



GLOBAL KASHMIRI PANDIT DIASPORA

AN INITIATIVE TO RECOGNIZE KP GENOCIDE AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

February 20, 2019

Press Release: Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) confirms marquee speakers to its 'Kashmiri Pandits - Right the Wrong in Kashmir – 2019 Conclave' on Feb 23, 2019.

GKPD expresses its deep condolences to the families of the victims of the Pulwama suicide terrorist attack and its determination to join hands with the people of India in prosecuting the perpetrators of this horrific crime. Over the last 30 years we have watched with horror as the gun entered Kashmir. The first soft target unfortunately were the Kashmiri Pandits and this led to their Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing. Over the last 30 years the gun has expanded its reach and impact destroying everything that was precious in Kashmir. This greatest of evil was not nipped in the bud. In fact, the pattern of inaction revealed a purpose that seemed to show tacit complicity on the part of those in governance. It is this realization which birthed GKPD ten years ago. We have initiated interaction at a policy level with the highest stakeholders in J&K. A signal achievement was the creation of a Joint Memorandum of Understanding which reflects the common demands of the Kashmiri Pandit community. This MOU was signed by over 30 organizations and nearly 15,000 individuals.

In addition to all the steps that the GOI will take GKPD will move forward to hold accountable those who are guilty of the Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits. Genocide is deemed the highest crime against humanity. International recourse is available against not just individuals but also States who are complicit in this crime. GKPD will invoke this recourse to supplement what Indians will do inside India. GKPD will be submitting its petition to the UNHRC and affiliated bodies in the Summer of 2019 followed by similar exercises at the EEC and other international venues. More formal legal recourse steps will follow.

Chairman

Dr. K. L. Chowdhury

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Prof. Renuka Dhar

GKPD - USA

Dr. Rabinder Kaul

GKPD - Canada

Mr. Vidya Bushan Dhar

GKPD - Australia

Mr. Ash Raina

GKPD - Europe

Mr. Veer Kaul

GKPD - New Zealand

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GKPD - Germany

Mr. Deepak Koul

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There is urgency to asking those who have been in governance in Kashmir as to who bears accountability for the slide in Kashmir which is now possibly headed to another Syria or Afghanistan. Even more important what is the fix? GKPD Conclave will be held on **Saturday, Feb 23rd** from **IST 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm**.

We expect that this Global multi-media event will be attended by thousands of community members, scholars, policy makers, media and other stakeholders via technology. Speakers who have given their written confirmation of participation include –

- 1) **Mr. Abdul Rahim Rather**
ex. Finance Minister
JK National Conference
- 2) **Mr. Muzzafar Hussain Baig**
Member
Parliament of India
Leader Jammu & Kashmir's People's Democratic Party
- 3) **Mr. Sajjad Gani Lone**
Member
Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly
Chairman Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference
- 4) **Mr. Ravinder Raina**
Member
Legislative Assembly
Jammu & Kashmir State
President Jammu & Kashmir's Bharatiya Janata Party
- 5) **Mr. Manish Tewari**
Ex. Minister of Information and Broadcasting
Indian National Congress

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This Conclave will be an opportunity for the global audience to hear speakers' perspectives and policy positions on the theme of the conference in the light of the present-day developments. It will also be a good opportunity for GKPD to present the paradigm shift which has occurred within the Kashmiri Pandit community forced into diaspora globally post-exodus. This shift has significant implications for the governance arms and institutions of J&K State. The enemies of the plurality and peace in Kashmir have been protected but instead it is the public that must be protected from them. The Conclave is a historic first and will give all participants to get on the right side of history.

The objectives of the Conclave are -

- 1) To gain an understanding of which forces led to a systemic failure on the part of the State to perform its constitutional duty to preserve law and order of which protecting the Kashmiri Pandit minority was the greatest violation.
- 2) To identify which governance arms, have thwarted progress as well as accountability since independence and been complicit in supporting anti-national forces of subversion, secession and ethnic cleansing.
- 3) To disclose the barriers at a legislative level which have led to a defacto cover up of the genocide against the Kashmiri Pandits as opposed to addressing based on international legal norms which is a crime.
- 4) To question why the major political parties in the State do not mention this crime against the indigenous people of Kashmir as a key part of their parties' manifesto?

Each invitee will be given ample time to share their thoughts on the subject. This will be followed by around 5 or so questions that will be asked by veteran moderators. The tone will be honest but without hostility, laser pointed as opposed to ambiguous, thoughtful and respectful as opposed to rhetoric. We are optimistic that all parties will gain immensely from this Conclave and that it will serve as a stepping stone for very serious policy next steps which will come out of it. It will also serve as a clear notice to Pakistan. Genocide crime is the single best way to execute Government of India policy of isolating Pakistan, the sponsor of terrorism in Kashmir starting with the 1947 *Kabali* raiders.

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The Public's participation is invited.

India: at 7.30pm
Dial: 0 172 519 9081

Access code: 449-444-461

UK: at 2 PM
Dial: 0-330-606-0530
Access code: 449-444-461
USA: 8 AM CST, 9 AM EST

Dial: +1 701-801-1211
No access code required US only

Other International Numbers are provided at the link below

<https://www.startmeeting.com/wall/gkpd-feb23>

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