



GLOBAL KASHMIRI PANDIT DIASPORA

AN INITIATIVE TO RECOGNIZE KP GENOCIDE AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

20th Jan 2020

Press Release - worldwide commemoration of Kashmiri Pandit Exodus & Genocide on 19th January 2020

Chairman

Dr. K.L.Chowdhury

GKPD – India

Mr. Utpal Kaul

GKPD – USA

Dr. Rabinder Kaul

GKPD – Canada

Mr. Vidya Bushan Dhar

GKPD – Australia

Mr. Ash Raina

GKPD – Europe

Mr. Veer Kaul

GKPD – New Zealand

Mr. Veer Khar

GKPD – Germany

Mr. Ajay Chowdhary

GKPD – UK

Dr. Shafalica Bhan Kotwal

GKPD – Thailand

Mr. D.K. Bakshi

Treasurer

Mr. Suneel Kaul (NZ)

Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) held commemoration day of our exodus on 19th January 2020, in major countries around the globe, including India, to mark the 30th year of Kashmiri Pandits in exile, who were forced to flee the Kashmir valley on this day in 1990 as a result of being targeted by Islamist terrorists.

Decades of targeted campaign of murders, rape threats, destruction of properties and religious sites culminated into a mass exodus of 95% of the population almost overnight on 19th January 1990. On that day, newspapers and mosques issued declarations and pasted fliers called the entire community as infidels and threatened them with death if they did not convert to Islam. The date is widely remembered by Kashmiri Hindus as the tragic “Exodus Day” of being forced out of Kashmir.

GKPD along with its alliance partner associations organized seminars, rallies, symposiums, and prayers in major countries - India, USA, UK, Germany, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Rich tributes were paid to all the martyrs who became victims of senseless genocide. Global community welcomed messages from eminent personalities like Vivek Agnihotri, Pallavi Joshi, several US congressmen, senators who stood in solidarity with the community and India.

In India, at Jagati (the largest refugee camp) Jammu Helpline Humanity, in collaboration with GKPD, organized a symposium and painting competition the topic of which was ‘ethnic cleansing and the way forward’. A protest demonstration was organized in front of Raj Bhawan by all state Kashmir Pandit conference. In Delhi a silent sit in was organized jointly by Jammu Kashmir Vichar Manch (JKVM), Roots in Kashmir (RIK), Panun Kashmir (PK) and Kashmiri Samiti Delhi (KSD). In Mumbai, Kashmiri Pandits Association, Mumbai organized a seminar ‘No more exodus’ where eminent speakers like Padamshree Dr. Kashi Nath Pandita and Dr. Rattan Sharda - a columnist and author, addressed a strong community gathering in Mumbai. In Jaipur the Kashmiri Pandit Association of Jaipur organized a candle march.

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In Australia collective prayers were held to commemorate the genocide and ethnic cleansing. **In Brisbane**, the event was organized by Kashmiri Pandits Australia (KPA) at Lakshmi Narayan temple. The havan and prayers called for world peace and that nobody goes through the kind of sufferings which Kashmiri Pandits have gone through. **In Perth**, Remembrance Day was organized by KPCSWA at Kings Park. **In Sydney**, prayer meeting was organized by the local community members in Sai Mandir. The wider Hindu community joined the Kashmiri Pandits at all the locations to pay homage to thousands of men and women including hundreds of Indian security forces who attained martyrdom.

In New Zealand at Auckland a seminar was organized to commemorate 30 years of exile along with discussions on the way forward. The gathering was addressed through skype by Major Gaurav Arya and Pushendra Kulshreshtha, the noted political analysts.

In Canada a symposium was held in Toronto on “Global terrorism and its impact on social, cultural and economic wellbeing of minorities” focusing on the return of indigenous Kashmiris to the land of their ancestors and restoration of their political rights’. The event was organized by Indo Canadian Kashmir Forum (ICKF) and the speaker panelists were Rajiv Malhotra, Tahir Aslam Gora, Tom Quiggin, Vidhya Bushan Dhar.

In U.S.A, a very high-profile event was organized by Indian Americans for Kashmir (IAKF) and GKPD at TV Asia auditorium in New Jersey to recognize the resilience and noble spirit of the survivors of genocide. Amongst the speakers were Renee Lynn, founder of Voice for India. She said that she loves India so much that she considers the country as her mother and had been to India 23 times. She stood in solidarity with Kashmiri Pandit community and recalled the horror that community faced in Kashmir. She was very pleased by passing of CAA by Modi Government. Noted film actor Anupam Kher also spoke to the gathering and provided a detailed account of the horror that Kashmiri pandit community had to face because of their faith. A very strong rally was organized by Indian Americans in Seattle which was attended by Kashmiri Hindu community of Seattle.

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In United Kingdom, Kashmiri Pandits Cultural society (KPCS U.K) organized an event in Central London entitled ‘Awakening of the Global Hindu” and ‘700 years of Lalleshwari’. The event was well supported by the wider Indian community. Another event was held at Nuneaton by Indo European Kashmir forum (IEKF).

In Europe, a demonstration was held **in Berlin** to condemn the events leading to the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits. **In Finland**, a community event was organized which was attended by local community members along with strong Indian community.

The main emphasis of all these events reflected that the whole community is craving to go back to Kashmir and strongly refuted a disinformation campaign launched by vested interests that community is not interested in going back to the valley. It was also very strongly conveyed that the community is standing at the verge of extinction and all measures for the community to stay connected physically with its roots is of paramount importance for the community.

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