



Australian Federation  
of Islamic Councils

## **AFIC calls on World Leaders to Boycott G20 Meetings in Kashmir**

**Media Statement 21 May 2023**

In the lead up to the 2023 G20 Summit, India will be holding several working group meetings in various locations throughout the country. AFIC notes that one of those, the Tourism Working Group, will meet in occupied Kashmir from 22-24 May. AFIC calls on all Global Leaders, and in particular the Australian delegation, to boycott this meeting.

This meeting is nothing more than an attempt by the Indian Government to normalise its illegal occupation of Kashmir and use the legitimacy of the G20 Summit to veil its colonisation of the Kashmir people.

While the Indian Government has been undertaking a massive revitalisation campaign where the meeting will occur this is just to hide the still existing draconian measures in place subjugating the Kashmir people and hiding the reality of its oppression and occupation.

AFIC President, Dr Rateb Jneid, stated “If world leaders attend this meeting it will legitimise the illegal and oppressive occupation by India of Kashmir. The people of Kashmir continue to suffer at the hands of a brutal crackdown by India and any attempt to portray this as something else is a gross injustice and should be resisted by everyone. No government representatives, of any country, should attend and allow themselves to be used this way.”

In 2019 India unilaterally removed the semi-autonomous status of Kashmir. That status recognised that India was only a temporary administrator of the area but that ultimately Kashmiri’s had the right to self-determination. India stole this and continues to deny Kashmiri’s right to determine their own sovereignty.

AFIC calls on the international community not to forget the plight of Kashmir or to allow the unhindered nationalism of India to go on unabated. AFIC calls on the Australian Government, and all world leaders, to boycott this meeting and to use all available means to return Kashmir to its pre-2019 semi-autonomous state.

Authorised by:

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