

19 November 2019

Mr. John Howarth MEP  
European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz 60  
1047 Brussels

Dear Mr. John Howarth,

First of all, we would like to thank you your kind answer to our letter seeking support for a plenary debate on the present dire situation in Kashmir under the agenda item 'Urgencies'. You know that the international community's efforts to help resolve the Kashmir issue began only weeks after the dispute erupted in October 1947 and the controversy remained since then on the world's radar scope for almost three-quarters of a century.

We, at the Kashmir Council EU highly appreciate your effort to bring this issue to a peaceful end especially now, when in the Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir a population of 8 million people has been living under house arrest for 106 days. The Kashmiri people are living under harsh conditions without even the most basic and inalienable rights such as the right to life, right to education and healthcare, right to move, right to practice their religion or even right to bury their loved ones with dignity. In this circumstance, your personal stance for the people in Kashmir and for bringing peace to the region is- we would say- almost incomparable in the European Parliament. We also highly appreciate your letter to Mr. Joseph Borell Fontelles, Vice President Designate of the European Commission reminding him, "that Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory, and cannot be considered as a solely internal matter for the Republic of India.

We are also thankful for raising the profile of the Kashmir issue in EU institutions and for your commitment to work further on this with Kashmir Council EU.

Best wishes



Ali Raza Syed  
Chairman of  
Kashmir Council EU

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