conflict



"It is important that we understand the severity of the situation. The people of Kashmir need access to clean water, food, and access to information and school. The dispute over Kashmir will only be solved when India, Pakistan, and the leadership of Kashmir come to the table."

— Congressman Tony Cardenas



## Meeting with Congressman Ted Lieu



"I am also hearing from constituents who cannot contact family members in Kashmir and have no idea if they're safe. Democracies like India should not be engaging in a communications blackout that has lasted over three weeks. We need de-escalation, not the hiding of what's happened."

--- Congressman Ted Lieu

## Prayer service at Fame Church to bring peace in Indian Occupied Kashmir



# Kashmir Black Day



# Defence and Kashmir Solidarity Day

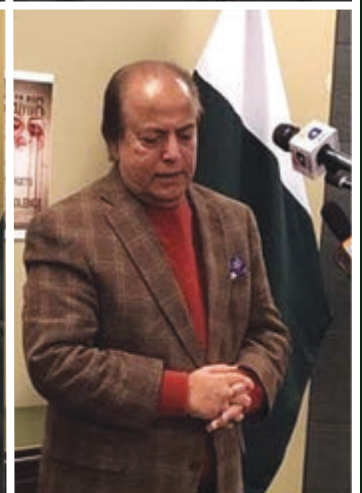


Consul General of Pakistan Mr. Abdul Jabbar Memon, Deputy Consul General Mr. Shoab Sarwar , Mr. Irfan Murtaza, Poet/Artist & Mr. Aijaz Balkhi addressed the audience



A large gathering of Pakistani American community members attended the Kashmir Solidarity Day at the Consulate General of Pakistan

# Kashmir Solidarity Day at the Consulate



# Kashmir Hour at the Consulate



# Briefing about Kashmir in Seattle



**Mr. Abdul Jabbar Memon**  
Consul General of Pakistan

# Lecture at East West Center, Hawaii



**Mr. Abdul Jabbar Memon**  
Consul General of Pakistan

# Pakistan Day Los Angeles, California



## Protest for Kashmir in Los Angeles, California



## Protest for Kashmir in San Francisco, California





# Protest for Kashmir in Hollywood, California



# Protest for Kashmir in Seattle, Washington



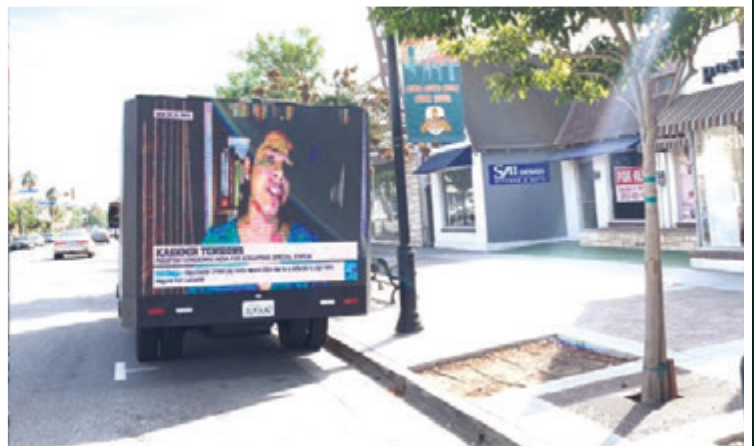
## Protest for Kashmir in Fremont, California



## Protest for Kashmir in Bay Area, California



# Digital Billboards in Los Angeles, California



# CONSULATE GENERAL OF PAKISTAN

*Los Angeles*



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