

Press Release

To mark the 73rd Independence Day of Pakistan, Consulate General of Pakistan organised a flag raising ceremony at the Consulate General of Pakistan Toronto this morning. Today, Pakistan is also commemorating the sacrifices of Kashmiri sisters and brothers against an illegal foreign occupation.

At the invitation of Consul General, Senator Ms. Salma Attaullah Jan, Members of House of Commons, Ms. Salma Zahid, Ms. Iqra Khalid, Ms. Deborah Schulte and Mr. Gagan Sakind as well as Members of Ontario Parliament Mr. Kaleed Rasheed, Mr. Paul Miller and Ms. Kathleen Wynne, attended the event.

The flag of Pakistan was raised by the Consul General to the tune of national anthem of Pakistan which were followed by the messages of the President and the Prime Minister read by the Consul General. The Deputy Consul General apprised the audience of the current situation in IOJ&K.

Ms. Salma Zahid, Member of House of Commons read the congratulatory message of Prime Minister of Canada while Member of Ontario Parliament, Mr. Kaleed Rasheed read the message of Premier of Ontario addressed to the Consul General of Pakistan.

Senator Salma Attaullah Jan said that the world was watching the current crisis in IOJ&K with concern. Pakistanis should be thankful to Quaid-e-Azam for creation of Pakistan, she added. The Senator condemned grave human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir. Ms. Salma Zahid and Ms. Iqra Khalid Members of House of Commons said that Canada was deeply concerned at the current situation in IOJ&K. The Government of Canada will always stand for the rights of innocent Kashmiri people. Ms. Deborah Schulte, Member House of Commons remarked that the current situation could be resolved only by dialogue and diplomacy.

Mr. Kaleed Rasheed, Conservative Member of Ontario Parliament said that the people of IOJ&K were struggling against the Indian occupation and requested those present to pray for their relief. Mr. Paul Miller NDP Member of Ontario Parliament told the gathering that the current situation in Kashmir concerned the entire international community. "Lockdown in the state was a grave violation of human rights". Ms. Kathleen Wynne also expressed grave concerns at the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Independence Day event was attended by a large number of Pakistani community. Documentary "I am Pakistan" as well as Kashmiri national songs were also screened on the occasion.

Toronto

14 August, 2019