



5th of September 2019

ANIC National Khutbah (Sermon)

“Kashmir is Crying and Calling for Help”

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) urges all Imams, Khateebis and community leaders this **Friday 6th of September 2019** to dedicate their Friday Khutbah (Sermon) addressing the current situation of Kashmir.

ANIC Recommends the Following Points to be Addressed:

- *The history of Khashmir and the presence of Muslims in that region for many centuries.*
- *The atrocities that the Kashmiri people have been facing for nearly 80 years in particular in the last month.*
- *The current situation in Kashmir after the Indian Government through a presidential decree, revoked Article 370 of India's constitution, which granted special rights to the Muslim-majority state, including the right to its own constitution and autonomy to make laws on all matters except defence, communications and foreign affairs.*
- ***The Muslim community's responsibility towards Kashmir based on:***
 - *Creating an awareness on this serious matter.*
 - *The injustice and oppression that the Kashmiri people are facing.*
 - *The importance in standing up for justice regardless of faith or race.*
 - *To lobby the Australian government, local MP's, government and non government agencies on this matter, by meeting, corresponding and calling them and their office.*
 - *Make the non Muslim Australian community through your friends, families, colleagues and neighbours aware of this matter.*
 - *Become active on social media in creating awareness on this matter and advocating for the rights of the Kashmiri people.*
 - *Make constant Dua'a for all oppressed people and Muslims around the world in particular the people of Kashmir.*

Please see attached for further details on Kashmir and the current situation.

Finally, The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) thanks All Imams, Khateebis and Community leaders for their outstanding leadership, tireless efforts, cooperation and support on this matter.

Kind Regards,

Australian National Imams Council



Khutbah Points on Kashmir

The illegal constitutional changes announced by the Indian government on Kashmir have paved the way for eruption of massive genocide and large-scale displacement of Kashmiris.

India seized much of Muslim-majority Kashmir in 1947, and deployed more than 600,000 military and paramilitary troops to occupy Kashmir for the last seven decades, and have continued on its agenda of changing the demography from Muslim-majority to Hindu-majority through abuse, oppression, desecration, ignorance and destruction of Muslim population of Kashmir. Kashmiris have resisted Indian rule all along, since 1947.

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is a political arm of Hindu extremist organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), returned to power earlier this year with a pledge to cleanse India from Muslims and other non-Hindus, to fulfil its popular slogan of "Hindutva", meaning "India for Hindus ONLY".

On 5th of August 2019, the Indian government further escalated the tense situation and announced illegal constitutional changes, by revoking Article 370 of India's constitution, which granted special rights to the Muslim-majority state, including the right to its own constitution and autonomy to make laws on all matters except defence, communications and foreign affairs, to further assert its brutal control over Kashmir.

Since the announcement, the humanitarian crisis continued in India-occupied Kashmir as the curfew and communications blackout in Kashmir entered nearly a month. The region is witnessing a mass-scale humanitarian crisis as there is a shortage of food and medicines, which risks lives of the people, especially elderly, women and children.

Indian occupation forces have since long been repressing the uprising in Kashmir through brutal means. There has been an unprecedented deployment of additional troops in what was already the world's most militarised zone, curfew has been imposed, and communications blackout has been implemented. All top Kashmiri leaders, including the pro-Indian leadership, have been arrested.

The 14 million population of occupied Kashmir besieged in the largest prison in the history of mankind is facing a famine-like situation. A near total communications blackout is in-place, including the shutdown of the Internet and telecommunication networks, a form of collective punishment of the people without even a pretext of causing an offence. A massive number of troops (brought in) to enforce restrictions on the freedom of movement and at least 4,000 people have been detained in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The UN experts said they had received information suggesting an increase in arrests of political figures, journalists, human rights activists, protesters and others. The security forces have been conducting night raids on private homes, rounding up young people. People don't have access to medicines and were not allowed to gather in mosques to perform their annual festival Eid al-Adha prayers this year.

All communication links from roads to the internet and phone services remain suspended. Meanwhile, residents are running out of their stocks of essential edible and medicines and anyone who comes out on the road is being shot or arrested by the Indian security forces. As many as 900,000 military and paramilitary troops have been deployed to force 14 million Kashmiri population to stay indoors.



Atrocities for the last seven decades

India seized much of Kashmir in 1947 during the break-up of British colonial rule in the region. In 1949, the United Nations Security Council decided that Kashmiris themselves should determine their future rule, and authorized a UN administered plebiscite of Kashmiris to determine their status. This plebiscite has not yet been held.

The Kashmiri people have resisted Indian rule all along, and there have been many periods of upheaval since 1947. However, Kashmiris movement for the right to self-determination continued to escalate. Atrocities have continued by Indian military and paramilitary troops. More than 100,000 Kashmiris have already lost their lives in this conflict. There are rampant and widespread violations of human rights. In spite of documented evidences of voluminous testimony of serious violations of humanitarian law by Indian government and non-governmental organizations and several UN draft resolutions presented, the International community has not been able to pressurise the Indian Government enough to stop the atrocities against Kashmiris and hold the plebiscite as per United Nations resolutions of 1948-49.

The human rights violations include torture and custodial deaths, rape, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions. Security forces use pellet-firing shotguns and live ammunition in these situations, resulting in multiple deaths and serious injuries of hundreds of civilians, people suffered some form of visual impairment due to pellet injuries, including a number of people partially or completely blinded due to pellets.

Other violations include: administrative detention, killing of civilians in response to demonstrations against atrocities, arbitrary arrests, including of children, subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enforced disappearances, several instances of doctors, paramedics and ambulance drivers being obstructed and physically assaulted by security forces, frequent communication blockades suspending mobile and internet services. Indian forces in Kashmir including water-boarding, sleep deprivation and sexualised torture, are used as an “instrument of control” to suppress any form of opposition.

The high numbers of men disappeared, injured, and killed in Kashmir by India’s military has resulted in Kashmir’s rising population of so-called “half-widows,” women who have become the main economic supporters of their families. The skyrocketing arrests of Kashmir’s men also forces the women out to markets during curfew breaks, increasing their exposure to systematic sexual violence by armed personnel, who have used gang-rape of innocent Muslim women to crush the will of Kashmiris and demoralize them.

After announcing the illegal constitutional changes, BJP official Chief minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar said: “Some people are now saying that as Kashmir is open, brides will be brought from there”

Another official, Vikram Saini, Legislative Assembly Member said: “Party workers (of BJP) should rejoice in the new provisions. They can now marry the white-skinned women of Kashmir.”

It is a resistance in Kashmir between Kashmiri people and their occupiers. It is a resistance against the oppression of the occupying invader and to gain freedom. It is a resistance to gain the rights promised to the Kashmiri people by the United Nations many many years ago and as yet unfulfilled.

Kashmir has come under grave humanitarian assault, and its people stand now in tremendous need of help and prayers. The Kashmiris are the most unfortunate people of the Indian subcontinent. Right from the dawn of Independence on 15th August 1947, the Kashmiris have been continuously denied their basic human right of freedom of choice. They are from amongst the worst victims of unfulfilled promises, atrocities and denial of human rights.



Brief Background History

From 1200 to 1760s, Indian Subcontinent was mostly governed by Muslims, primarily Mughals. From 1760s to 1857, it was governed by British rule. War of Independence against British rule started in 1857, and resulted in partition of India, into Pakistan and India in 1947.

The process agreed on and adopted was that Muslim majority regions to establish Pakistan, and Hindu majority regions to establish India. And independent states to decide on their own destiny.

Junagadh (majority Hindus), then governed by a Muslim ruler, through referendum, joined India, although the ruler wanted to join Pakistan. Kashmir (majority Muslims), then governed by a Hindu ruler, was not afforded similar opportunity, and remained undecided (disputed), and was occupied by India.

RSS

Hindu Nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was established in 1925. RSS did not fight the British rule. Its objective to propagate the ideology of 'Hindutva' (India for Hindus ONLY) and to provide "new physical strength" to Hindus. Its objective was basically to fight the Indian Muslims

RSS leaders openly admired Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. Golwalkar, its founding leader, took inspiration from Adolf Hitler's ideology of racial purity and cleansing.

Gujrat Chief Minister Narendaran Modi (*The Current Prime Minister of India*)

In 2002, The RSS political arm Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in the state of Gujrat, Muslim majority residents, 1,000 people were killed by the Gujrat Chief Minister Narendaran Modi (Current Indian Prime Minister) back then (more than 2,000 by independent tallies). According to eyewitnesses and reports, Indian forces under Modi dragged women and young girls out of their homes and raped them.

One of the ringleaders Babu Bajrangi, boasted on how he slit open the womb of a pregnant woman. 200,000 Muslims lost their homes and belonging.

Gujrat Chief Minister Narendaran Modi, by contrast, said a couple of years ago that he felt the same pain over the bloodshed as a passenger in a car that has just run over a puppy. Referred to the refugee camps of Muslims who lost their homes as "baby making factories".

Under Modi's first term as the PM of India, the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has been accused of stoking and promoting an anti-Muslim sentiment across the country, which has seen a spike in hate crimes and attacks on Muslims. Common occurrence of lynching and gang-rape against Muslims become a commonplace in wider India. In March, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warned India of increasing reports of harassment and targeting of Muslims.