

**Press Coverage of One-Day Conference
“HR Violations in IHK: Awakening Global
Conscience”**

03 March, 2016, IPRI, Islamabad

THE EXPRESS
TRIBUNE
WITH THE **International New York Times**

**HR violations: Panelists berate India for
‘atrocities’ in Kashmir**

By [Our Correspondent](#)
Published: March 5, 2016

168SHARES

[SHARE](#) [TWEET](#) [EMAIL](#)



A file photo of Indian troops in Kashmir. PHOTO: AFP

ISLAMABAD: Human rights violations in Indian Kashmir continue to remain invisible to the world community because of the Indian government's access denial for neutral observers and the international media to the region.

Indian security forces also have sweeping powers for making arrests and detentions or even shoot-to-kill with virtual immunity.

These views were expressed by panelists at a one-day national conference titled "Human Rights Violations in Indian Kashmir: Awakening Global Conscience" organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) at a local hotel here on Thursday.

The panelists also called on both Pakistani and international media to give more than mere ritualistic attention and coverage to highlight human rights issues.

In the age of social media, young people from Pakistan and Kashmir could play a vital role in bringing the plight of Kashmiris to the forefront, they said.

[India covering up human rights violations in Kashmir: report](#)

The speakers said that repressive laws such as the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act and Armed Forces Special Power Act have rendered Indian security forces virtually immune from prosecution against hundreds of heinous acts such as kidnapping, torture, rape and molestation they have committed against young men, women and children.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Development Farzana Yaqoob said that Kashmiris will continue to

struggle for their right of self-determination and raise the issue of human rights violations by the so-called largest democracy of the world.

“Kashmir is a reality and has a long history. They (Kashmiris) want accession (to Pakistan) not freedom,” she said while complaining about loopholes in Pakistan’s Kashmir policy

She said that Pakistan needed to increase integration with Kashmir to bring people with divergent thoughts under a single platform.

IPRI President and former ambassador Sohail Amin highlighted the atrocities and human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian security forces in the valley and called for bringing them to the attention of the international community.

Center for International Strategic Studies Executive Director Ali Sarwar Naqvi said that muted response and reaction of world’s major powers to outrightly condemn atrocities have only encouraged India and its security forces to continue their blatant acts of aggression in Kashmir.

Published in The Express Tribune, March 5th, 2016.

Indian rights violations and hiding IHK from the eyes of world slammed

- Staff Report
- March 04, 2016
- Be First To Comment



ISLAMABAD: The human rights violations in Indian-Held Kashmir (IHK) remain hidden from the eyes of the world because of the Indian government's refusal to grant access to the region to neutral observers and international media, participants of a one-day national conference said on Thursday.

The conference was titled "HR Violations in IHK: Awakening Global Conscience" and was organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute. It noted that the repressive legal frameworks such as Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act and Armed Forces Special Power Act have made the Indian security forces operating in the state of Jammu and Kashmir virtually immune from prosecution for the hundreds of heinous acts committed against young men, women and children, including kidnapping, torture, rape and molestation.

Indian security forces have sweeping powers of arrest and detention, and can even shoot to kill with virtual immunity. Panelists said that it was no surprise that the recent protests and dissents in New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University are being put down violently in the state of India, which is reflective of the government's dictatorial nature. Former ambassador and IPRI President Sohail Amin, in his address, highlighted the atrocities and human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian security forces in IHK and called for bringing them to the attention of the international community so that it could join hands with innocent Kashmiris in IHK whose rights were being violated unabashedly.

The conference included distinguished speakers like Dr Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, Dean Faculty of Contemporary Studies, National Defence University (NDU); Shamsa Nawaz, Research Fellow, Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), Dr Muhammad Khan, HoD, Department of International Relations, NDU and special guest Farzana Yaqoob, Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), who discussed state terrorism in IHK and suggested various approaches to stir the global conscience.

The Conference was chaired by former ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS). In his opening remarks, he said that muted action of the world's major powers, the United Nations, regional organisations and other countries to outrightly condemn the HR violations have only encouraged India and its security forces to continue their blatant acts of aggression in Kashmir. With more than 7,038 custodial deaths, 107,545 children orphaned and 22,806 women widowed, the world's silence is unconscionable. Pakistan should not compromise its stand on Kashmir issue, he concluded.

Discussing the historical and cultural roots of the Kashmir issue, Dr Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema said Kashmir is the "unfinished agenda of Partition", which the Indian government has been successfully and covertly manipulating by creating strong pro-India lobbies, especially in Washington. The Indian government is violating its own constitution by not holding a plebiscite in Kashmir, he stressed. Shamsa Nawaz, Research Fellow, Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) also spoke on the nearly non-existent world response to HR violations in IHK.

She emphasised that INGOs and NGOs should play a vital role in holding the Indian state accountable for its appalling and unchecked human rights violations

characterised by arbitrary arrests, killings, disappearances and electrocutions. Rape is being used as tool for war to suppress and demoralize families.

Dr Muhammad Khan highlighted how the Indian state has been engaging in systematically eroding the Kashmiri identity through demographic changes, allocating large areas of land to Hindu Pundits and dividing the people along communal and ethnic lines. Farzana Yaqoob, meanwhile, said Kashmiris will continue to struggle for their right of self-determination and raise the issue of human rights' violations by the so-called largest democracy of the world and what its troops are doing in Indian-Held Kashmir under the cover of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) which is a licence given by New Delhi to its troops to kill anyone in Indian Kashmir.



Moot on 'HR Violations in Indian-held Kashmir' held

March 04, 2016

AAMIR SAEED

0 Comments



The human rights violations in Indian-held Kashmir remain invisible in the eyes of the world because of the Indian government's stubbornness to grant access to neutral observers and international media to the region. Panellists shared these views here on Thursday while speaking at a conference: "HR Violations in Indian-held Kashmir: Awakening Global Conscience," organised by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

Former Ambassador Sohail Amin, President IPRI, in his address highlighted the atrocities and human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian Security Forces in the IHK and to bring those to the attention of the international community so that they could join hands with innocent Kashmiris whose rights were being violated unabashedly.

In his opening remarks, he said that muted action of the world's major powers, the United Nations, regional organisations and other countries to out rightly condemn the HR violations have only encouraged India and its security forces to continue their blatant acts of aggression in Kashmir. With more than 7,038 custodial deaths, 107,545 children orphaned and 22,806 women widowed, the world's silence is unconscionable. Pakistan should not compromise its stand on Kashmir issue, he concluded.

Discussing the historical and cultural roots of the Kashmir issue, Dr Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, Dean Faculty of Contemporary Studies, National Defence University, held that Kashmir is the 'unfinished agenda of Partition' which the Indian government has been successfully and covertly manipulating by creating strong pro-India lobbies, especially in Washington. The Indian government is violating its own Constitution by not holding plebiscite in Kashmir, he stressed.

Shamsa Nawaz, Research Fellow at Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), also spoke on the nearly non-existent world response to human rights violations in the IHK. She emphasised that INGOs and NGOs should play a vital role in holding the Indian state accountable for its appalling and unchecked human rights violations characterised by arbitrary arrests, killings, disappearances and electrocutions. Rape is being used as tool for war to suppress and demoralise families.

Dr Muhammad Khan, Head of Department International Relations at the NDU, highlighted how the Indian state has been engaging in systematically eroding the Kashmiri identity through demographic changes, allocating large areas of land to Hindu Pundits and dividing the people along communal and ethnic lines. He emphasised how it was critical to focus on the humanitarian aspect of Kashmir, rather than its political or religious dimensions. He recommended special Kashmir cells should work in key Pakistani missions and that Political leadership of Pakistan and Kashmir should visit major capital cities for creating awareness on HR violations among global leadership. Silence over Indian human rights violation could endanger world peace - in the context of nuclearization of the region, he warned.

Farzana Yaqoob, Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Development in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), said that Kashmiris will continue to struggle for their right of self-determination and raise the issue of human rights' violations by the so-called largest democracy of the world and what its troops are doing in Indian Held Kashmir under the cover of Armed Forces Special Powers Act which is a licence given by New Delhi to its troops to kill anyone in Indian Kashmir. The draconian AFSPA is being used to crush the freedom activists in Indian Kashmir particularly women, she said.

While the Kashmiri diaspora has been active in the UK and the European Union highlighting the violations of human's rights by the Indian security forces in Indian-held Kashmir, a lot more needs to be done. The panellists also called on both national and international media to give more than mere ritualistic attention and coverage to this issue. In the age of social media, young people from Pakistan and Kashmir can play a vital role in bringing the plight of Kashmiris to the forefront.

The participants of the conference were unanimous in asserting that the international community, in particular, the Western world needs to impress upon India to withdraw its troops from Kashmir, and bring an end to the ongoing state violence. Lastly, there should be no room for a human rights violator to attain the coveted status of a United Nations Security Council member.

IPRI-sponsored moot calls for end to HR violations in H.Kashmir

DNA News | March 3, 2016



ISLAMABAD, MAR 03 (DNA) -The human rights violations in Indian Held Kashmir (IHK) remain invisible in the eyes of the world because of the Indian government's stubbornness to grant access to this region to neutral observers and the international media.Repressive legal frameworks such as the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act and Armed Forces Special Power Act have made the Indian security forces, operating in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, virtually immune from prosecution for the hundreds of heinous acts committed against young men, women and children including kidnapping, torture, rape and molestation, while exercising their powers.

Indian security forces have sweeping powers of arrest and detention, even shoot to kill with virtual immunity. Panellists shared that it is no surprise that the recent protests and dissent in New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University are being put down violently in the state of India, reflective of the government's dictatorial nature. These views were expressed at the one-day national conference titled "HR Violations in IHK: Awakening Global Conscience" organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, here in the capital today. Former Ambassador Sohail Amin, President IPRI, in his address highlighted the atrocities and human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian Security Forces in IHK and to bring those to the attention of the international community so that they could join hands with innocent Kashmiris in IHK whose rights were being violated unabashedly.

The Conference included distinguished speakers like Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, Dean Faculty of Contemporary Studies, National Defence University (NDU); Shamsa Nawaz, Research Fellow, Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI), Dr. Muhammad Khan, HoD, Department of International Relations, NDU and the special guest, Farzana Yaqoob, Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) who discussed state terrorism in IHK and suggested various approaches to stir the global conscience. The Conference was chaired by former Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS). In his opening remarks, he said that muted action of the world's major powers, the United Nations, regional organizations and other countries to outrightly condemn the HR violations have only encouraged India and its security forces to continue their blatant acts of aggression in Kashmir.

With more than 7,038 custodial deaths, 107,545 children orphaned and 22,806 women widowed, the world's silence is unconscionable. Pakistan should not compromise its stand on Kashmir issue, he concluded. Discussing the historical and cultural roots of the Kashmir issue, Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema held that Kashmir is the 'unfinished agenda of Partition' which the Indian government has been successfully and covertly manipulating by creating strong pro-India lobbies, especially in Washington. The Indian government is violating its own Constitution by not holding plebiscite in Kashmir, he stressed.

Dr Muhammad Khan highlighted how the Indian state has been engaging in systematically eroding the Kashmiri identity through demographic changes, allocating large areas of land to Hindu Pundits and dividing the people along communal and ethnic lines.

He emphasized how it was critical to focus on the humanitarian aspect of Kashmir, rather than its political or religious dimensions. He recommended special Kashmir cells should work in key Pakistani missions and that Political leadership of Pakistan and Kashmir should visit major capital cities for creating awareness on HR violations among global leadership.

Silence over Indian human rights violation could endanger world peace- in the context of nuclearization of the region, he warned.

The participants of the Conference were unanimous in asserting that the international community, in particular, the Western world needs to impress upon India to withdraw its troops from Kashmir, and bring an end to the ongoing state violence.

Lastly, there should be no room for a human rights violator to attain the coveted status of a Security Council member.