



**Ms. Fionnuala Ní Aoláin**

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United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights United Nations

Geneva

Switzerland

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**Sub: Petition to the United Nations on Human Rights Violations and the atrocities unleashed in Kashmir by the terrorists and the Role of Pakistan in abetting such incidents of cross border terrorism**

Respected Ma'am,

We are writing this letter to you to apprise you about the brutal murders being committed by the terrorists of the terror group named "The Resistance Front" or the TRF in Kashmir in the recent incidents. This letter shall shed light on the role of Pakistan's ISI for being complicit with these terror organizations in this regard.

Due to the endless political savagery waged by Pakistan on India, post its birth after independence, Kashmir has turned out to be one of the most dangerous places on the planet. The possibility of two nuclear forces going head-to-head across this region is disturbing beyond question. Since the partition of 1947, Kashmir has been declared as an "international dispute" and has been the fundamental reason behind the Indo-Pak struggle. The fact that already three significant battles have been fought between these two nations over the course of the years all the more elevates the dread that currently exists in the face of their advancing technology. The frailty that wins because of the present circumstance and the shortfall of any conclusive objective to the political discussion have left individuals of Kashmir segregated and questionable about their future. A land which was once considered a paradise by kings and travelers, witnessed its once expanding tourism industry gradually wiped off, due to the tussle between military and the militants.

Nonetheless, it was perceived that militancy would considerably reduce after the revocation of Article 370 and it had likewise been seen that the number of Kashmiri youths joining various positions in a terror organization had a 40% drop since the renouncement of Article 370, which allowed unique status to the past territory of Jammu and Kashmir. On the other hand, the number

of people tumbled to 67 between January 1 and July 15 this year, contrasted with 105 to the previous years, while terror attacks came down to 120 from 188 during this [period](#).

But this hope didn't last long, as in a recent incident in Jammu & Kashmir, three civilians were gunned down on Tuesday by terrorists in separate incidents, all within a span of an hour. The first incident occurred in Srinagar's Iqbal Park, where an eminent Kashmiri Pandit who was a chemist, [Makhan Lal Bindroo](#), proprietor of Srinagar's most renowned drug store, was shot dead by the terrorists in the Bandipora regions. Bindroo was pronounced dead after being rushed to the hospital. Within the next one hour, the second incident took place, when the militants struck at Hawal area of the city, killing a non-local street vendor, Virender, who used to sell bhelpuri, was shot at point blank and died on the spot. The third incident took place at Naidkhai in Bandipora district, where Mohammad Shafi Lone was shot dead. While the police did not identify any specific terror group behind the attack, TRF asserted responsibility for the attack. In a statement, TRF asked Kashmiris not to grieve his demise. This terror group also targeted the daughter of the deceased, who challenged the gunmen who killed her father to face her in a debate. The TRF also warned everyone in Kashmir, about their intention to kill people belonging to the minority Hindu and Sikh Communities. These kinds of brutal crimes against innocent Kashmiri Pandits took back the entire nation by shock. That was not all. On 7th October, 2021, [two more civilians](#) working as teachers in a government school in the Eidgah area of Srinagar, were shot dead by the terrorists. One of the victims was identified by police as Satinder Kaur and Deepak Chand, belonging to the region's minority Sikh and Hindu communities. These subsequent incidents of murder have turned out to be a matter of great concern, as the lives of all the Kashmiri Pandits and Sikh still living in the valley are at stake. The statements given out by the terror group TRF, are really worrisome, as they have mentioned that such incidents can again take place in the future.

Recent incidents of targeting civilians mainly from the non-Muslim minorities has developed a lot of anger and outrage among the Hindu populations of India. Many fears repetition of the 1990's Hindu Exodus of Kashmir in which Kashmiri Pandits faced ethnic cleansing and genocide at the hands of a local and Pakistani backed Islamic terrorists. Thus, to bring to attention, the increasing risk of the lives of the Hindu civilians living in valley, we are forwarding this letter to [Ms. Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin](#), Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, OCHR, United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. After being appointed as a special rapporteur, the priorities that she has set in her mandate was to focus on strengthening and supporting Human Rights groups, civil society organizations in particular in the context of counter terrorism. She also remarked that when broadly based laws are taken along with

administrative practices that are intended to stymie civil society organizations those will inevitably affect victim groups and victim's protection, to effectively address counter-terrorism and to effectively prevent terrorism. According to her, civil society makes for a healthy functional political system. When we violate human rights, we can create the conditions conducive to the production of more violence and so at the end of the day our goal is to eradicate and to end the conditions that produce the violence.

Atrocities on the Hindu communities in Kashmir had always been a major part in Kashmir's history. It became all the more brutal, soon after in 1965, when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, former Prime Minister and former President of Pakistan, in UN Security Council, declared a thousand-year war against India, also known as [\*Bleed India with a Thousand Cuts\*](#), a military doctrine to be followed by the Pakistani military against India in the upcoming years. This strategy consisted of waging covert war against India using insurgents at multiple locations. According to many independent scholars, "militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the Khalistan movement, are parts of Pakistan's plan for "bleeding India with a thousand cuts." In this regards, author, Reetika Sharma, in her book, stated that Pakistani Army Chief General Zia- ul-Haq gave form to Bhutto's "thousand years war" with the 'bleeding India through a thousand cuts' doctrine using covert and low-intensity warfare with militancy and infiltration. So, continuously abetting incidents of cross border terrorism, by terrorists nurtured on the Pakistani soil, had been a regular strategy by Pakistan's ISI, to implement in reality, the promise made by their former President Bhutto.

The first incidents of cross border terrorism first occurred in Kashmir during the 1980s when groups of trained militants were infiltrated into India through the border. However, according to Kashmir, the cross-border terrorism against India, that it was abetting was nothing but a part of the "freedom struggle" of the Kashmiris, to whom Pakistan provided moral support. However, this statement was debunked when the [Director General of ISI](#) stated in the National Assembly of Pakistan that the ISI was sponsoring this support in Kashmir. Pakistan has engaged in asymmetric warfare with India, utilizing jihadist militias. The militant groups have primarily been used as 'weapons' against India as part of Pakistan's "Bleed India" campaign.

Beginning from the terror attack on the Indian Parliament and Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 2001, by the two Pakistan-based terror groups, the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, both of whom India has said are upheld by Pakistan's ISI, to the Mumbai attack by members from Lashkar-e-Taiba, an Islamist terror organization from Pakistan, in 2008, each occurrence of cross border terrorism in the Indian soil had been sponsored and abetted by Pakistan's ISI as a part of their Bleed India Strategy. In this context Husain Haqqani, Pakistani diplomat via the Business Standard had stated in the, Indo-Asian News Service that, "*Pakistan*

*sees jihad as a low cost option to bleed India. The security apparatus views terrorism as irregular warfare. Islamabad feels this is the only way to ensure some form of military parity.”*

The last five years have witnessed an escalation of violence in the valley, as well as beyond. There have been incidents such as the terror attack on the Indian Air Force base in Pathankot, Punjab on 2nd January, 2016. The death of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani at the hands of the Indian Security Forces, spinning out into violence on streets. Then came the terror strike on Indian Security forces in Uri on 8th September, 2016. India did the surgical strike on terror outfits in POJK in 2016 and managed to control stone pelting. Then came the Pulwama terrorist attack of 14th February, 2019, as a response to which India carried out an airstrike at Balakot on 26th of the same month. Due to the carnage unleashed by the ongoing militancy, hope for peace in the valley looked bleak.

After the revocation of Articles 35A and 370, though it was perceived that militancy would decline, the formation of the TRF destroyed the new hope. The TRF or the “The Resistance Front”, comes as a sophisticated version of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen. The TRF matched its predecessors equally. After the grenade attack at Lal Chowk on February 2nd, 2021, in which, four civilians and two jawans of Central Reserve Police Force were killed, security experts came to the conclusion that the TRF had been created to escalate tensions in the valley as a response to the revocation of Article 370. The group’s name created a secular impression in order to provide a cover to Pakistan, which was warned to be blacklisted by the Financial Task Force.

Since then, there had been many incidents of brutal attacks on civilians by members of the TRF. And now this one. The killing of the Kashmiri Pandit chemist is like the last blow. If the security scenario in Kashmir is not taken up by the premiere Human Rights organizations like the UN, then the day is not far, when Pakistan would in the name of Jihad wipe off the remaining Hindu population from the entire Kashmir and become successful in bleeding India with thousand cuts. In the process Pakistan is also violating UNSC Resolution 1373 that was adopted by the Security council at its 4385th meeting, on 28 September 2001. This resolution gave a whole new dimension to “international counter-terrorism law by requiring all Member States to criminalize various acts associated with terrorism. The law enforcement agencies of the member states must be in constant process of evolution, in order to adapt themselves to the newer threats of terrorism, that has advanced altogether over the previous decade, both in scale and intricacy. This resolution also places special focus on countering terrorist financing, which refers to such funding that helps the terrorists to carry on their terror activities. These funds come in the form of small donations or in pieces instead of a lump sum amount. The member nations are thus required to stop such funds from reaching the hands of the terrorists. Keeping in mind the



provisions and purpose of the [UNSC Resolution 1373](#), India pushes for [“zero tolerance to terrorism”](#), on the other hand, Pakistan indulges in nurturing terror activities in its soil and is [“clearly guilty of fault for helping and supporting terrorism, and willfully give monetary help and places of refuge”](#) to them.

Thus, it becomes increasingly imperative that the peace in Kashmir, which is an integral part of India, and shall always remain to be, is retained. With this desire in mind, we implore you, as the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, to kindly take note of the situation and to:

1. Send a UN fact-finding mission to Kashmir to assess the danger posed by the presence of terror elements in the valley and to investigate killings of civilians by such terrorists
2. Ensure that the OHCHR takes Suo moto cognizance of the matter and constitutes a special committee to investigate the matter after the fact-finding mission submits its report.
3. Creating a committee with special rapporteurs to focus on issues of terrorism in Kashmir and assess the role of Pakistan in the process
4. Issuing sanctions for funding terror activities.
5. Inspire neighboring nations to overcome their individual conflicts and be on the same page to fight this global menace.
6. Individually examine the counter terrorism measures of all the nations and assess the implementation of such measures.
7. To help nations develop counter terrorism approaches that are compliant with international Law.

We shall be highly grateful to you for hearing us and considering our said demands.

Thank you.

Signed,

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