

# KASHMIR ACTION

## **Kashmir is the world's most densely militarized region**

Kashmir has long been a source of dispute between India and Pakistan -- both of which are nuclear powers that have already fought two wars over the region. Kashmiris are an Indigenous people living under colonial occupation who have been fighting for their right to practice sovereignty through self-determination and self-government. Although the United Nations has maintained for decades that the political status of Kashmir be determined by the Kashmiri people,

**On Aug. 4,** India ordered all tourists and outside students to leave Kashmir effective immediately. They simultaneously implemented emergency measures to protect tourists and Indian Hindu pilgrims. It also airlifted almost 10,000 more soldiers into Kashmir within a matter of two days. Approximately 28,000 additional armed troops then invaded Kashmir Valley in trucks and tanks.

**On Aug. 5,** the Indian Home Minister Amit Shah told parliament that the president had signed a decree abolished Article 370 of the Indian constitution. **a constitutional provision that granted Kashmir semi-autonomous status and prevented non-Kashmiris from owning property in Kashmir.** India has put political figures under house arrest, ordered tourists to leave, placed everyone under curfew, and cut off all access to communication including landlines, broadband, internet, cell phones, and the news media.

### **Here is what is happening right now:**

- India has closed down all local media in Kashmir
- International media is not allowed by India to enter Kashmir
- India has shut down all cell phone and landline service
- Internet service in Kashmir has been blocked by India
- The Indian government has evacuated all tourists and Hindus
- Violations of Religious Freedom: Kashmiris were not allowed to celebrate Eid Al Adha
- Human Rights Violations: Children as young as 11 as being detained

*Justice For All is a non-governmental, Illinois-registered nonprofit organization based in Chicago, with Consultative Status at the United Nations (DPI) and staff and volunteers in Washington DC, New York, Boston, Texas and other locations. The organization advocates for the global strengthening of human rights and has been instrumental in shaping the discourse around the 'genocide' debate in the U.S. Kashmir Action is a project of Justice For All. Contact [info@justiceforall.org](mailto:info@justiceforall.org)*

- Indian bureaucrats, civil society and retired generals have retired military officers and bureaucrats have filed a petition in the Supreme Court in New Delhi against this action, calling it constitutionally invalid.
- International aid agencies are not allowed to access the area

These unilateral moves by the Indian state obliterate the rights Kashmiris had as citizens of India as well as their Indigenous rights. Under the United Nations Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), India is obligated to ensure decisions pertaining to Kashmiri are made with them, using the principle of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) that recognizes Kashmiris as a sovereign Indigenous people.

Many believe this is meant to change the ethnic demographics of Kashmir and eventually eradicate Kashmir's identity and political will. Kashmir is at the center of a potential nuclear global conflict, with the U.S. largely allied with India and with China largely allied with Pakistan.

## **Genocide Watch:**

Kashmiri leaders are appealing to the world to stop the imminent genocide of Kashmiris. Genocide Watch in Washington, DC has already issued a Genocide Alert for India, the "largest democracy in the world" because it has canceled the citizenship of four million Indian citizens, mostly Muslims. This reflects the **early stages of genocide** in the process.

1. Prior genocidal massacres and continuing impunity for such killings;
2. Continued armed conflict between India and Pakistan over border areas in Kashmir;
3. An exclusionary ideology of "Hindutva" – India as Hindu nation – by Modi's ruling BJP;
4. Authoritarian military rule without legal restraints imposed by civilian Indian officials;
5. Rule by a minority military force (Hindus and Sikhs) over majority Muslim citizens;
6. Cut-off of communications and outside access by internet, media, and trade;
7. Widespread violations of basic human rights – torture, rape, 2-year detentions without charge, arbitrary arrests and deportations of Muslim political and human rights leaders.

*Justice For All is a non-governmental, Illinois-registered nonprofit organization based in Chicago, with Consultative Status at the United Nations (DPI) and staff and volunteers in Washington DC, New York, Boston, Texas and other locations. The organization advocates for the global strengthening of human rights and has been instrumental in shaping the discourse around the 'genocide' debate in the U.S. Kashmir Action is a project of Justice For All. Contact [info@justiceforall.org](mailto:info@justiceforall.org)*

## **We ask our Congresspeople to:**

- 1) **Make an immediate public statement** about the crisis in Kashmir and urge the government of India to lift the curfew, remove the communications blackout, remove people from house arrest;
- 2) Write **a letter to colleagues in Congress** on the Kashmir issue.
- 3) Urge various governmental entities - including Secretary Pompeo and the State Department - to **pressure India to remove the communications blackout** and to assist Kashmiri Americans in communicating with their loved ones abroad; Call your Senators to ask Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to:
  - Ask the Indian foreign minister to allow Human Rights Watch, the UN and the international media full access to Kashmir
  - Accept President Trump's offer to have a dialogue on the Kashmir issue, which has been rejected by India
  - Kashmiris must be a part of any conversation about Kashmir
- 4) **Sponsor a congressional resolution** condemning India's recent actions and the ethnic and religious bigotry promoted by Prime Minister Modi and his government;
- 5) **Hold a hearing on the intelligence committee**, if appropriate, or partner with colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee or Homeland Security Committee to hold a congressional hearing on the crisis in Kashmir and the threat of nuclear war; and
- 6) **Push for the demilitarization** of Kashmir and partner with the United Nations to actualize the Kashmiri right to self-determination.
- 7) **Sponsor a Kashmir Human Rights Act**

*Justice For All is a non-governmental, Illinois-registered nonprofit organization based in Chicago, with Consultative Status at the United Nations (DPI) and staff and volunteers in Washington DC, New York, Boston, Texas and other locations. The organization advocates for the global strengthening of human rights and has been instrumental in shaping the discourse around the 'genocide' debate in the U.S. Kashmir Action is a project of Justice For All. Contact [info@justiceforall.org](mailto:info@justiceforall.org)*