

**Lord Ahmed of Rotherham**  
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**MOST URGENT**

HE António Guterres  
UN Secretary-General  
United Nations, S-233  
New York, NY 10027  
USA

16<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**RE: Situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir where children are being killed by Indian Forces in cross fire.**

Dear Mr Guterres,

I refer to the recent escalating situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir. As you are aware, Indian Occupied Kashmir has a long and tortured history but appears to have been left by the wayside by international bodies. It is one of the oldest unresolved disputes in the United Nations with an extremely high death rate and one that is increasing daily. This problem have worsened considerably due to the lack of intervention by the United Nations and catastrophic local & national maladministration. As you are aware, the United Nations put forward a vital resolution on self-determination and it has been repeatedly brought to the attention of yourselves that the people of Kashmir require a plebiscite right of self-determination and referendum but no progress has ever been made on this vital diplomatic solution.

The civilian casualties have been extensive in 2016 and oppressive legislation is suppressing the wishes of the people [as described by Amnesty's recent report]. The situation is such that they are unable to protest online or on ground zero. The Public Safety Act is used for those protesting online and weaponry is used to injure or kill civilians protesting in Kashmir thereby breaching international standards. There are subsequently many thousands of political prisoners. The civilian population is extremely traumatized and effectively trapped in an open air prison and denied civil liberties.

While both India and Pakistan exchange arguments at the United Nations, the basic human rights of the civilians of Kashmir have been forgotten. This is not in line with the United Nations Charter or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and nor has any steps been taken to ensure that the directive on the right to self-determination has been adhered to.

Due to the failures and unreasonable behavior by India, their forces are now needlessly ending the lives of children. A 15 year old protester was shot dead. A little girl Kaneeza lost her life and a boy Faisal Ahmed

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suffered injuries due to stray bullets yesterday. These children are innocent civilians whose lives have been lost due to the catastrophic failure of international systems. This is in violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It is due to the current needless loss of young innocent lives that I ask you to consider the following urgently.

1. Please remind India of their obligations under international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention of the Rights of the Child etc.
2. Please ensure that civilians of Indian Occupied Kashmir can seek remedies through your own procedures at the UNHRC without facing reprisals from the Indian authorities.
3. The UNHRC issued a statement citing India's refusal to allow entry to investigate human rights abuses but did cite that an investigation could be done remotely. Please will you clarify the status of this urgently required investigation.
4. This matter should be considered by the United Nations Security Council and the Human Rights Council given the huge losses of lives and the potential of a war crime investigation.

I fear that if urgent measures are not taken by the United Nations, India will continue to end the lives of the youngest in Kashmir. I would be obliged if you could let me know whether the United Nations will act urgently to prevent the needless loss of innocent young lives.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Najid Ahmed', written in a cursive style.

**Lord Ahmed of Rotherham**

**Copy To:**

- International Criminal Court
- International Court of Justice
- United Nations Human Rights Council
- President of the United Nations Assembly
- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria - Deputy Secretary General
- Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli. President-United Nations Human Rights Council