

Statement to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on
Behalf of the Indo-American Kashmir Forum (IAKF), an Organization
Dedicated to the Protection of Human Rights of Minorities in Kashmir

Vijay K. Sazawal, Ph.D.

August 3, 1992

We are not professional lobbyists or media consultants, nor do we have the kind of money to pay the public relations companies who are campaigning on behalf of our adversaries. Unlike our opponents, the President of our Forum does not travel to sponsoring countries to update them on the status of the campaign - the media war - being fought in this country. We have no fancy brochures or pamphlets, only the facts that cannot be suppressed any more. We have no sponsor other than our conscience and our pain for our loved ones, our close relatives, who are suffering a thousand deaths as we speak today.

We are talking about the inhabitants of Kashmir who created the civilization in that beautiful land around 3000 B.C., who contributed to the glory of Hinduism and Buddhism, and when the era came to accept the Islam in 1300's, did it with passive acceptance and open tolerance. Kashmiri Pandits (Hindus) paid a dear price for their humanism then, resulting in the survival of only eleven Hindu families in the entire valley by early 1400's, but kept the hope and faith that things can only get better, not worse. The concept of "Kashmiriyat" was born, which simply stated means that Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims have a rich tradition of religious tolerance and common cultural values that allows them to co-exist peacefully.

This in effect became the crux of that idea behind "Naya Kashmir" (new Kashmir) that Kashmiris of all denominations supported at the time when political choices had to be made in the Indian subcontinent in 1947. The essence of Kashmiriyat is what made Kashmiri Pandits feel secure in the valley inspite of the early signs of terrorism which began to raise its ugly head in February 1986 when a number of Hindus temples (places of worship) and homes were destroyed in South Kashmir. Unfortunately, the tolerance and moderation shown by the Hindus became their curse. Drawing inspiration and support from their role models in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Iran, a new breed of Kashmiri militants and terrorists took hold of the valley and brought death and destruction to Kashmiri Pandits.

The survivors of the holocaust still speak in terror of the night of April 4, 1990, when all the mosques simultaneously broadcast an audio tape asking people to fight jihad against India and threatened "Hindu infidels" to leave the valley or face dire consequences. Subsequently, on April 14, 1990 the "Alsafa" news daily published a statement stating, "Pandits, responsible for harassment of Muslims, must leave within two days". Imagine the 95% Muslim majority feeling threatened by the 5% Hindu minority!

Even today, the abuse of the human rights of Kashmiri Pandits by the Islamic terrorists in the valley continues unabated. We are talking of killings, abductions, brutality, people driven from their homes and lands, vacant homes fire bombed and the degeneration of an entire ethnic community to a second class citizenship in their own land. We are talking of destruction of a 5,000 year old culture, that contributed to Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Kashmiriyat. We are talking of an endangered human species, already decimated to a small size (about 280,000 brave souls), which is on its way to complete extinction.

This paradigm will not be interrupted unless the World understands what is really happening in Kashmir today. It will not change unless you, the members of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, step forward and ask our adversaries, "Why did you not tell us the whole story?" We are here to tell that story.

Attachments

1. Memorandum on Human Rights Violations of Kashmiri Hindus given by the All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS), the apex organization of Kashmiri Pandits, to Dr. B. Boutros-Ghali, Secretary General of the UN, on April 23, 1992.
2. The list of Kashmiri Hindus killed by the Islamic terrorists as of April 1990.

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President
D.N. Munshi

April 23, 1992

Rt. Hon'ble Dr. Boutros Ghali .
Secretary - General
United Nations Organisation Camp.
New Delhi.

MEMORANDUM

on

Human rights Violations of Kashmiri Hindus

Your Excellency,

We, the Kashmiri Hindu tiny minority in the overwhelmingly Muslim-majority Kashmir region of the Jammu and Kashmir State of India, have the following to submit.

The tangled Kashmir situation and the exercises to solve it are nearly 45 years old. The United Nations Organisation (UNO) has been involved in it ever since Pakistan attacked the State, and India, to which it had acceded at partition in 1947, took the matter before the UNO.

The UNO Resolutions on the subject are clear and well known. In brief, these urged upon the aggressor country Pakistan to vacate the aggression, to resettle the people displaced by that aggression and handover the occupied part to the J&K authorities.

The Resolutions further envisaged a plebiscite to be held after normalcy had been thus restored.

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Pakistan which had accepted to take these first steps failed to honour its own promises all these two score years and more. The UN Resolutions have thereby been rendered by it ineffectual, infructuous and irrelevant.

In the mean time Pakistan has all the while kept the pressure of aggression on, in one way or another, e.g. the 1965 war against India, or the the 1971 Bangladesh war for freedom from Pakistan when the latter extended the conflict from the eastern to the 1500 Km away western front along Kashmir & Punjab. In 1972, Pakistan signed Simla agreement with India. Under this agreement Pakistan had undertaken to settle all disputes only through bilateral discussions.

Nevertheless flouting all this it continued to sharpen its fangs and turn to many activities of subversion and promotion of internal disorder within the Kashmir Valley.

All this has culminated in the three year old Islamic fundamentalist terrorism in the Valley of Kashmir. As is well known the world over, the Kashmiri Hindus had been singled out as target for the orgy of killings, rape, loot, arson, vandalism, and untold terror and torture.

The small innocuous, unarmed and traditionally peace loving highly educated and cultured society has been subject to such acute abuse and inhuman violence as to push it to the edge of extinction. They were terrorised and tortured and filled with paralysing fright, their properties seized or destroyed, their jobs snatched, their avocations devastated, their places of worship desecrated. This was of the proportions of a genocide, a holocaust and a blinding blankness such as humankind may never have experienced, except perhaps the jews under Hitler's Germany.

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The Kashmiri Pandits fled their millenia-old flourishing homes and hearths in utter disarray with hands empty but hearts and minds filled with benumbing horror. They have since been living miserable lives in sub-human conditions in hurriedly put up refugee camps in Jammu and elsewhere in India.

The Appendix attached gives in broad outline a measure of the sufferance of this proud and productive minority. They have enriched their birthland as well as many countries with their hard, honest efficient and very special skills and services. Yet back home, this very community has been reduced to be destitute, sick and starving. They are living out their days in utter lack of dignity, privacy, gainful employment and the minimum needs for bare survival. And now they face the grim prospect of losing also their right to contest and vote, if the authorities carry out their plan of holding elections to the State Legislature, disregarding the basic rights of more than 300 thousand people thrown out of their home land.

You would thus observe, Sir, that all the human rights enshrined in the UN Charter & in the Universal Declaration have been violated and snatched from this Hindu minority and are being trampled under foot all day, everyday by Pakistan and Pakistan armed, trained, aided and abetted saboteurs, terrorists and fundamentalist zealots and outright bandits.

It is a travesty of justice, fairplay and truth that no world body claiming to secure the rights of people has ever taken note of the human tragedy which has brought down 300,000 of this community to lick dust and dirt in the so-called camps which are infested with disease and reptiles *et al.*

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The widening and fast ~~fr~~ightening ~~grip~~ of the terrorist fundamentalists around the world is yet another most fearful prospect for the Kashmir trauma to intensify and extend in the days to come.

The All India Kashmiri Samaj New Delhi the apex body of over 35 local socio-cultural organisations of Kashmiri Hindu Community dotting India and Europe and the USA solicits your personal and humanitarian interest and sympathy to save the stricken community and create conditions conducive to their return to home land in security, dignity and peace. It is further requested that the UN and Human Rights Commission may put on record these Human Rights Violations by Pakistan and its agents, and Pakistan be declared a terrorist state.

Assuring you of our profound regards and awaiting your kind acknowledgement,

I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Dwarkanath Munshi
(DWARKANATH MUNSHI)

President
D.N. Munshi

APPENDIX

1. 1373 Non-muslims killed by terrorist from 1989 upto this day - Groups owning responsibility for these deaths are :
(a) Hizbi Islami, (b) Allah Tigers, (c) Akhwani - Musulmeen, (d) Musli Janbaz Force, (e) JKLF and other splinter terrorist groups of Islamic Ittehad.

To name a few prominent personality killed:

Pt. T.L. Tiploo : Advocate, a Social and Political activist.

Pt. N.K. Gunjoo : Retired Judge and Advocate

Pt. P.N. Bhat : Advocate, Journalist and Social Worker.

Dr. K.L. Gunjoo : Young Scientist (Professor Agriculture University).

Dr. B.N. Raina : Young Scientist (Jt. Director Sericulture Deptt.)

Pt. Lassa Koul : Journalist (Director Radio Kashmir Shrinagar).

Pt. A.K. Koul : Govt. Officer (Dy. Director Food & Supplies, J&K Govt.).

Mr. Anil Bhan : Dy. Manager U.C.O. Bank, Srinagar.

Pt. Sarwanand Koul : Educationist, Poet and Social "Premi" activist.

Mr. M.L. Khera : General Manager, HMT, Kashmir

Mr. Virender Suri : Floriculturist, Businessman and a "Lion".

Mr. A. Sawhney : A young Technocrat and Businessman.

Mr. B. Sapru : Telecom Engineer

Ms. Prana Gunjoo : A Lady Lecturer in a College.

Ms. Sarla Bhat : A Matron in a Medical Institute.

Ms. Girija Tickoo : A teacher

Ms. S. Koul : A Lecturer and Social Activist

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2. More than 14,000 houses of Hindu Minority have been looted so far.
3. More than 3,000 houses have been put to torch upto this day.
4. Hundreds of Orchards and farms belonging to Hindu minority have been extensively damaged.
5. Hundreds of Hindus have been abducted so far. Some of those who were release in exchange of jailed terrorist have almost lost their balance of mind.
6. Under the order of Islamic fundamentalist organisations all people pursuing any vocation in connection with fine arts like dance, drama, singing, sculpture were asked to give-up these profession as they are not allowed in Islam. Beautiparlours, Beer or liquor bars and video clubs were close forcibly by the terrorist. This resulted in 2,700 People losing their jobs and source of livelihood.
7. All pressement belonging to Hindu Community were driven out from the Valley. Other Newspapers owned by Muslims are working at the behest and mercy of the Islamic terrorist.
8. More than 21,000 youngman of Hindu community have lost their jobs thus putting them to inculcable mental agony.
9. Having been driven out by the murderous fanatical, fundamentalist muslim terrorist aided and adbeded by Pakistan from the cool and salubrious climate of Kashmir, the 3,00,000 Kashmiri Hindus living in refugee camps or hired appartment outside have been afflicted by all types of tropical diseases, hypertension, heart and kidney ailments and snake and scorpion bites. More than 1250 deaths took place of young and old as these people are not acclimatise to tropical heat.

OUR MARTYRS

Victims as of
April 1990

The following men, women, and children lost their lives to terrorism based on religious fundamentalism:

	N A M E	LOCATION	PROFESSION	DATE OF ASSASINATION
1.	A. K. Ganjoo	Sathu Barbers	N. A.	3/4/87
2.	Pawan Kumar	Zaindar Mohalla	Shopkeeper	N.A.
3.	Swami K. Nath	Vicharnag	Pujari	9/12/88
4.	Tika Lal Taploo	Chinkral Moh.	Advocate	13/9/89
5.	Nila Kanth Ganjoo	Karan Nagar	Ex-Judge	4/11/89
6.	R. P. N. Singh	Anantnag	I. B.	N. A.
7.	Sheela Tickoo	Srinagar	Homemaker	1/11/89
8.	Prem Nath Bhat	Anantnag	Advocate	27/12/89
9.	Krishan Chohan	Budgam	I. B.	N. A.
10.	Ramesh Thusoo	Trhgam	State Govt.	1/2/90
11.	M. L. Bhan	Khonomoh	--ditto--	15/1/90
12.	Ajay Kapoor	Maharaj Ganj	Merchant	10/12/90
13.	S. K. Tikoo	Karfalli Moh.	State Govt.	2/2/90
14.	Tej K. Razdan	Gawa Kadal	--ditto--	12/2/90
15.	Naveen Saproo	Habba Kadal	Telecom.	27/2/90
16.	Lassa Koul	Bimna	Dir. AIR	13/2/90
17.	P. L. Fotedar	Bijbhera	State Govt.	28/2/90
18.	P. N. Handoo	Balgarden	Infor. Ofc.	1/3/90
19.	Anil Bhan	Kanikadal	State Govt.	17/2/90
20.	Moti Singh	Kuthua	--ditto--	27/2/90
21.	Kashi Nath	Kathi Darwaza	Retired	6/3/90
22.	T. C. Ambardar	Zaindar Moh.	--ditto--	23/3/90
23.	T. K. Razdan	Budgam	State Govt.	--/3/90
24.	S. N. Tickoo	Ganderbal	--ditto--	-ditto-
25.	S. Paul	Amira Kadal	--ditto--	-ditto-
26.	Rattan Lal	Kupwara	--ditto--	-ditto-
27.	B. K. Gangoo	Chatta Bazar	Telcomm.	23/3/90
28.	Shrimati Devi	Allachi Bagh	?	--/3/90
29.	A. K. Raina	Srinagar	State Govt.	19/3/90
30.	Joginder Singh	N. A.	N. A.	3/3/90
31.	Dinesh Lal	Karan Nagar	Shopkeeper	19/3/90
32.	Ramesh Sahini	Srinagar	Business	27/3/90
33.	Punit Salini	Ziandar Moh.	N. A.	27/3/90
34.	P. N. Koul	Bijbhera	Agri. Dept.	22/3/90
35.	A. K. Bazaz	Safa Kadal	Service	26/3/90
36.	Jagar Nath	Anantnag	Police	3/3/90
37.	Amrik Singh	Amira Kadal	Business	--/3/90
38.	B. L. Misri	Peer Bagh, Sgr.	--ditto--	23/3/90
39.	Ramesh Peer	Vichar Nag	Service	6/4/90
40.	Ashok K. Bhat	Wadipora, Sgr.	--ditto--	26/3/90
41.	Radha Krishan	Karan Nagar	Business	5/4/90
42.	H. L. Khera	Chandigarh	G. M., HMT	10/4/90
43.	A. K. Qazi	Tankipora	Handicraft	24/2/90
44.	J. Malhotra	Safa Kadal	Business	22/4/90
45.	Om Prakash	Shopian	State Govt.	19/3/90
46.	K. K. Koul	Srinagar	Business	5/4/90
47.	Bansi Lal	Chattergul	Business	28/4/90

48.	Dwarka Nath	Anantnag	Service	30/4/90
49.	Narendar Nath	Rainawari	--ditto--	24/4/90
50.	Bharat Koul	Pompora	--ditto--	28/4/90
51.	Daleep Kumar	?	--ditto--	30/4/90
52.	Brij Lal Shah	Kupwara	Service	27/4/90
53.	Prem Nath Koul	Pulwama	N. A.	5/4/90
54.	Daleep Singh	Shopian	Service	30/4/90
55.	Sarla Bhat	Qazi Moh.	--ditto--	25/4/90
56.	Makhan Lal	Kanikadal	--ditto--	21/4/90
57.	Sunil Kotru	Rainawari	--ditto--	22/4/90
58.	Niranjan Nath	Akingam, Ang.	Business	24/4/90
59.	Kashi Ram	Badgam	Service	25/4/90
60.	Sarup Sampath	Zakura	--ditto--	25/4/90
61.	Surender Khar	Mattan	--ditto--	25/4/90
62.	Bansi L. Saprou	Gulab Bagh	--ditto--	25/4/90
63.	Raj Nath	Srinagar	--ditto--	26/4/90
64.	Unidentified	Khrew	--ditto--	26/4/90
65.	Bushan Lal	Budgam	--ditto--	28/4/90
66.	M. L. Pandita	Kupwara	--ditto--	30/4/90
67.	Heera Lal Kar	Kak Moh.	--ditto--	30/4/90
68.	M. L. Wangnoo	Srinagar	--ditto--	30/4/90
69.	Unidentified	Kupwara	N. A.	1/5/90
70.	Sarwanand Koul	Anantnag	Retired	1/5/90
71.	Virender Kumar	Anantnag	Service	1/5/90
72.	M. L. Thaploo	Anantnag	Business	2/5/90
73.	Autar Krishan	Badgam	N. A.	2/5/90
74.	Chuni L. Shalla	Kupwara	N. A.	2/5/90
75.	Vinod Kumar	Nowhatta	?	6/5/90
76.	Virender Chata	Baramulla	Service	3/5/90
77.	Surinder Dhar, was shot	at Habba Kadal	on 5/5/90. Luckily survived; under treatment in Agra.	
78.	Kudan L. Ganjoo	Sopore	Professor	7/5/90
79.	Smt. P. Ganjoo	Sopore	Service	7/5/90
80.	Dolly	Karan Nagar	?	7/5/90
81.	P. K. Bhat	Lolab	N. A.	28/4/90
82.	Dev Kant Roy	Srinagar	Self-emp.	8/5/90
83.	Bihari Labroo	Anantnag	N. A.	9/5/90
84.	Inderjeet	Badgam	Merchant	10/5/90
85.	G. L. Gulshan	Pulwama	N. A.	10/5/90
86.	Moti Lal	?	N. A.	?
87.	Rattan Lal	?	N. A.	10/5/90
88.	Unidentified	Pulwama	N. A.	10/5/90
89.	Unidentified	?	N. A.	10/5/90
90.	Surinder Kumar	Tulamula	Service	--ditto--
91.	Mohan Lal	Anantnag	--ditto--	13/5/90
92.	Autar Krishan	Badgam	--ditto--	--ditto--
93.	Chaman Lal	Badgam	--ditto--	--ditto--
94.	Daya K. Dullo	Srinagar	--ditto--	12/5/90
95.	Veer Ji	Badgam	--ditto--	13/5/90
96.	Bushan Lal	Srinagar	--ditto--	13/5/90
97.	Unidentified	Srinagar	--ditto--	15/5/90
98.	S. Gudoo Singh	Srinagar	Business	?
99.	A.K. Wazir	Srinagar	Service	?
100.	Saroop Nath	Beru	--ditto--	3/5/90

101 - 381 - Identified so far. Publishing of the names to be continued in the next issue. In the meantime, anyone wishing to have the full list, please call the KOA Office: (313) 978-2435