The drone attack on Saudi oil fields. Who will benefit?

By: Dr. Aslam Abdullah

The attack on Aramco oil fields in Saudi Arabia has cut down the world oil production by 5 percent. Saudi Arabia what was producing 10 million barrels a day would not be able to maintain the same level for months to come as half of its production is impacted by the destruction the drone caused. Houthis of Yemen has claimed responsibility. But the US intelligence sources are saying that the attacks originated from Southern Iraq, Secretary of State, Pompeo, a right-wing evangelical Christian, has blamed Iran for the attack. Iran, an oil-rich country, produces about 2.1 million barrels of oil daily. The production has declined recently after the US sanction from about 3.2 barrel a day. Iran is facing financial crunch consequent to the existing sanction and it would have to be a daredevil kind of act on the part of Iran for orchestrating such an attack. Iran is fully aware that it is not a top oil-producing country.

Cont. on page 13.

If the world doesn’t intervene to stop the brutality in Kashmir, all will suffer

By: Riffat Hassan

In August 1947, when the sub-continent became free from British colonialism, it was partitioned into India and Pakistan, on the basis of religion. The Hindu-majority states became part of India, while the Muslim-majority states became part of Pakistan. Kashmir was a Muslim-majority state, but its Hindu ruler, Maharajah Hari Singh, initially opted to remain independent. However, in October 1947 he signed the Instrument of Accession whereby the state of Kashmir joined India while maintaining its autonomy except in the areas of foreign affairs, defense, and communications. The special status of Kashmir was preserved.

Cont. on page 13.


The following is a Press Release from the office of Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib.

DETROIT – Today, Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (MI-13) released the following statement regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir:

“While I have deep respect for India and its important relationship with the United States, I condemn the Indian government’s revocation of the special status of Kashmir.”

Cont. on page 12

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Harvard freshman says he was denied entry to the U.S. over friends social media posts

By: Aysha Qamar

Unlike his classmates who were getting ready to start their first year, 17-year-old Harvard freshman Ismail B. Ajjawi never got to leave Boston's airport upon arrival. U.S. officials detained Ajjawi for eight hours and after interrogating the minor and searching his phone and computer, they revoked his visa and sent him home to Lebanon, the Harvard Crimson reported.

According to a statement by Ajjawi, an immigration officer claimed she “found people posting political points of view that oppose the U.S.” though she discovered nothing Ajjawi had posted himself. “After the 5 hours ended, she called me into a room, and she started screaming at me. She said that she found people posting political points of view that oppose the US on

Cont. on page 13.
US Congress and Kashmir Crisis

By: TMO STAFF

The possibility of a nuclear showdown between India and Pakistan cannot be ruled if the world failed to honor its pledge given the people of Kashmir in the UN in 1948 assuring them the right to self-determination. The world cannot allow a nuclear disaster that might claim over one billion lives as well as irreparable damage to everything the human civilization has built over 5,000 years. The showdown is not about a piece of land called Kashmir. It is not about who owns the beautiful valley of the land described by many as the paradise of the earth. Its about two ideologies. One side believes in the suppression of people's rights to promote hegemonic ideas shrouded in hatred and animosity and the other stands for people's right to determine their own future freely and fearlessly.

India's ruling elites have cut off Kashmir from the rest of the world by imposing a curfew, by deploying almost one million armed personnel and by arresting children, youth, women and elderly who can walk and protest in the streets. How many have been killed and tortured to death in Kashmir. No one is allowed to know because the government of India has imposed draconian censorship. The satellite technology cannot estimate the number of people killed at homes and in the streets. But the satellite images give data about the number of protest rallies that have been held in Kashmir since August 5, when the people were asked to shut themselves in their homes. Patients are dying at home. Young mothers are dying at home for being unable to go to the hospital for delivering babies. Dialysis patients are losing lives because they cannot get the treatment and lack of medicine is creating a disaster of unheard proportion. The power elites of Delhi are not ready to allow Kashmiris to express their ideas freely and fearlessly. They have already bought and intimidated a great majority of journalists who are not ready to allow Kashmiris to express their ideas freely and fearlessly. The power elites in India belong to the RSS and its allied organizations including the BJP. The RSS believes in a minority free India. It reveres Hitler and Mussolini, the two well known Christian fascists. It believes that India is only for Hindus and the minorities either have to leave the country or convert to Hinduism. Kashmir was given special status at the time of the independence status because both India and Pakistan assured its people that they would have the right to choose either of the two countries for their final accession. For almost 70 years the issue of Kashmir was forgotten. But India brought it out at the international level when it stripped Kashmir of special status and annexed it as a union territory against all its promises in the United Nations. Since then almost anyone that matters in the world has spoken on the issue. And now the US Congress members have also started bringing up the Kashmir issue with the context of human rights.

"I am excited to see so many members joining us in calling attention to what is happening in Kashmir. Please continue to call your members and ask them to speak up. We expect openness from India," Representative Ilhan Omar, a Minnesota Democrat, tweeted, referring to a comment on Kashmir from Ted Lieu, a California Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

had tweeted that he had heard from his constituents that they were unable to reach their families in Kashmir. “Democracies like India should not be engaging in a communications blackout that has lasted over three weeks. We need de-escalation, not the hiding of what’s happening.” Lieu had said on Twitter, referring to a tweet from Representative Don Boyer, a Virginia Democrat.

The number of lawmakers commenting on Kashmir is likely to increase when the Congress reconvenes in September.

Additionally, the first Indian-American lawmaker in the House of Representatives, Pramila Jayapal also issued a statement saying that was troubled over reports of arrests in Jammu and Kashmir after India revoked Article 370 of the constitution that granted special status to the state.

“We have taken this decision because we have found that...”
Taliban Unlikely to Abide by a Deal with the United States

By Kamran Bokhari

A preliminary deal between the United States and Afghanistan's Taliban is reportedly in the making. Details remain unclear, but the core agreement would involve Washington withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan. In return, the insurgents will not allow terrorist groups to use Afghanistan as a springboard to launch attacks around the world. However, any such deal will be hard to put into action, because the Afghan jihadist group will not be able to uphold its end of the bargain.

Just four days ago, a suicide bomber detonated himself at a Shiite wedding reception in western Kabul. The blast killed 63 people and wounded another 182. ISIS claimed responsibility for the gruesome attack. Earlier, on Aug. 7, three suicide bombers attacked a police station in the same district of the Afghan capital. That attack was claimed by the Taliban.

The continuing Taliban insurgent activity running parallel to intensifying negotiations is a tactic to sustain pressure on the United States so the Taliban can extract as many concessions as possible at the bargaining table. The attacks from ISIS, however, underscore the hollowness of the Taliban's pledge to keep transnational jihadists from using their country as a base. More critically, there is the matter of the Taliban's relationship with international terrorist outfits, particularly al Qaeda.

The Taliban-al Qaeda Connection

The most important American demand in these talks has been that the Taliban disassociate themselves from al Qaeda. The United States has waged war in Afghanistan since 2001 in an attempt to ensure that terrorists do not enjoy sanctuary in the country, which has largely been an ungoverned space for almost four decades. In fact, Washington started its military campaign only after the Taliban refused to disassociate themselves from al Qaeda – leaving the United States with no choice but to treat the two as allies and topple the former's regime.

After years of conflict, however, Washington and the Taliban have had their respective realizations.

The United States realized that the Taliban are indigenous actors that cannot be militarily defeated; if anything, the group's war-making capabilities only grew with time, and U.S. efforts to establish a viable state have not succeeded. For the Taliban, it became clear that its decision to remain aligned with al Qaeda after the Sept. 11 attacks cost the group its regime. The Afghan jihadist group also recognized that it could not achieve its goals without gaining international recognition as a legitimate Afghan national movement. The Taliban struggled to attain this status during their last stint in power (1996-2001) and now know that the only way to achieve it is through a negotiated settlement with Washington. This is why the Taliban negotiators have been promising their U.S. counterparts that they are prepared to throw al Qaeda under the proverbial bus. But this is not something the Taliban can deliver on, as they still intend to.

It is true that the goals of the Taliban and al Qaeda are very different. The Taliban have sought to establish an emirate within the territorial confines of Afghanistan, while al Qaeda has been seeking a global-scale caliphate. That said, ideologically the two groups are very similar. This explains why, during its regime and even during the 18-year-old insurgency, the Taliban remained aligned with al Qaeda, using the latter as a force multiplier. During the mid-2000s, the relationship with al Qaeda proved especially beneficial to the Taliban; it allowed the Afghan jihadists to develop the modus operandi of suicide bombings – a tactic that the Taliban had not possessed until then.

While the Taliban representatives sitting across the table from Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad's team are insisting that their group has nothing to do with al Qaeda, at the operational level the groups' relationship has remained close. The Taliban subgroup known as the Haqqani Network enjoys particularly strong ties with al Qaeda.

The Shifting Jihadist Landscape

Washington is hoping that a deal will allow it to extricate itself from the longest-running war in American history and leave the Taliban the primary responsibility of fighting transnational jihadists in the country. Yet, as we have seen in conflicts around the world, the jihadist landscape is incessantly fluid, and the lines between different groups can become very blurry. This is because they all share a common baseline militant and jihadist ideology. Therefore, we can expect the Taliban to fight ISIS but not al Qaeda or other Central Asian actors. In fact, the Taliban will be fighting their Afghan as well as ISIS simultaneously.

In this two-front war, the Taliban will need al Qaeda and other allied Islamist insurgent forces as allies. Bear in mind that the Taliban's move to position itself as an Afghan nationalist actor is already causing it to hemorrhage; it has lost many fighters who feel the group is betraying the cause to ISIS. To counter this, the Taliban will need to buoy its radical credentials, and its relationship with al Qaeda will prove useful.

Therefore, it will be a terrible challenge for the Trump Administration to verify that the Afghan Taliban have indeed divorced al Qaeda. This is largely because the Taliban, al Qaeda, and ISIS are opaque structures and their linkages, even after a generation of the U.S.-jihadist war, largely remain well beyond the penetration of intelligence agencies. The jihadist landscape in Afghanistan will become far more complicated, and the deal with the Taliban probably will not yield a durable power-sharing settlement. Instead, the 40-year-old civil war in the country is likely to enter a new phase.

In essence, the Taliban have very little incentive and lack the capability to distance themselves from transnational jihadists – much less ensure that their country won't be a staging ground for international terrorist attacks. Washington's need to fast track a provisional deal with the Taliban in order to satisfy domestic political imperatives ahead of President Donald Trump's re-election bid in 2020 is understandable. But Khalilzad's team must be empowered to negotiate more aggressively and pay attention to the details of any agreement, especially the enforcement mechanisms. Furthermore, Washington should realize that any deal would just be an initial step toward making sure that transnational jihadists do not regain freedom of operation in Afghanistan.

We should not repeat the mistake of simply packing up and leaving as we did after the 1988 Geneva Accords were signed. There is a dire need to plan ahead and in great detail for what happens after a deal is inked.

Dr. Kamran Bokhari is a founding director of the Center for Global Policy and the coordinator for Central Asia studies at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and are not an official policy or position of CGP, FSIO or the U.S. Department of State.

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Kupperman an Anti-Muslim Warrior

by TMO Staff

In a not very surprising move, President Trump fired one time trusted National Security Advisor, John Bolton. Even though Bolton denied being fired, yet Washington knew that after having a disagreement with Trump, Bolton’s future was not secure in the current administration. His deputy has taken over and most likely, Trump would give him the position. Charles M. Kupperman has served on the board of director for the Center for Security Policy (CSP), a well-known anti-Muslim hate group. He has ties to conspiracy theorist Frank Gaffney, the founder of CSO. According to the CSP’s tax record, Kupperman served on the group’s board between 2001 to 2010. He was a defense contractor executive and former Reagan Administration staffer. He was one the board of the CSP when its director Gaffney wrote a column in the Washington times speculating that Obama might be a secret Muslim. Under his directorship, the CSP also published a report about the dangers of Sharia law in the US. Kupperman has been an executive for Boeing and Lockheed Martin, the two defense contractors that have funded CSP in the past. Kupperman was a strong advocate for the US withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear deal. Other Trump team members who have worked for and supported CSP include, Mike Pompeo, Kellyann Conway.

In January 2019, when Kupperman was appointed Bolton’s deputy, the Southern Poverty Law Center questioned the decision in a tweet that read: “Pres. Trump has appointed a new deputy national security advisor: Charles Kupperman, who previously served on the board of anti-Muslim hate group Center for Security Policy. He is not the only member of this administration with ties to the hate group.”

The Center for Security Policy (CSP) is a far-right, Washington, D.C.-based think tank founded in 1988 by Frank Gaffney Jr. It has received hefty funds from Boeing, General Dynamics; Lockheed Martin; Northrup Grumman; Raytheon; and General Electric and the Bradley Foundation. In 2016, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) declared the CSP as a hate group and a “conspiracy-oriented mouthpiece for the growing anti-Muslim movement”. One of the CSP’s “Occasional Papers” accused Huma Abedin, then Hillary Clinton’s aide, of being an undercover spy for the Muslim Brotherhood. On June 13, 2012, Republican members of Congress Michele Bachmann, Trent Franks, Louie Gohmert, Thomas Rooney, and Lynn Westmoreland, sent a letter to the State Department Inspector General including accusations against Abedin cited to the CSP. The letter and the CSP’s accusation were widely denounced as a smear, and achieved “near-universal condemnation”, including from several prominent Republicans such as John McCain, John Boehner, Scott Brown, and Marco Rubio.

Most likely, Kupperman’s appointment would bolster CSP and the White House staff may adopt many of the group’s recommendations to monitor Muslims groups in the US.

AHRC demands India’s restoration of Kashmir’s self-autonomy:

PRESS RELEASE:
The American Human Rights Council (AHRC-USA) condemns the recent human rights violations committed by the Indian armed forces against the innocent Kashmiri Muslim population.

Kashmir is one of a number of issues of contention between India and Pakistan. The autonomy status of Kashmir was one way to keep tensions manageable. Recently, President Trump offered to mediate between Pakistan and India over their disagreements, including over Kashmir. He was rebuffed. Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan also made a number of attempts to have a dialogue with India. He was ignored.

Instead of mediation and dialogue, India has chosen to create facts on the ground in Kashmir. Thinking it is the right time to violate Kashmir, the Hindu nationalist PM Narendra Modi is dealing with Kashmir as an occupied enemy city. The Indian army has imposed severe curfews on the residents of Kashmir and put the whole area under siege.

According to multiple media reports, the Indian military forces has arrested and detained civils including women, elderly, children, clergy and all the community leaders and activists. Reports indicate inhuman treatment and assaults committed against the residents of Kashmir in brutal fashion trans-forming Kashmir into a war zone with no regard to the basic human rights of its residents. Kashmir has been cut off from the world.

AHRC is very alarmed by India’s actions. AHRC calls upon the United Nations and the international community to intervene and provide protection to the residents of Kashmir and its entire population. India should be held accountable for the human rights violations committed in Kashmir. Kashmir’s autonomy should be restored.

“The whole world is watching India ignore calls for mediation and peaceful dialogue and instead choosing to violate the human rights of the people of Kashmir,” said Imad Hamad. “The situation in Kashmir should not be tolerated, the world should do more to protect the eight million Kashmiris from the regime of Hindu nationalists,” added Hamad.

To read more about the conflict, visit: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/world/asia/india-pakistan-crisis.html
Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders Speaks out for Kashmiris

by TMO Staff

During the last weekend of August, at the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) annual convention in Houston, Bernie Sanders spoke at the gathering of about 6,000 attendees.

“We must speak out at hate crimes and violence targeted at the Muslim community and call it what it is: Domestic Terrorism,” he said.

Alongside Julian Castro, Sanders is the first presidential candidate to address the gathering. The ISNA convention is one of the largest Muslim gatherings in the country.

The presidential candidate went on to talk about his personal family history. He shared that those in his family who remained in Poland were murdered by the Nazis.

Clips from his speech at the event were posted to his Twitter page @BernieSanders as well as the twitter page @People4Bernie. Sanders greatly stressed injustice currently being faced by Kashmiris, the first presidential candidate to do so far.

“I’m deeply concerned about the situation,” he expressed in the video on his twitter that received comments of support as well as criticism.

“India’s action [in Kashmir] is unacceptable and the communications blockade must be lifted immediately, and the US government must be speak out boldly in support of international humanitarian live and in support of a UN backed peaceful resolution”

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By our Correspondent
WASHINGTON, DC – Residents of the north-eastern Indian state of Assam face an August 31 deadline to submit citizenship verification documents in order to be included on a finalized National Register of Citizens (NRC). The stated purpose of the registration process is to verify the status of migrants from Bangladesh, which borders Assam. A June 2018 joint letter by four United Nations special rapporteurs, among them the special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, argued that the updated NRC could be used to disenfranchise Muslims in the region and is part of the government’s ongoing efforts to introduce a “religious test” specifically aimed at clearing out Muslims. In response to developments in Assam, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Chair Tony Perkins and Commissioner Anurima Bhargava issued the following statement:

“We remain troubled by any government policies or actions that have the effect, whether intentional or not, of undermining religious freedom for vulnerable religious minorities. The National Register of Citizens verification process must not become a means to target and render stateless the Muslim community in northeastern India. Proposed policies that suggest that Muslims—and Muslims alone—will face a higher burden for verification, along with worrisome rhetoric, create a negative and potentially dangerous climate for the Muslim community in northeastern India,” said Bhargava.

Only individuals able to prove their citizenship prior to March 24, 1971, along with their descendants, will be included on the updated NRC list, with final determination of citizenship status provided by local “Foreigners Tribunals.” In July 2018, a draft update of the NRC was released with nearly four million names excluded due to their alleged inability to provide proper documentation. In its 2018 Annual Report, USCIRF expressed its concern that the updated NRC in Assam is “an intentional effort to discriminate and/or has the effect of discriminating against Muslims, and that the discretion given to local authorities in the verification process and in identifying perceived foreigners to be excluded from the draft list will be abused.”
Air Canada Forces 12-Year-Old Girl to Remove Hijab

By Usman Saiyed

A 12-year-old girl was forced by Air Canada employees to remove her hijab as she waited to board her flight at San Francisco International Airport. Her family is now angry and looking for answers, news channels report.

Fatima Abdelrahman was traveling from California to Toronto on August 1 with her coach and teammates on the U.S. Squash team to play in an international tournament. After passing through security and having her boarding pass and passport checked, she waited at her gate for the aircraft. As they were called onto the plane, an Air Canada agent stopped Fatima and told her to remove her hijab. The agent did not let her pass and waited for Fatima to remove her scarf. Fatima had stated she had been checked by the security. Then two other Air Canada agents approached Fatima and demanded that she remove her hijab because she wasn’t wearing it in her passport.

Fatima asked if they could go in a private, closed area to remove her scarf but the agents said no. Eventually, a female Air Canada agent took her into the tunnel which people take to enter the aircraft and Fatima removed her hijab. After all this, Fatima stated that the agent barely even looked at what was on her head. Her parents replied in urgent texts telling her to stay calm but her sister, Sabreen took to the internet and called out twitter.

Sabreen tweeted, “pls explain why you pulled aside my 12yr old sister for flight 758 making her take off her hijab AT THE GATE?? AFTER she already passed security. Thx for ruining her experience as the first U.S. National Team Squash player in Hijab + her first time traveling alone.”

Air Canada responded, “Hello Sabreen, we are truly sorry to hear about this situation and we certainly understand your concerns. May you please DM us your daughter’s booking references so we can better follow-up?” Air Canada replied asking for more information and at the same time mistakenly referring to Fatima as Sabreen’s daughter.

Fatima didn’t let the incident phase her; she went on to win her squash tournament. She says that she won’t be using Air Canada anymore and it’s unclear if U.S. Squash will use Air Canada. But Fatima still likes Canada, “I don’t think it’s changed my perspective of Canada itself,” She says, “There’s a lot of nice people here.”
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This bogey of Islamophobia is rising its ugly head worldwide. We recently saw the most gruesome terror attack on the innocent congregation gathered for Friday prayers in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Islamophobia has its roots in the US and Europe among those who believe in the concepts of supremacy on the basis of race, religion and ethnicity. Only through a long process of dialogue, discussions and education, this menace that is spreading fast can be checked effectively.

We need to invest in our younger generation to be able to counter constant attacks on Islam and Muslims. We want them to be skilled communicators, excellent writers and objective researchers. Only through bringing out facts and demolishing myths and stereotypes, our young journalists can challenge the narratives spread by Islamophobes.

TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES:

(a) We must prepare a strong team of our own reporters and communicators that will report objectively.

(b) We must support students willing to do accurate and balanced research on the issues that impact Muslims and other fellow citizens in America.

(c) We must fund internship with State and Federal Law makers by providing living expense stipends for Muslim students.

(d) We must provide education on the political process and facilitate Muslim participation in local and federal government.

We need your help in carrying out this strategy that will prepare a strong contingent of our own reporters to effectively convey our message.

We are together in our movement to achieve these objectives. Many of our past interns and writers are now part of the mainstream media.

Our interns and writers with the help of researchers have carried out following research projects in the past.

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5. And a Muslim perspective on Obama health care, etc.

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American Muslims Stand With Kashmir, Community Rally in Downtown Chicago
American Muslims Stand With Kashmir, Community Rally in Downtown Chicago, IL
Stop Human Right Violation. Excessive Indian Armed Force Caused Unlawful Abuse & Killing Kashmiris in Indian

By Mujeeb Osman
It has been one month since the Indian invasion of Kashmir, beginning with the communications blackout on August 5. Since then, the Indian government has occupied the Muslim-majority state with weapons and 800,000 soldiers. Innocent Kashmiri people are being rounded up and detained in camps. They have been dragged off the streets, arrested with no warning, held for weeks at a time in jails. Families fear for the safety of their relatives and are given little information about when they can see them again. Young men, including teenagers, political leaders, and working professionals are especially targeted by the Indian police forces, who resort to excessive, bloody violence to demand obedience.

The communications blackout has blocked the people of Kashmir from contacting families and friends outside of the state, and in-state contact is monitored through tapped phone lines. The Indian government has cut them off from the world to silence any opposition and prevent help from reaching Kashmir. They make false claims of peace in the region, but what little information is able to make it through proves how dangerous the situation has become. The Indian government is denying Kashmiri’s right to autonomy and self-determination and is violating the principles of democracy. The Kashmiri people are trapped under the rule of a cruel government, so it is crucial that we do what we can to help them. As human beings, it is our duty to stand up against oppression and injustice and give a voice to those who are silenced. The greater Chicago community gathered in a rally on Sunday, September 6, at Michigan Avenue in Downtown Chicago. Organized by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, the rally allowed speakers to address the topic. Representatives from over 50 American Communities, organizations and institutions across Illinois showed their support for Kashmir, as well as local Illinois residents. The MuslimObserver stands in solidarity with the people of Kashmir and will continue to support them in their fight for freedom.

Articles 370 and 35A, the communications blockade it has imposed, its suppression of life-saving medical care, and the reports of widespread violent torture, or torture because of who they are and what they believe. I have met with residents in Michigan who cannot even call their families in Kashmir to ensure they are safe – a truly unimaginable situation, violence, militarization, and occupation continues. Jammu and Kashmir is already one of the most militarized regions on Earth, and India’s recent actions create more instability and heighten the potential for accelerating violence.

“The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released two reports in June, 2018, and July, 2019, raising serious concerns about abuses by state security forces and armed groups in Indian-administered Kashmir. The reports have also raised concerns about human rights violations in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, while noting that those violations are “of a different caliber or magnitude and of a more structural nature.” To date, the recommendations of the OHCHR reports have not been implemented.

“As noted by the UN and human rights groups, the continued immunity of members of the Indian military from prosecution for human rights abuses through the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) remains a key obstacle to account-ability and perpetuates their disproportionate use of force. The use of pellet shotguns and tear gas as crowd-control mechanisms has injured and maimed many Kashmiris, including children. Moreover, reports indicate that the Indian government has curtailed access to life-saving medical care for the Kashmiri people, creating shortages of medicine and restricting travel to doctors and pharmacies. Multiple reports indicate that over 3,000 people have been indefinitely detained without charge by the Indian government under the Public Safety Act, including children, lawyers, doctors, religious leaders, and opposition political leaders.

Acts of sexual violence and enforced disappearances of civilians, allegedly by Indian security forces, represent serious human rights concerns in Jammu and Kashmir. The state’s failure to adequately investigate the gang rape of 23 women in the 1991 Kunan-Poshpora mass rape case, allegedly perpetrated by Indian army soldiers, is emblematic of the overarching lack of concern for the due process rights of victims and the climate of impunity for sexual violence. Allegations of mass graves in Jammu and Kashmir have also not been credibly investigated, according to human rights organizations.

“I urge the Indian government to accept responsibility for the human rights violations being carried out in Jammu and Kashmir and hold the responsible parties accountable.

By Rashida Tlaib
CONT. FROM PAGE 1.

India and Pakistan both must begin implementing the OHCHR recommendations from its 2018 and 2019 reports on the crisis. The communications blockade and all curfew restrictions must be lifted immediately to shed light on what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir. India must afford due process to the thousands of people it has detained without charge, and ensure hospitals have the necessary access to life-saving medicine. The United States government should support a United Nations-backed peaceful resolution that restores autonomy and ensures self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We cannot lose sight of the millions of Kashmiri people yearning to live in peace and dignity.”

09.20.2019
OPINION
He also abrogated Article 370 of the Indian constitution. Pakistan disputed India’s right to control Kashmir, and the matter was taken to the U.N. multiple times. According to Security Council resolutions, the future of Kashmir was to be determined by its people through a plebiscite, and the Indian government did not agree to hold a plebiscite, and its rule over Kashmir became more and more authoritarian especially under Modi. On Aug. 5, 2019, Modi revoked Article 370 and made Kashmir a part of India. He also abrogated Article 35A, which empowered Kashmir’s state legislature to define “permanent residents” of the state and gave them special rights and privileges. The primary purpose of removing Article 35A from the Indian constitution is to change the demographic composition from a Muslim-majority state to a Hindu-majority state. As pointed out by Malik, India’s unilateral action is in gross violation of the Security Council resolutions and international law. This action, along with India’s repeated armed violations of the Line of Control between Pakistan and India since February 2019, has brought two nuclear-armed neighboring countries to the brink of war. This extremely dangerous situation calls for the immediate attention of the global community to arbitrate in the matter. To understand the gravity of the situation it is important to know that Raashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), an extremist, right-wing, Hindu nationalist, a paramilitary organization, is the parent of India’s ruling party BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). Its goal is to make India a Hindutva country based on the belief that high-caste Hindus are a superior race descended from the Aryans, who have the divine right to rule over all others living in the region. It espouses a special hatred of Muslims, past rulers of India, and supports ethno-cleansing as was demonstrated by the massacre of Muslims in Gujrat in 2002 when Modi was the chief minister of that state. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by N. Y. Godse, a member, and hero of the RSS, for being “soft” on Muslims. Modi’s philosophy bears an unmistakable resemblance to Hitler’s hatred of Jews and his Nazism. What is of the greatest concern today is the fact that Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state under Indian control, has been under curfew since Aug. 5. Its communications with the outside world has been cut off completely. One million Indian soldiers have made Kashmir the largest prison in the world. Aside from the dreadful violence being perpetrated against thousands of Kashmiris, the blockade is hindering or endangering the right to control food, medical supplies, and essentials. News of brutalities being reported by conscientious sources is shocking, and it is well known that cluster bombs have been used to decimate the unarmed Kashmiris. That chemical weapons being used in Occupied Kashmir has been reported by Sardar Masood Khan, a respected Kashmiri leader who is currently the president of Free Kashmir.

The United States. Applicants must demonstrate they are admissible into the U.S. by overcoming one of inadmissibility including health-related grounds, criminality, security reasons, public charge, labor certification, illegal entrants and immigration violations, documentation requirements, and miscellaneous grounds. This individual was deemed inadmissible to the United States based on information obtained during the CBP inspection.

Every applicant for admission to the United States is subject to complete inspection on arrival, and no one is allowed to enter until he or she has satisfied the examining officer of U.S. citizenship or admissibility. In all cases, the applicant bears the burden of proof of admissibility. A CBP official told the Washington Post.

The State Department has the authority to issue and revoke visas, the official said, and CBP has the authority to cancel visas under certain circumstances. If the agency determines an applicant is inadmissible for CBP can cancel the visa.

According to Ajjawi, a multitude of international students were detained however many were let go while he was questioned on his religious views and social media activity.

Despite Friday’s events, the Crimson reported that Ajjawi’s experience is “rare among Harvard undergraduates.”

Two students and two scholars were blocked from entering the country in January 2017 because of the Trump administration’s travel ban on seven majority-Muslim countries, Swain said. Harvard’s president, Lawrence S. Bacow, wrote to the secretary of state and acting secretary of homeland security last month to express his concerns about student visas and student work visas. “Students report difficulties getting initial visas — from no response to denials,” he wrote.

“Scholars have experienced postenforcement and disruptions for what have previously been routine immigration processes such as family visas, renewals of status, or clearance for international travel. This year graduates across Harvard have seen significant delays in receiving Optional Practical Training approvals. This has hindered or endangered their post-graduate work and, in some cases, even the continuation of their medical residencies.”

Bacow wrote that he appreciates that there is a broader policy priority with regard to the security concerns, including protection of intellectual property and reporting on donations to the institution, but that visa policies mandating increased scrutiny of foreign students and scholars was raising concern. “Academic science is open and collaborative,” he wrote. “While we support appropriate measures to safeguard valuable intellectual property, national defense, and sensitive, emerging technologies, singling out one country and its citizens is incompatible with the culture and mission of higher education and our national ideals.”

Ajjawi’s detention and deportation resulted in various reactions throughout the US while some applauded the efforts to protect national security many were angry that the young scholar was not allowed entry and made strong cases of Islamophobia.

The State Department is “responsible for ensuring the safety and admissibility of the goods and people entering the United States. Applicants must demonstrate they are admissible into the U.S. by overcoming one of inadmissibility including health-related grounds, criminality, security reasons, public charge, labor certification, illegal entrants and immigration violations, documentation requirements, and miscellaneous grounds. This individual was deemed inadmissible to the United States based on information obtained during the CBP inspection.”

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Cont from page 3. US Congress and Kashmir Crisis

over 70 years, the level of development in the State has been hampered by the so-called 'special status' that the State enjoys, which in any case was a temporary provision...,” Ambassador to the U.S. Harsh Vardhan Shringla had told Fox News earlier in August.

“Deeply troubled by reports of Indian Govt’s arrests of 2,000 in Kashmir...,” Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said in a statement.

“Democracy requires transparency, due process and freedom of assembly and speech. These are absolutely essential, even in the most complex of situations,” said Jayapal, who is considered as champion on human rights issues in the Congress. She also shared a New York Times news report on her Twitter account.

Moreover, Congressman Adam Schiff also said that fundamental human rights like free speech and access to information must be protected. Congressman Peter King also met Indian Consul General in New York to discuss “India-Pakistan dispute” over Kashmir.

“Met with Consul General of India to discuss India-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir. Told him I understood India’s action & had concerns over Islamist elements in Pakistan & Kashmir. But b/c of sensitivity & both countries being nuclear powers urged need to seek a diplomatic solution,” King wrote.

“Very concerned about the situation in Kashmir, particularly the ongoing communications blackout,” said Congressman Don Beyer.

All these statements indicate that the Kashmir issue is being viewed with utmost concern.

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