



JKCHR – Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations

Established in 1984

**“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

By Fax and By Email

17 August 2016

Excellency Archbishop Antonio Mennini, Apostolic Nuncio
Vatican Apostolic Nunciature in London
54 Parkside, Wimbledon
London SW19 5NE

Excellency

Sufferings of the People of Kashmir

I wish to convey on behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who remain under a continued 40th day curfew imposed by Indian army, the following for the urgent consideration and intervention of His Holiness, The Pope:

1. The interest of the Catholic Church in Kashmir dates back to May 1864, when the Church sent Dr William Elmslie as head of Medical Mission to Kashmir. He opened his dispensary on the morning of 9th May, 1865. He would perform operations under the trees. He worked there for 8 years and died in 1872 on his way out of Kashmir. Rev. T. R. Wade worked with him in the early days of this Medical Mission. Lieut. Robert Thorp was murdered in 1867 by the Hindu ruler for highlighting the sufferings of the Muslims of Kashmir.
2. Rev. J. H. Knowles arrived in Kashmir in 1881 and started Mission Schools in Kashmir. St. Joseph's School at Baramulla, incidentally my home town, is one of the oldest missionary schools in Kashmir valley.
3. Kashmir has entered into a Stand Still Agreement with the Government of Pakistan in August 1947. In October 1947 it entered into a provisional agreement with the Government of India, granting a temporary admission to the Indian army to protect life, honour and property. This provisional admission is pending ratification or

F-624, Ground Floor, Satellite Town, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

t: 051 44 55 638 f: 051 44 12 744 e: pakistanchapter@jkchr.com

JKCHR - P.O. BOX 241, London SW17 9LJ, United Kingdom

t: +44 2033 711 202 f: +44 2084 329 503

e: info@jkchr.com www.jkchr.com

rejection under a UN supervised free vote of the people. United Nations has placed Indian army under three restraints, on its number, behaviour and location.

4. Until 31st March 1959 Indian citizens required a visa (Entry Permit) to enter into Kashmir. Unfortunate as it is, today it is Indian citizen or its administration that decides about the entry or exit of a Kashmiri into his own homeland. The people of Kashmir in particular the Muslims have been consigned to a process of life and are denied a right to a quality of life.
5. Indian soldier in violation of the four stipulation agreed at the time of his temporary admission into Kashmir in October 1947 and in violation of the three stipulations made in the UN Resolution of 21 April 1948, has since 1990 killed over 100,000 unarmed civilians (all Muslims) and since 8th of July 2016 the people in Kashmir have been placed under a Curfew. Kashmiri Muslims are prisoners in their own homes and they have been denied participation in Friday prayers.
6. Pellet guns have been used to cause maximum disabilities and deaths. Over 65 people have died and many hundreds have been blinded by the poisonous pellets. Kashmiri Muslim youth has become a target population. Indian army has decided to take them out of circulation, by killing them, detaining them or now army is following a new policy of blinding them with pellet guns.
7. There have been gross violation of human rights. Women in the age group of 15-80 have been raped. Torture and inhumane treatment, custodial killings, disappearances, unmarked mass graves, orphans, widows and sufferings are all that remain in place of a people, once described as a 'people of legend and with a song and a story'.
8. There is a medical emergency and people have no access to medical care. Hospitals have reached their saturation point and remain without medicines. Government of Pakistan has made an appeal to "Doctors without Frontiers" for medical help to these people.
9. Church has a duty to these suffering people. It is high time that Church intervenes to provide medical and humanitarian aid through its hospitals and schools/colleges in Kashmir. It is equally important that Church raises its voice against the atrocities being committed against men, women, children, youth and elderly alike by the Indian soldiers in Kashmir.

F-624, Ground Floor, Satellite Town, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

t: 051 44 55 638 f: 051 44 12 744 e: pakistanchapter@jkchr.com

JKCHR - P.O. BOX 241, London SW17 9LJ, United Kingdom

t: +44 2033 711 202 f: +44 2084 329 503

e: info@jkchr.com www.jkchr.com

10. Kashmiri Muslim and the habitat of Kashmir have remained a host to Church for the last 152 years. Unfortunately, the Kashmiri Muslim has fallen on hard times at the hands of another human person, of a different faith (Hinduism) and a non-Kashmiri. We make this appeal to His Holiness, The Pope to use his moral authority in favour of a people following Abrahamic faith and waiting for the United Nations to arrange for a free vote under its supervision to either ratify or reject the temporary agreement granting admission to Indian army into the State. Indian army has to be stopped from waging a war against the unarmed Muslims of Kashmir and stopped from committing war crimes.

Excellency kindly rest assured of my best regards and highest considerations

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Syed Nazir Gilani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani
President-JKCHR

F-624, Ground Floor, Satellite Town, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
t: 051 44 55 638 f: 051 44 12 744 e: pakistanchapter@jkchr.com

JKCHR - P.O. BOX 241, London SW17 9LJ, United Kingdom
t: +44 2033 711 202 f: +44 2084 329 503
e: info@jkchr.com www.jkchr.com