

## PRESS RELEASE

### Kashmir Black Day observed in Toronto

To commemorate sacrifices rendered by the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir since October 1947, The Friends of Kashmir - Canada organized an event at the Consulate General of Pakistan on Saturday, 5 Nov 2016 at 1500 hours.

The event was attended by Canadian academics, civil society activists, students and Canadians of Kashmir origin. Prominent Speakers at the event included, *inter alia*, Dr. Zafar Bangash, Convenor of the Friends of Kashmir Committee, Ms. Faiza Khawaja, a Kashmiri Student, Mr. Ken Stone, Canadian Peace Alliance, Mr. Eric Walberg and Mr. Phil Taylor, Journalist. The Consul General read the messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the Kashmir Black Day.

Dr Zafar Bangash evaluated various dimensions of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in the light of International Humanitarian and Human Rights law. He impressed upon the international community to take note of Indian atrocities in IoK and condemned the Indian government for obstructing implementation of the UNSC resolutions on Kashmir.

Mr. Ken Stone of Canadian Peace Alliance, while drawing comparison between the issues of Kashmir and Palestine, said that the United Nations had failed to guarantee the rights of Kashmiris. He stressed upon the need for internationalization of issue of Kashmir.

Ms. Faiza Khawaja, a Kashmiri student briefed the participants on the atrocities being committed by the Indian occupation forces.

Other speakers highlighted the duplicity of the Indian democracy. They condemned the ongoing wave of state sponsored terror in IoK and demanded immediate withdrawal of occupation forces from IoK.

While reading out the messages of the Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan, the Consul General expressed solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated Pakistan's full political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris.

On this occasion a resolution was tabled by Dr. Zafar Bangash which was unanimously adopted by the Kashmir Committee. The resolution called for immediate cessation of human rights violation by India in IoK and settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN Resolutions and aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

A documentary on the current humanitarian situation in IoK was also screened followed by a photo exhibition.

Toronto

5 November 2016