

Ms Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and
Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission

European Commission

Rue de la Loi 200

1049 Brussels

Belgium

Brussels, 4th August 2019

Subject: Recent developments in Indian Administrated Kashmir

Dear High Representative Mogherini,

I am writing to you to express my alarm at the events that are at this moment unfolding in the territory that, prior to partition, constituted the Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir.

You may recall that I have written to you on a number of previous occasions pointing out the danger of allowing the India/Pakistan dispute over Kashmir to become a flashpoint for a military confrontation. Unfortunately, this appears to be exactly what is happening.

This is to urge you to intervene urgently in the fast deteriorating situation in the Indian Administrated Kashmir. The peace-loving circles across the world are witnessing the recent developments in Indian Administrated with great concern. The steps being taking by the Indian government are unprecedented, to say the least, and reflect intentions, which can put the entire region in the havoc of war. There is a great panic prevailing in the people of Indian Administrated Kashmir due to following steps taken by the government of India during the last few days:

An executive letter cancelled the historic annual pilgrimage of Amarnath Yatra citing reasons of expected acts of terrorism. Thousands of pilgrims and tourists have been ordered to leave the valley. This act is almost unprecedented as it did not happen even during the 90s when militancy was at its peak.

The Indian government has deployed around 40,000 more armed personals in recent days. According to reports, local police is being disarmed and military and paramilitary forces are given the charge. Check posts throughout the valley are increased and new bunkers are being built. Besides that, a huge movement of heavy armaments is being seen across Indian Administrated Kashmir.

The Indian forces have resorted to unprovoked violation of the ceasefire on the line of control. The Indian forces are firing in the range of 40 KM within Azad Kashmir and trying to target Neelum Jehlum Dam with the intention to create a huge catastrophe. Besides that, they are using cluster bombs, which is a war crime according to the **Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) adopted in 2008**.

It is rumoured that the Indian government is moving decisively towards finishing article 35 A and 370 regarding Kashmir. Article 35 A relates to the special status of the residents of people of Jammu and Kashmir and Article 370 bars Indian states from any legislation regarding Jammu and Kashmir without their consent. This will provoke a great reaction in the valley, Pakistan and across the world by the people of Kashmir. The escalation of tension by the Indian government is very much capable of provoking a war between two nuclear-armed states with disastrous consequences.

The European Union with its history of providing moral and material support for human rights in Asia is uniquely placed to mediate between the parties in this dispute. In view of the probable consequences of a military engagement between two nuclear powers in this region, I am sure you will agree with me that the Union cannot stand by passively and allow the situation to deteriorate further.

We request you to use the influence of your good office to convince the Indian government to refrain from committing further atrocities on the people of Kashmir who are already facing heaviest military presence with draconian laws such as AFSPAC and PSA. The entire Kashmiri leadership is in jails, the press is heavily bullied, and rights of the citizens are vandalized on a daily basis. All this has been clearly mentioned in the two recent reports by UNHRC. This is the time for urgent actions from peace lovers.

I should be most grateful if you would keep me informed as to the particular measures you have decided to adopt.

Yours sincerely,


Ali Raza Syed
Chairman,
Kashmir Council EU