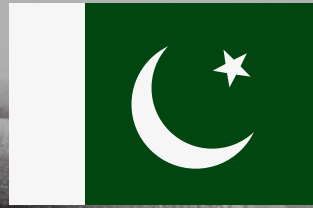


KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY



To mark the 'Kashmir Solidarity Day', a Seminar was organized at the Consulate General for Pakistan, Sydney. The Seminar was attended by Members of the Australian Parliament, journalists, academics, human rights activists and members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri community.

The keynote Speakers included Senator David Shoebridge, Senator Dr. Mehreen Faruqi, former Senator and human rights activist Lee Rhiannon, President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Dr. Rateb Jneid and High Commissioner for Pakistan Mr. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri.

The Speakers highlighted the grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and underscored the urgent need for resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.



" I pay my respect to the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and their elders, past, present and emerging.

AsSalamu Alaykum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Thank you your excellency for your kind invitation.

If there is an ongoing example of failure of colonial machinations, we see that example in the state of Jammu and Kashmir today. A tragic history that has lasted for more than 100 years of British and Indian Tyranny and oppression.

When the British came, they saw in beautiful Kashmir a threat to their textile industry, so they forced the Kashmir knitters to hand in their tools, or they would chop off their fingers so that they could not produce Kashmir to compete with British textiles.

The British occupation of India also led to killing tens of thousands of Muslims, the theft of India's wealth and resources and the transfer of power from Muslims to a mixed group which for the past 15 years has been led by Hindu extremists.

In 1947, the British divided India to create Pakistan and Kashmir is, due to its Muslim demography, a part of Pakistan. Since 1947, majority Hindu India had launched one war after another to suppress and subdue Islam in Jammu and Kashmir including the occupation with nearly 1 million Indian troops of part the now divided state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite being the most militarised occupation in the history of our world, India went further on 5 August of 2019 by imposing a comprehensive lockdown and blackout of the occupied territory.

Since then, there has been more disappearances of people, more arbitrary arrests and more blatant terrorism by Indian authorities against the people of Kashmir.

This is happening whilst India is speeding its creep towards becoming a super power that has control over the IT and call centers of many companies and banks from all around the world.

This is indeed very scary. One of the most fascist democracy cloaked dictatorships can today shut down your IT and call centers and destroy your business. This dictatorship saw fit to even interfere in American democracy by blocking the Twitter account of former US president Donald Trump – and it suffered no consequences. In fact, it even interfered with British Media and Great Britain which once occupied India today has a Hindu Prime Minister.

Modi is proving to be a 21 century Hitler-like figure who continues to divide India on religious lines whilst the world sits, watches and pays homage to him.

To help save the people of Jammu and Kashmir, we must keep the conversation going and we must speak courageously, we must continue, regardless of the consequences, to speak out, to call out Modi's crimes, to circulate the BBC documentary about Modi, we must keep building our database of partners and engage with them. More momentum is needed if we want to save Kashmir and our world "

Dr Rateb Jneid
AFIC PRESIDENT

