



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Islamabad, Pakistan

FOREIGN MINISTER

26 August 2019

Excellency,

With reference to my letters of 1, 6 and 13 August 2019, my Government appreciates the Security Council's decision to convene informal consultations on 16 August 2019 to consider the grave developments in the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. We also appreciate the briefings on the situation provided by the senior UN Secretariat officials and the concerns voiced by Council members.

The situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K) and along the Line of Control (LoC) continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security while Indian forces continue to perpetrate grave violations of the human rights of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Along the Line of Control, India has again resorted to ceasefire violations on 13, 15, 18 and 20 August 2019, targeting civilian populations in the Hot Spring, Chirikot, Lipa and Batta sectors. This has led to numerous civilian fatalities. These ceasefire violations are being monitored by the United Nations Observer Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

On 16 August 2019, the Indian Defence Minister mentioned changes in India's so-called "No First Use" doctrine which amounted to an implied threat of pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons (against Pakistan). This is a serious escalation of the threat to international peace and security which cannot be ignored by Pakistan, the international community, and the Security Council.

While many well-meaning third parties advocate bilateral dialogue between Pakistan and India to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, the Indian Defence Minister, on 18 August 2019, rejected such bilateral dialogue and, in flagrant disregard of the UN Security Council resolutions and India's own past commitments, asserted that bilateral talks with Pakistan, if held, would be limited to AJK (Azad Jammu & Kashmir) only. This affirms the requirement for intervention by third parties, especially the Security Council, to address and resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

It is our fear that, consistent with its extremist ideology and military posture, the ruling BJP Government in New Delhi could resort to a "false flag" terrorist operation to justify another aggression against Pakistan, as the Indian Prime Minister has threatened in some of his political statements after the February 2019 Indian aerial aggression and Pakistan's effective response.

Within Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, meanwhile, the unconscionable total lockdown of the Kashmiri population, round-the-clock curfew, communications blackout and gross violations of the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people continue unabated. The completely indefensible lockdown continuing for three weeks is a scar on the conscience of humanity and the international community has the duty to press India to remove it immediately.

Since 5 August, an additional 6000 people, including political leaders, professionals and activists have been reportedly arrested and many have been transferred to jails in New Delhi and other parts of India. Reportedly, young boys are being abducted from their homes by Indian security forces and subjected to torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. Several peaceful demonstrations have been suppressed by the use of brutal force, including through the use of pellet guns and live ammunition, killing and maiming scores of unarmed Kashmiris. Indian Opposition leaders who flew into Srinagar on 24 August were detained at the airport, denied the permission to come out, and then forced to fly back.

There is a real danger that human rights violations will be further intensified as Kashmiris protest against the Indian Government's unilateral measures intended to alter Jammu & Kashmir's demography, identity and disputed status. The Kashmiris will resist the BJP-RSS plans to transform occupied Jammu and Kashmir from a Muslim-majority State to a Hindu-majority territory. Given India's past record of repression and human rights violations, as extensively documented in the two reports published by UN OHCHR in June 2018 and July 2019, the possibility of Indian security forces resorting to brute force leading to ethnic cleansing and even genocide in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir cannot be ruled out.

The ceasefire violations, threats of the use of force, and gross and consistent violations of human rights are taking place in a territory-Jammu and Kashmir- which is recognized by the Security Council as disputed and for whose resolution the Council has adopted numerous resolutions and decisions.

The Security Council thus has a direct and manifest responsibility to redress these threats and violations and promote the enforcement of its own resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The Council should consider all possible avenues available to it under the UN Charter to fulfill its responsibilities.

The Council, and its members, should demand that India urgently: (i) lift the curfew in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and allow the people to exercise all their rights including the right of peaceful assembly; (ii) halt its human rights violations, including the use of force against unarmed demonstrators, the use of pellet guns and live ammunition, and withdraw its military presence from Kashmiri cities, towns and

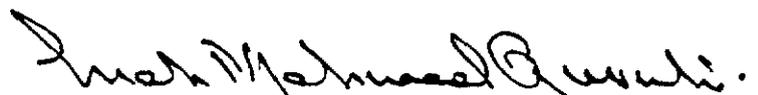
villages; (iii) provide assurances that it will not seek to change the demographic composition of occupied Jammu and Kashmir; (iv) refrain from violations of the India-Pakistan ceasefire understanding of 2003 along the LoC; and (v) reaffirm its commitment to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and a peaceful resolution of the dispute.

Pakistan further suggests that the UN Secretary General be requested to double the number of UNMOGIP observers and persuade India to allow them to patrol on its side of the LoC as well.

Now that the Security Council has been made fully cognizant of the situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and is, once again, actively seized of the dispute, we trust that the Council will continue to closely monitor the situation and discharge its responsibility, in response to serious developments that threaten international peace and security.

Pakistan stands ready to cooperate in every possible way with the Security Council, the UN Secretary General and the world community to promote a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Charter and the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


(Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi)

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Copy to: H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, New York.