

Below is a copy of the email that was sent out with the attached is the fact sheet:

Given your support for House Resolution 745 - Urging the Republic of India to end the restrictions on communications and mass detentions in Jammu and Kashmir as swiftly as possible and preserve religious freedom for all residents, we would like to draw your attention to the current situation in Kashmir as this year's Day of Exploitation is commemorated. The ongoing repression of Kashmiris is occurring amid a broader environment of Indian religious intolerance that has targeted Sikhs and Muslims. Attached you will find a fact sheet prepared. Given the importance of the August 5 date for the Kashmiri people, we would very much hope that you could show your solidarity with them by posting on social media. Sample tweets below:

- It has been 6 years since India unilaterally revoked Kashmir's special status. Since then, repression has only gotten worse. We urge India to respect its obligations to all minority groups and want the Kashmiri people to know that you are not forgotten.
- On this solemn anniversary, we remember the day India revoked Article 370. The Kashmiri people continue to endure repression and isolation. Human rights must be respected—always, everywhere.
- Kashmir remains under heavy military presence, media blackout, and political suppression—6 years after its special status was revoked. The world must not turn away. Kashmiris deserve dignity, autonomy, and peace.

Thank you,
Alex Ertel

This is distributed by Qorvis on behalf of The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United States. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C

Day of Exploitation Youm-e-Istehsal

August 5

Overview: The Day of Exploitation is observed in Pakistan on August 5. It decries the day in 2019 when the Indian government revoked the decades-long special status of Kashmir that allowed its people significant autonomy. Since then, India's repression of the Kashmiris has increased significantly.



Kashmir – Modern History

1947 Partition and independence from the British Empire sparks the first Indo-Pakistani war over the fate of Kashmir.

1948 The recently created United Nations Security Council passes two resolutions (39 and 47) calling for a truce in the region and the establishment of a Kashmir-wide vote to determine their fate. Both resolutions fail.

1965 The second Indo-Pakistani war erupts and results in a UN Administered Cease Fire in Kashmir.

1972 A year after the third Indo-Pakistani War, Pakistan and India sign an agreement creating the permanent borders in Punjab, Sindh, and Bangladesh while also creating the “Line of Control” in Kashmir that serves as a de-facto border between Pakistan and India.

2008 India and Pakistan open trade route across the ‘Line of Control’ for the first time in six decades, creating cross border transactions through Kashmir.

2019 India falsely links an insurgent attack to Pakistan, resulting in a military standoff and one Indian jet downed.

2025 India attacks Pakistani territory without justification, triggering another armed conflict. After India suffers heavy losses, President Donald Trump secures cease-fire.

India revokes Indian-controlled Kashmir’s autonomy after seven decades, violating U.N. Security Council resolutions, international law and even Indian law – the so-called “Day of Exploitation.”





Facts

- Historic Kashmir – about the size of Utah – lies in the heart of the ancient Indus River Valley, one of the world's oldest civilizations.
- Kashmir sits at the foothills of the Himalayas, serving as home to the second tallest mountain in the world, K2. Nearly 20 million people live in Kashmir. More than 75% are Muslim.
- The northern and western regions are administered by Pakistan. The southern and southeastern regions of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are occupied by India.
- India has made aggressive efforts in recent years to bring Kashmir fully under Indian control and erase its Muslim identity.
- In 2019, India revoked Article 370, which had guaranteed Jammu & Kashmir special status in India.
- In the five months after the repeal of Article 370, the Indian government instituted communications blockades, threats, and curfews. The cost to Kashmir was more than \$2.5 billion USD and some 90,000 jobs in handicraft, tourism and information technology.
- The Indian National Crime Records Bureau reported a spike to almost 10,000 Kashmiri women and girls who went missing between 2019 and 2011 – triple the previous rate.
- Since 2019, India has been restructuring the demography of Kashmir by issuing domicile certificates to millions of non-Kashmiris, redrawing political constituencies to favor the non-Muslim population.
- India also has introduced electoral rights for predominantly non-Muslim people from outside Kashmir, adding some 2.5 million voters, about a 30 percent non-local increase designed to gerrymander elections.
- Separately, India has closed or repurposed more than 32,000 Islamic schools and institutions, affecting hundreds of thousands of Muslim youths.
- Even names of places have changed. 84 locations in the region have been given new Hindu names.
- Rights abuses continue to this day. In the past five months, 23 extrajudicial killings attributed to India have been reported by the KIIR, an independent Kashmiri human rights group.
- India maintains almost 1 million troops in Kashmir, making it the most militarized place in the world.





“We have declared that the fate of Kashmir is ultimately to be decided by the people. That pledge we have given and the Maharaja has supported it, not only to the people of Kashmir but to the world. We will not and cannot back out of it. We are prepared when peace and law and order have been established to have a referendum held under international auspices like the United Nations. We want it to be a fair and just reference to the people and we shall accept their verdict. I can imagine no fairer and juster offer.”

- Jawaharlal Nehru, 1st Prime Minister of India, November 2, 1947.

“It is only the people of Kashmir in a free and impartial plebiscite to be held under UN auspices that can decide whether Kashmir is to accede to India or to Pakistan. Pakistan will continue to make every effort to secure the people of Kashmir the right freely to decide their own future, and will not rest until that right has been effectively secured to them.”

- Liaquat Ali Khan, 1st Prime Minister of Pakistan, July 26, 1948.

“Pakistan remains committed to promoting peace in South Asia and seeks constructive relations with all its neighbors. However, lasting peace in the region cannot be realized without a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in line with the UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan stands in unwavering solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their just struggle and will continue to provide its full political, moral, and diplomatic support for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.”

- Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, October 27, 2024.

“Inside Kashmir, security forces have arrested hundreds as they seek the perpetrators of the April 22 attack, and they have blown up the homes of people they have accused of having terrorist affiliations. The sweeps, which have included the detention of 2,000 people according to one official, resemble the collective punishments that the authorities have previously carried out after attacks on security forces in Kashmir.”

- Mujib Mashal, New York Times South Asia Bureau Chief, April 30, 2025.

“Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) continues to witness systemic human rights violations, particularly targeting the Muslim-majority population. These violations range from arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and collective punishments to the stifling of civil liberties through prolonged communication blackouts, surveillance and media censorship. State institutions operate under a legal architecture, such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA), that institutionalize impunity.”

- KIIR (Kashmir Institute of International Relations), a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization established in 1993 in Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir, May 2025 Report.

“Right to self-determination is a core principle of the UN Charter, as well as of international law. Regrettably, the Kashmiri people have not been able to exercise this inalienable right for over seven decades.”

- Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, January 5, 2025.

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