

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
6 August 2019

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda item 34
Prevention of armed conflict****Security Council
Seventy-fourth year****Identical letters dated 6 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 August 2019 from Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (see annex), drawing attention to the Indian action meant to strengthen India's illegal occupation of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating the special status of the occupied territory, which is tantamount to its unlawful annexation.

I would like to request you to kindly have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council, under the item entitled "The India-Pakistan question".

(Signed) Maleeha Lodhi



Annex to the identical letters dated 6 August 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 6 August 2019 from Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to you on a matter of utmost urgency, following my earlier letter dated 1 August 2019, in which I drew your attention to Indian designs in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan's concern about Indian attempts to perpetuate its illegal occupation of the territory.

In a further and grave violation of the Security Council resolutions, on 5 August 2019, the Indian Government scrapped article 370 of the Indian Constitution and provision 35A. This premeditated action is meant not only to strengthen India's illegal occupation of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir by abrogating the special status of the occupied territory, it is in fact tantamount to its unlawful annexation.

As I underscored in my letter dated 1 August, the abolishment of article 370 was preceded by a massive security clamp-down in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir last week through the deployment of an additional 38,000 paramilitary forces (bringing the number of additional forces deployed in recent months to 180,000), imposition of a curfew, house arrest of Kashmiri leaders and a total communications lockdown. Cumulatively, an iron curtain has been placed around Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir to push through the illegal and unlawful actions, in deliberate defiance of international legality. These actions have heightened the deep sense of fear and insecurity within the Kashmiri population.

India is attempting to change the demography of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir with a clear objective to undermine the United Nations plebiscite envisaged in the relevant Council resolutions as a solemn commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to Pakistan and India. This constitutes a grave violation of the Council resolutions and international law.

Since 1989, around 100,000 Kashmiris have been martyred, more than 22,000 women widowed, 108,000 children orphaned and more than 12,000 women raped by Indian occupation forces in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India continues to try to divert the attention of the international community away from the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir by escalating tensions along the line of control/working boundary, including through the recent use of cluster munitions targeting civilians. These Indian actions pose a grave and destabilizing threat to the already volatile situation in South Asia.

Jammu and Kashmir remains an internationally recognized dispute pending on the agenda of the Council. A number of relevant Council resolutions state that the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations.

In line with Council resolution [38 \(1948\)](#) which calls upon India and Pakistan "to inform the Council immediately of any material change in the situation which occurs or appears to either of them to be about to occur while the matter is under consideration by the Council, and consult with the Council thereon", I bring to your

urgent attention these Indian actions. The Council has the responsibility to ensure that the substance and spirit of its resolutions are not violated by any party to the dispute.

Pakistan condemns and rejects these illegal actions, including the Indian attempts to wilfully undermine the internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir and deny the inalienable right to self-determination to the Kashmiri people that is affirmed by international law and Council resolutions.

As mandated by the Council resolutions, Pakistan remains willing to hold a fair, free and transparent plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations to ascertain the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is Indian intransigence which continues to hold hostage the peace and development of more than 1.5 billion people in South Asia. Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to the indigenous, legitimate Kashmiri struggle for the realization of the right to self-determination granted to them by the Council.

Given the gravity of the situation arising from the Indian actions that constitute a deliberate breach of Council resolutions and carry serious implications for peace and security in South Asia, I urge you to bring these developments to the attention of the Council. The Council has a primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security as well as to ensure full compliance with its resolutions. I further call upon you and the Council to take all necessary steps, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure that India returns to full compliance with the relevant Council resolutions by reversing all steps that interfere with the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

(Signed) Makhdoom Shah Mahmood **Qureshi**
