

*Consolidation and Integration of The State of Jammu and Kashmir with
the Republic of India (CIFJKINDIA)*

India Awareness Forum
[previously, Bharat Awareness Forum (BAF)-USA]
1765 Lazy River Lane,
Atlanta GA 30350 USA

To

The Consulate General Of India
25 Bligh St
Sydney 2000

Dear Consul General

In these times of religious fervor and terrorism the international community is taking a step in stamping out terrorism from the face of the earth. In many instances terrorism is carried out in the name of freedom and often "freedom fighters" are called martyrs, their children and family glorified by some self interested radicals. It is no longer sufficient for countries to be selective in combating terrorism; terrorism must be eliminated at the very source. Else, the epidemic that we are witnessing in the world today cannot be conquered. It is time to call a spade a spade, a terrorist a terrorist. We know that countries and societies have achieved freedom by other means as exemplified by the lives of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Bishop Tutu to name a few. Terrorism has never liberated anyone, it never will. We urge that the Government of India takes a strong stand in eliminating terrorism and liberating the people of Jammu and Kashmir from fundamentalist forces. The Government cannot shed its responsibilities to any citizen of India including those living in suppression and distress under Pakistan's and Chinese occupation beyond the line of control. The Government of India cannot absolve itself of its responsibilities to the people living in these areas.

That the people of Jammu and Kashmir seek an "independent Kashmir" ruled by "Kashmiris" is a myth propagated by some territorially ambitious and spiritually defunct Mullahs glorifying Jihadism in Pakistan. As the President of USA, Mr. Bush loves to paraphrase, "they hate our freedom". Unable to tolerate the freedom and liberty enjoyed by the majority of J&K Muslims, these perpetrators of terrorism pretend to be genuinely interested in the welfare of Kashmiris and do not ever answer the crucial question: **After independence what happens next?** It is time to look at the frightening possibility of an independent Kashmir as envisaged by these patrons of peace and liberty. Once they are able to have a hold on J&K will they not Talibanise it? Already there have been several instances where acid has been thrown on the faces of young Kashmiri women because of their reluctance to wear the 'veil'. Do Kashmiris want a Talibanised Kashmir?

The state of Bangladesh is an example for the future of Kashmir. The tryst with democracy of the erstwhile "East Pakistan" which obtained its freedom from the British in 1947 turned out to be only short lived. Being ruled by religious zealots exploited by

An eye for an eye will leave the whole world blind.

Mahatma Gandhi

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Pakistani military forces it managed to get out of the tyranny of Pakistan in 1971 and liberated as “Bangladesh” only to be taken over by jihadis who didn’t think twice about assassinating the father of the nation, who fought for their freedom, Sheik Mujibur Reheman. And now, haven’t these zealots aligned themselves with their very oppressors – the Pakistan ISI, in the name of religion? Do Kashmiris deserve to go the way of Bangladesh? Is the world going to support this and is the Government of India going remain silent on this?

The record of Pakistan in democracy leaves much to be desired. Hardly has the state been under democratically elected governments since independence 55 years back. Two former prime ministers are in exile and one assassinated. The country has abandoned democracy and bedded with jingoistic religious fundamentalism. Shia – Sunni violence is common in Pakistan, mosques of the minority Shias are bombed, journalist are butchered and silenced (Daniel Pearl), foreign nationals and investments are eliminated in cold blood. Does the world want Kashmir to be a part of this fundamentalism?

There is no democracy between Tel Aviv and Delhi – yet these people cry out for the freedom and self rule of Kashmiris? Does the world want Kashmir to be a part of this jingoistic dictatorship where capital punishment, honor killings are revered and admired?

Has the world ever wondered about the absence of terrorism in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir? After all if Kashmiris are really fighting after all they should be fighting for independence from Pakistan too, shouldn’t they?

The development of Indian Administered Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir is for the world to see and compare. In one area the people elect their Chief Minister, always a Kashmiri and on the other side they are appointed by a dictator a few thousand kilometers away – always a non Kashmiri and loyal to Islamabad? Do Kashmiris need a govt head to be appointed by a “extremist” after independence? Already Pakistan has ceded nearly 20% of the part of Jammu and Kashmir which it has itself illegally occupied to China, in return for weapons and atomic know how. While Pakistan speaks about the “will of the people”, it did not conduct a referendum in that part which it gave away to China for getting Nuclear support; and subsequently Pakistan’s Nuclear program head Dr A Q Khan handed over the know-how to terrorists.

Kashmir and Kashmiris have had a wonderful, colorful and glorious history. They have made innumerable contributions to literature and culture Please do not destroy this culture and replace it with a jihadian one. All Pakistan has to offer is training in Jihadi techniques in fundamentalist training camps in the country; recent bombings in UK and ones in US all had links to Pakistan. We want the children of J&K to have the choice of becoming Doctors, Scientists, Engineers - anything but being forced to become suicide bombers. Please don’t let this happen to them.

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We the undersigned demand that the Government of India awaken from its deep slumber, shed its apathy to its citizens and prevent further genocide and exploitation of people of Jammu and Kashmir by taking diplomatic steps to demand withdrawal of Pakistani forces from areas occupied by Pakistan and work towards the integration of J&K with the secular state of India.

Further, we demand that any negotiation the Government of India might enter with any external power (whether Pakistan or USA or the UN) has the prior approval of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha which represent democratically elected representatives of the people of India. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is a national heritage and it is not a piece of material possession of the Government be used as a bargaining tool for some advantage, however it could be perceived by the Government of India.

Thanking you very much,

Yours sincerely,
Pranawa C Deshmukh
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Mahatma Gandhi

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