

## PRESS COVERAGE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**“Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia- Incentives and Constraints”**

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# **BUSINESS RECORDER**

Founded by M.A. Zuberi

## **Ceasefire violations serious threat to peace: foreign office**

November 24, 2016

RECORDER REPORT

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The constant unprovoked ceasefire violations by Indian forces are a serious threat to the regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation, said Nafees Zakaria, Spokesperson for the Foreign Office.

"Pakistan believes that with bilateral mechanism not working at all, it is the international community's responsibility, more so of the United Nations and UN Security Council Members, to counsel India for an immediate halt to the bloodshed," he said while speaking at a conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia: Incentives and Constraints,' organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here on Wednesday.

Zakaria asserted that the unprovoked ceasefire violations by India with multiple objectives, Indian involvement in promoting terrorism and terror financing in Pakistan, use of Afghanistan's soil against Pakistan, Indian pronouncements against Balochistan and CPEC and so on, are some of many reasons that make the relations bitter.

Since the extrajudicial killing of young Kashmiri leader Burhan Muzaffar Wani on July 08, 2016, he said, the subsequent blatant human rights violations have been under way and around 150 people have been killed, over a thousand have become blind, more than 16,000 got injured and over 7,000 have been arrested with no news of their fate in Indian occupied Kashmir. "This has sent Indo-Pak relations on a rollercoaster ride down a steep slope," he added.

The situation has gone from bad to worse with India showing no signs of lessening tension, he said, adding India is deliberately heightening tension on the Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary to hide its security forces' atrocities against innocent Kashmiri people in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the constant anti-Pakistan statements at the political level are only vitiating the atmosphere further.

He said that Pakistan has sentimental attachment to the Kashmir issue and pursues a declared policy of

extending diplomatic, political and moral support to the Kashmiris' indigenous and peaceful movement for self-determination.

Instead of holding plebiscite in Kashmir as per the UN Security Council resolutions, he said that India is violating the world body's numerous resolutions and the international community should take notice of the human rights violations in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

About the postponement of SAARC Summit, he regretted that India is using purely a socio-economic platform for political reasons. However, he said that a new date of the Summit will be announced after consultation with the member countries and the venue for the summit will be Pakistan.

To another query regarding Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz's participation in Heart of Asia Conference in India next month, he said although Heart of Asia is different platform where the issue of Kashmir cannot be raised, yet Kashmir dispute as well as the unprovoked firings on the border will be discussed on the sidelines if any meeting with Indian counterpart was to be held.

In his address, President AJK Masood Khan said that UN Security Council has double standard for Syria, Yemen, North Africa and whole of Africa, but it pays no attention to the issue of Kashmir.

He said that the UN Security Council is not holding any debate despite ruthless killings in Kashmir by Indian security forces.

According to him, if the two nuclear powers, ie, India and Pakistan decide to go to war, it will be a disaster not only for both the countries and South Asian region but for the whole world.

According to him, India has frustrated and obstructed Pakistan's keen overtures towards peace and reconciliation repeatedly. He said that India has literally set Kashmir on fire with thousands got injured, mutilated and hundreds are killed or kidnapped, there can be no confidence building measures.

He warned that no regional co-operative pacts or deals can work if the Kashmir issue, burning at the core of South Asia, is not resolved. "Kashmir cannot be swept under the carpet," he said.

He urged the international community to pay immediate attention to stop killings and torture of the people who are demanding their right to self-determination. "Kashmiris have stood up to break the cycle of Indian subjugation, and their demand for self-determination is not rhetoric, rather a legitimate right," he said, adding the freedom struggle is indigenous being carried out by unarmed young men and women.

According to him, the UN resolutions on Kashmir would remain valid until they are implemented in their true spirit.

He also called upon the younger generations of Pakistan and South Asia to raise their voice and use social media to open the world's eyes to Indian brutalities.

Dr Attaullah Wahidyar, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education Afghanistan, while speaking appealed to the South Asian governments that in order to create space for future leadership, the blame game that "Pakistan is a source of terror; India supports the Baloch; the NDS supports the TTP" needs to be stopped.

"The support to and for proxies, Taliban for Pakistan; TTP for India; ISIS for US need to end...Let us stop propaganda wars because they benefit no one. Instead of the blame game, let us develop areas of common interest that benefit the masses in of the region," he said, adding the South Asia countries should cooperate strategically, and not tactically; and allow the immediate needs of our people to guide our national interest."

He said that Afghanistan should not only be seen as a problem but also an arena of incentives for connectivity and mineral resources. He said that Afghanistan does not want to be 'a battlefield for proxy wars; a space to become tested over; nor a buffer to be dominated.' "What we want is to become a model and platform of cooperation, dignity and prosperity. This can only happen regionally, not nationally," he said. For Pakistan, he added that Afghanistan is the best market for developing business partnerships in the private sector, especially in the education, mining and logistics sectors.

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# NHT

## NATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

### UN should take cognizance of Indian atrocities in Kashmir: AJK President

Posted By : Zahid Imran Posted Date : November 23, 2016 In News



ISLAMABAD, November 23: 'Even if there is some lull, Indians won't let us forget. Kashmiris have decided not to be a part of India.' This was stated by Sardar Masood Khan, President, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, Government of AJ&K, while delivering his keynote address at the international conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia – Incentives and Constraints' organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute and Hanns Seidel Foundation. The Security Council has double standards for Syria, Yemen, North Africa and whole of Africa, but it pays no attention to the issue of Kashmir. The UN Security Council is not holding any debate despite ruthless killings in Kashmir by ISF. But we should make a transition from helplessness and despondence to success. If the two nuclear powers i.e. India and Pakistan decide to go to war, it will be a disaster not only for both the countries and south Asian region but for the whole world.

'The long-standing Kashmir issue is the biggest failure of international diplomacy', said Dr Muhammad Khan, former HOD from the National Defence University in Islamabad in his presentation. Dr. Attaullah Wahidyar, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education from Kabul, Afghanistan in his heartfelt appeal to the audience and to South Asian governments stressed that in order to create space for future leadership, the blame game that Pakistan is a source of terror; India supports the Baloch; the NDS support the TTP, needs to be stopped.-PR



## Ceasefire violations serious threat to peace: foreign office

Posted on [November 24, 2016](#) by [madeeha zuberi](#) in [Editors Pick](#), [National](#)



-File photo

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Since the extrajudicial killing of young Kashmiri leader Burhan Muzaffar Wani on July 08, 2016, he said, the subsequent blatant human rights violations have been under way and around 150 people have been killed, over a thousand have become blind, more than 16,000 got injured and over 7,000 have been arrested with no news of their fate in Indian occupied Kashmir. “This has sent Indo-Pak relations on a rollercoaster ride down a steep slope,” he added.

The situation has gone from bad to worse with India showing no signs of lessening tension, he said, adding India is deliberately heightening tension on the Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary to hide its security forces’ atrocities against innocent Kashmiri people in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the constant anti-Pakistan statements at the political level are only vitiating the atmosphere further.

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According to him, if the two nuclear powers, ie, India and Pakistan decide to go to war, it will be a disaster not only for both the countries and South Asian region but for the whole world.

According to him, India has frustrated and obstructed Pakistan's keen overtures towards peace and reconciliation repeatedly. He said that India has literally set Kashmir on fire with thousands got injured, mutilated and hundreds are killed or kidnapped, there can be no confidence building measures.

He warned that no regional co-operative pacts or deals can work if the Kashmir issue, burning at the core of South Asia, is not resolved. "Kashmir cannot be swept under the carpet," he said.

He urged the international community to pay immediate attention to stop killings and torture of the people who are demanding their right to self-determination. "Kashmiris have stood up to break the cycle of Indian subjugation, and their demand for self-determination is not rhetoric, rather a legitimate right," he said, adding the freedom struggle is indigenous being carried out by unarmed young men and women.

According to him, the UN resolutions on Kashmir would remain valid until they are implemented in their true spirit.

He also called upon the younger generations of Pakistan and South Asia to raise their voice and use social media to open the world's eyes to Indian brutalities.

Dr Attaullah Wahidiyar, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education Afghanistan, while speaking appealed to the South Asian governments that in order to create space for future leadership, the blame game that "Pakistan is a source of terror; India supports the Baloch; the NDS supports the TTP" needs to be stopped.

“The support to and for proxies, Taliban for Pakistan; TTP for India; ISIS for US need to end...Let us stop propaganda wars because they benefit no one. Instead of the blame game, let us develop areas of common interest that benefit the masses in of the region,” he said, adding the South Asia countries should cooperate strategically, and not tactically; and allow the immediate needs of our people to guide our national interest.”

He said that Afghanistan should not only be seen as a problem but also an arena of incentives for connectivity and mineral resources. He said that Afghanistan does not want to be ‘a battlefield for proxy wars; a space to become tested over; nor a buffer to be dominated.’ “What we want is to become a model and platform of cooperation, dignity and prosperity.

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## UN should take cognizance of Indian atrocities in Kashmir: AJK President

DNA News | November 23, 2016



ISLAMABAD, NOV 23 (DNA) -Even if there is some lull, Indians won't let us forget. Peoples of Kashmir have decided not to be a part of India.'

This was stated by Sardar Masood Khan, President, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad while delivering his keynote address at the international conference on 'Strengthening Peace and Cooperation in South Asia-Incentives and Constraints' organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute and Hanns Seidel Foundation.

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But we should make a transition from helplessness and despondence to success. If the two nuclear powers i.e. India and Pakistan decide to go to war, it will be a disaster not only for both the countries and SAR but for the whole world.

One area where India has beaten us – the Kashmiris, Pakistanis, and the diaspora – is in the domain of communication. ‘They get away with murder because the world has bought their lies, but is not ready to believe our truth,’ said President AJK.

India has frustrated and obstructed Pakistan’s keen overtures towards peace and reconciliation, repeatedly. It has literally set Kashmir on fire. With thousands injured, mutilated and hundreds killed or kidnapped, there can be no confidence building measures. We are chasing a mirage. President Khan warned that no regional cooperative pacts or deals can work if the Kashmir issue, burning at the core of South Asia, is not resolved. Kashmir cannot be swept under the carpet, he said.

He urged the international community to pay immediate attention to stop killings and torture of the people who are demanding their right to self-determination. Kashmiris have stood up to break the cycle of Indian subjugation, and their demand for self-determination is not rhetoric, rather a legitimate right.

‘The freedom struggle is indigenous being carried out by unarmed young men and women, he emphasized, and called on the younger generations of Pakistan and South Asia to raise their voices and use social media to open the world’s eyes to Indian brutalities. Sardar Masood Khan said that the UN resolutions on Kashmir would remain valid until they were implemented in Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain, Professor, Government and Public Policy, School of Social Science and Humanities, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, concluded that there are unprecedented levels of tension between India and Pakistan, making the South Asian region hostage.

The power structure of South Asia is dominated by India by the virtue of its geography, size, military might, which gives it an unfair advantage and gives it the space to browbeat its neighbours. If India wants to be the leader of SA, then it must treat small countries in the region with respect and abandon its hegemonic designs. ‘We need to learn to unlearn the habit of destabilizing each other,’ he stressed.

Dr. Severine Minot, Visiting Assistant Professor from Habib University, Karachi, questioned the term ‘major powers’ as being other nation states and proposed that major powers were more precisely stakeholders governing global finance and the military-industrial apparatus.

Dr. Shabir Ahmed, Associate Professor, Area Study Centre from Peshawar University in his presentation on ‘Prospective Role of Regional Organizations (SAARC and SCO)’ highlighted that SAARC has so far failed to address and settle the issue of Kashmir, however, SCO as a security organisation having vast experience of resolving border disputes can play a vital role in this case and pave the way for regionalism in South Asia.

Ambassador (Retd.) Sohail Amin, President of IPRI, called on South Asian governments to resolve their longstanding territorial/political disputes on priority basis by using bilateral and multilateral institutional frameworks.

‘While there are several constraints on developing cooperation, the incentives are far greater.’The role of regional organisations, such as SAARC, Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), with overlapping membership of India and Pakistan, can be significant.=DNA

## Kashmiris have decided no to live with India : Masood

Updated about 8 hours ago



ISLAMABAD: 'Even if there is some lull, Indians won't let us forget. Kashmiris have decided not to be a part of India.

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"We are chasing a mirage. President Khan warned that no regional cooperative pacts or deals can work if the Kashmir issue, burning at the core of South Asia, is not resolved. Kashmir cannot be swept under the carpet", he said.

He urged the international community to pay immediate attention to stop killings and torture of the people who are demanding their right to self-determination. Kashmiris have stood up to break the cycle of Indian subjugation, and their demand for self-determination is not rhetoric, rather a legitimate right. 'The freedom struggle is indigenous being carried out by unarmed young men and women, he emphasized, and called on the younger generations of Pakistan and South Asia to raise their voices and use social media to open the world's eyes to Indian brutalities. Sardar Masood Khan said that the UN resolutions on Kashmir would remain valid until they were implemented in their true spirit.

'The long-standing Kashmir issue is the biggest failure of international diplomacy', said Dr Muhammad Khan, former HOD from the National Defence University in Islamabad. In his presentation, he stressed that Kashmir holds the key to peace and stability in the subcontinent, and provided detailed analysis of why bilateralism has not worked in its resolution since most of these talks 'had more expectations without results', therefore, he proposed that it is time to move towards a multilateral approach and diplomatic engagement. Deterioration in bilateral relations due to trust deficit has led to one-step forward and two steps backward. In fact, taking two steps back has also added many more issues such as the Siachen Glacier, water issues, and heavy defence expenditures. While Kashmir remained in cold storage till 1989, the current situation is alarming. Even though Kashmir has become complicated, it can be resolved through farsightedness and statesmanship, he said. He stressed that Indian obduracy has been the major cause of the Kashmir dispute remaining unresolved. Despite UN resolutions, international commitments and Indian commitments, India has remained a reluctant partner for normalization. Discussing why Kashmir remains an overshadowed global issue, he said it was mainly because the neutral observers and international media have had no access in the state, as India totally banned the movement of outsiders, who could have observed the HRV there since 1990. In his recommendations, he called for the projection of Kashmir issue as a humanitarian issue besides its political nature; visits of affected Kashmiri families to various international capitals; indigenous Kashmiri youth to take a lead in projection; global awareness about the Indian HR violations in IJK by Pakistani diplomatic mission around the globe; special Kashmir cells to work in selected Pakistani missions; and political leadership of Pakistan and AJK must be made to visit world's capitals for creating awareness on HR violations among global leadership.

Dr. Attaullah Wahidiyar, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Education from Kabul, Afghanistan in his heartfelt appeal to the audience and to South Asian governments stressed that in order to create space for future leadership, the blame game that Pakistan is a source of terror; India supports the Baloch; the NDS support the TTP, needs to be stopped. Support to and for proxies, Taliban for Pakistan; TTP for India; ISIS for US need to end. 'Let us stop propaganda wars because they benefit no one. Let us instead develop areas of common interest that benefit the masses in this region; cooperate strategically not tactically; and allow the immediate needs of our people to guide our national interest,' he proposed. Afghanistan should not only be seen as a problem but also an arena of incentives for connectivity; mineral resources; headwaters for practically every single South Asian neighbor. 'Afghanistan only uses 10% of its available water. We are in the midst of 3 billion people and we are ready for cooperative arrangements regarding water,' he shared. He insisted that Afghanistan does not want to be 'a battlefield for proxy wars; a space to become tested over; nor a buffer to be dominated. What we want is to become a model and platform of cooperation, dignity and

prosperity. This can only happen regionally, not nationally.’ For Pakistan, Afghanistan is the best market for developing business partnerships in the private sector, especially in the education, mining and logistics sectors.

Dr. Manzoor Ahmad’s presentation was delivered in absentia by MrTauqeer Hussain Sargana, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics & IR, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan. He outlined many critical questions such as whether economic liberalism and free trade would really bring peace and prosperity to South Asia or it will contribute to new conflicts and tensions. The audience was warned that India would drain existing industrial and investment resources from Pakistan as MNCs would be tempted to close down their productive facilities in Pakistan and enhance their production capabilities in India, a market far more attractive for foreign investment. Pakistan may lose a lot in terms of potential investment, revenues, and employment opportunities for its youth. His analysis of the current tense situation on the Line of Control was that India can even harm Pakistan economically and politically as well. The presenter shared how in 1948–49, India stopped water flow into rivers coming into Pakistan; in 1948–49, used, unsuccessfully, trade as a weapon to force Pakistan to devalue its currency; and currently, it is building scores of dams in IHK to use water as a weapon as it has contemplated recently after the Orhi incident. India has already threatened, downgrading of economic ties and revoking of MFN status quite recently and left the audience with an open-ended question about who will help India overcome this mindset.