

Debate Pack

CDP 0153 (2021)

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21 September 2021

Human rights in Kashmir

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Background

A debate on human rights in Kashmir has been scheduled for Thursday 23 September 2021 in the main House of Commons Chamber.

Historical background

Kashmir has been claimed by both India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. The 450-mile Line of Control separates India-controlled Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. China also controls part of the region's land.

Article 370 revoked

In August 2019, shortly after winning re-election, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi [revoked Article 370](#), which guaranteed a special status for the Indian-administered part of Kashmir. India then [divided the state of Jammu and Kashmir](#) into two new territories that are directly ruled from the federal capital, Delhi. The Indian Government said this was a long-overdue measure that would help to stabilise the situation by integrating the area fully into India. Jammu and Kashmir has been the site of a decades-old insurgency against Indian rule.

Security lockdown and internet shutdowns

At the same time as announcing the revocation of Article 370, India imposed a security lockdown and a media blackout. [Human Rights Watch's 2019 report on India](#) summarised the measures first put in place by India:

On August 5, before revoking the state's special autonomous status, the government imposed a security lockdown and deployed additional troops. Thousands of Kashmiris were [detained without charge](#), including former chief ministers, political leaders, opposition activists, lawyers, and journalists. The [internet and phones were shut down](#). The government said it was to prevent loss of life, but there were credible, serious allegations of [beatings and torture](#) by security forces.

By November, even though some restrictions were lifted, hundreds remained in detention and mobile phone services and internet access was still limited. The [government blocked opposition politicians](#), foreign diplomats, and international journalists from independent visits to Kashmir.

Curfews [were reimposed](#) in August 2020 on the one year anniversary of the Article 370 revocation. The [Human Rights Watch's 2020 human rights report on India](#) said that "hundreds of people remained detained without charge" in Jammu and Kashmir under Public Safety Act, which permits detention without trial for up to two years".

New media policy introduced

In June 2020, the Indian Government announced a new media policy in Jammu and Kashmir that gives the local government's Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) the [power to monitor media outlets and journalists](#) for "misinformation, fake news, plagiarism and anti-national activities".

The DIPR also will determine who is "empanelled," or accredited, and will control allocations for government advertising. Local newspapers rely on revenue from government advertising to stay in business, and there are concerns that this power will lead newspapers to censor their output.

The Indian Government said the measures were needed to "thwart" attempts from across the border to disrupt peace and security in Kashmir. India has often accused Pakistan of aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, a claim Pakistan denies.

Alleged abuses by Indian security forces

Human Rights Watch's [2020 human rights report on India](#) also stated that Indian security forces are given broad immunity from prosecution and had killed civilians in error:

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act continued to provide effective immunity from prosecution to security forces, even for serious human rights abuses. In July, security forces killed three people in Shopian district, claiming they were militants. However, in August, their families, who identified them from photographs of the killings circulated on social media, said they were laborers. In September, the army said that its inquiry had found prima facie evidence that its troops exceeded powers under the AFSPA and it would take disciplinary proceedings against those "answerable."

The security forces also continued to use shotguns firing metal pellets to disperse crowds, despite evidence that they are inherently inaccurate and cause injuries indiscriminately, including to bystanders, violating India's international obligations.

Internet connectivity restored

In early 2020 some basic broadband and limited wireless services (2G) [were restored in some parts of the state](#), however, most social media platforms were still blocked, as well as peer-to-peer messaging services like WhatsApp, and internet service providers were expected to install firewalls to prevent access to sites other than specific "white-listed" ones such as government websites. Restrictions on social media sites were [removed in March 2020](#).

In February 2021, some 18 months after being introduced 4G internet services [were reintroduced](#) throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Government [said](#) when the restrictions were put in place that the internet could be used to spread disinformation and allow militant groups to plan attacks.

Pakistan-administered Kashmir and human rights

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHR) released reports in [2018](#) and [2019](#) on human rights in both India and Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

The 2019 report said that the Interim Constitution of the Pakistan region of Azad Jammu and Kashmir “places several restrictions on anyone criticizing the region’s accession to Pakistan, in contravention of Pakistan’s commitments to uphold the rights to freedoms of expression and opinion, assembly and association”.

It also states:

Members of nationalist and pro-independence political parties claim that they regularly face threats, intimidation and even arrests for their political activities from local authorities or intelligence agencies. They said often threats are also directed at their family members including children.

Elections planned

In December 2020, municipal elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time under its new constitutional status. The People’s Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), a platform of seven Kashmiri critical of Delhi’s policies in the region and the removal of its autonomy, [won the most seats](#). Though India’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did well in its traditional stronghold in the Jammu region and was the single largest party.

In June 2021 the Indian Central Government [said it was looking to organise local elections “soon”](#), after it had completed an exercise to redraw the boundaries of assembly seats.

UK Government position

Successive UK governments have said that Kashmir is a bilateral matter for peaceful resolution by India and Pakistan. In September 2019, Dominic Raab, the then Foreign Secretary, reiterated the UK’s position during a [House of Commons debate on Kashmir](#): “The dispute between India and Pakistan in relation to Kashmir is fundamentally for them to resolve, as recognised in UN Security Council resolutions and the Simla agreement”.

The UK Government has regularly expressed concerns over human rights in the region. The Foreign Secretary was asked in a Parliamentary Question in

May 2021 “what recent assessment he has made of the (a) political and (b) human rights situation in Kashmir”. Nigel Adams, the then Minister for Asia, [responded](#) on his behalf:

It is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political resolution on Kashmir, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. We recognise that there are human rights concerns in both India-administered and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. We encourage all states to ensure domestic laws are in line with international standards. Any allegation of human rights violation or abuse is deeply concerning and must be investigated thoroughly, promptly and transparently. We are in regular contact with the governments of India and Pakistan, with whom we discuss Kashmir.

While the [2019 Foreign Office human rights report](#) made a brief mention of Kashmir in relation to restrictions on freedom of expression, there is no mention of Kashmir in the [2020 report](#) published in August 2021.

Indian Government position

On 13 January after a Westminster Hall debate on Kashmir, the Indian High Commission [released a statement](#) saying that some participants used “false assertions”:

It was also noted that references to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, despite the volumes of authentic information available in the public domain – based on up to date and visible facts on the ground – ignored current ground reality and, instead chose to reflect false assertions of the kind promoted by a third country, such as unsubstantiated allegations of ‘genocide’, ‘rampant violence’ and ‘torture’.

The Indian High Commission gave this assessment in their statement of the situation in the region:

Since the administrative reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, it is well on the path of good governance and accelerated development. All administrative measures taken by the Government of India in Jammu and Kashmir are entirely an internal matter of India.

Human Rights groups recent assessments

In February 2021, two United Nations rights experts: Fernand de Varenes, Special Rapporteur on minority issues and; Ahmed Shaheed, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, [wrote](#) they were concerned that India’s decision to end Jammu and Kashmir’s autonomy and enact new laws saying these actions “could curtail the previous level of political participation of Muslim and other minorities in the country, as well as potentially discriminate against them in important matters including employment and land ownership”.

Earlier this month Human Rights Watch [wrote about police action against journalists in Jammu and Kashmir](#):

On September 8 the police in Jammu and Kashmir [raided the homes of four Kashmiri journalists](#) – Hilal Mir, Shah Abbas, Showkat Motta, and Azhar Qadri – and confiscated their phones and laptops. Mir reported that they also took his and his wife’s passports. The authorities summoned all four to a Srinagar police station for questioning and told them to return the next day. Journalists in Kashmir face [increased harassment by the authorities](#), including [arrest under terrorism charges](#), since the BJP government revoked the state’s autonomous constitutional status in August 2019.

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Press articles and reports

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

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[Kashmiris continue to suffer despite UN's repeated call for inquiry](#)

The Nation (Pakistan)

17 September 2021

[India hits out at Pak, OIC for raising Kashmir issue at UN Human Rights Council](#)

The Hindu (India)

15 September 2021

['Unwarranted remarks': India rejects UN rights chief's criticism of situation in Kashmir](#)

Hindustan Times (India)

14 September 2021

[Kashmiris accuse Indian forces of arbitrary arrests, intimidation](#)

Al Jazeera

20 August 2021

[UK faces difficult path as it resumes courtship with India](#)

The Guardian

Patrick Wintour

6 April 2021

[India: UN experts say Jammu and Kashmir changes risk undermining minorities' rights](#)

UN Human Rights

18 February 2021

[Loss of autonomy in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir threatens minorities' rights – UN independent experts](#)

UN News

18 February 2021

[Pakistan PM: We would give Kashmiris 'right to independence'](#)

Al Jazeera

Asad Hashim

5 February 2021

India deplores 'false assertions' in UK Parliament Kashmir debate

The Hindu (India)

14 January 2021

Public outrage grows after Indian army kills three in Kashmir

The Guardian

Aakash Hassan and Hannah Ellis-Petersen

4 January 2021

The world is failing the oppressed people of Kashmir

The Times

Moeed Yusuf

28 August 2020

Reports

India: Events of 2020

Human Rights Watch

[Chapter taken from the broader "World Report 2021" publication]

India: Events of 2019

Human Rights Watch

[Chapter taken from the broader "World Report 2020" publication]

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PQs

Kashmir: Politics and Government

16 Sep 2021 | 48350

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the (a) implications for his policies of the Indian Government's recent lockdown on Kashmir after the death of activist, Syed Ali Shah Geelani and (b) human rights situation in Kashmir.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The restrictions that were imposed following Mr Geelani's death have reportedly been lifted. We are monitoring the situation in Kashmir. We recognise that there are human rights concerns in both India-administered-Kashmir and Pakistan-administered-Kashmir. We encourage all states to ensure that domestic laws are in line with international standards and that any allegation of human rights abuse is investigated thoroughly, promptly, transparently and independently.

Human Rights Abuses

20 Jul 2021 | 699 c803

Asked by: Robbie Moore

[Inaudible]—facing harassment and imprisonment without due cause since the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked by India. The United Kingdom proudly stands for freedom and democracy, so can my hon. Friend ensure that he will use the full weight of his Department, via discussions with the G7 and others, to ensure that these terrible abuses of human rights in Kashmir are put to an end?

Answered by: James Duddridge | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I think I got the drift of the question, although I missed the beginning. We recognise that there are human rights concerns both in India-administered Kashmir and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. We encourage all states to ensure that domestic laws are in line with international standards, and any allegation—any allegation—of human rights violations or abuse is deeply concerning and must be investigated thoroughly, promptly and transparently.

Kashmir: Politics and Government

18 May 2021 | 545

Asked by: Matt Vickers

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the (a) political and (b) human rights situation in Kashmir.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

It is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political resolution on Kashmir, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. We recognise that there are human rights concerns in both India-administered and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. We encourage all states to ensure domestic laws are in line with international standards. Any allegation of human rights violation or abuse is deeply concerning and must be investigated thoroughly, promptly and transparently. We are in regular contact with the governments of India and Pakistan, with whom we discuss Kashmir.

India: Restrictions on Freedom

15 Mar 2021 | 811 c10

Asked by: Lord Hussain

My Lords, many reputable human rights organisations, including the UN Human Rights Council and Amnesty International, have reported that the Indian army in Kashmir is involved in illegal detentions, torture, rape and murder, with complete impunity under the Indian Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. Tens of thousands of political workers and leaders, including Shabir Shah and Asiya Andrabi, have been held in prison without trial for decades under another notorious law called the public safety Act. Can the Minister tell us whether our Prime Minister will make any representations to the Government of India to withdraw these draconian laws and free all Kashmiri political prisoners?

Answered by: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, I believe that the former Chief Ministers who have been detained under the public safety Act have now been released. We welcome the Indian Government's assurances that all those detained under the so-called preventive measures since August 2019 have now been released. We will continue to raise our concerns with the Indian Government where we have them.

Trade Deals: Human Rights Clauses

25 Feb 2021 | 689 c1077

Asked by: Imran Hussain

Grave human rights abuses, including torture, rape, extra-judicial killings, and arbitrary detention continue to be committed against Kashmiris in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Will the Minister ensure that any trade deal signed with the Indian Government includes firm commitments to ending those human rights abuses and holding a free and fair plebiscite, as agreed by the United Nations, that allows the sons and daughters of Kashmir to fulfil their birthright to self-determination?

Answered by: Ranil Jayawardena | Department for International Trade

I do not doubt the hon. Gentleman's passion for this issue, but where is the passion for jobs, where is the passion for exports, and where is the passion for investment? That is what this Government are getting on with. Perhaps it is because they cannot make up their minds on the Opposition Benches: they are against deals with democracies such as Israel as well, and yet they have cosied up to regimes such as Venezuela. Although this question was about future trade deals, we will get on and deliver jobs and prosperity for the British people.

Kashmir: Human Rights

04 Feb 2021 | 147995

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will take diplomatic steps to support the International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Kashmir.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK condemns the state of emergency imposed in Myanmar, and the arbitrary detention of democratically elected politicians and civil society by the military. It is essential that Aung San Suu Kyi, and all those arbitrarily detained, are released. Under the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime and the Myanmar Sanctions Regime the UK had already sanctioned 16 individuals, responsible for human rights violations in Myanmar. In July 2020, we sanctioned the Commander-in-Chief and his Deputy, in our first tranche of sanctions under the Global Human Rights Sanctions regime. We are working closely with international partners to consider next steps with the aim of ensuring that democratic wishes of Myanmar's people are respected and politicians and civil society leaders are released.

Kashmir: Human Rights

04 Feb 2021 | 147047

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussion he has had with human rights organisations on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK continues to follow the situation in Kashmir closely. Officials at the British High Commission in New Delhi engage regularly with human rights organisations on the situation. We continue to be in regular contact with the governments of India and Pakistan, both through our diplomatic networks in New Delhi and Islamabad, and in London. Any allegation of human rights violations or abuse is deeply concerning and must be investigated thoroughly, promptly, and transparently.

Kashmir: Detainees

19 Jan 2021 | 136080

Asked by: Paul Bristow

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what representations he has made to the Indian Government on the (a) welfare and (b) release of Kashmiris in custody under the Public Safety Act.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We continue to raise our concerns about restrictions and the use of detentions in India-administered Kashmir with the Indian Government. The Foreign Secretary discussed the situation with his counterpart, the External Affairs Minister, Dr Jaishankar, during his visit to New Delhi last month. The Minister of State responsible for South Asia and Human Rights, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, raised our concerns about the situation in Kashmir with the Indian Foreign Secretary on 3 November. We call for all remaining restrictions - including on full 4G internet access - to be lifted as soon as possible and welcome information from the Indian Government that all individuals detained under so called "preventative measures" since the constitutional changes of 2019 have now been released. The UK will continue to encourage all States to ensure that their domestic laws and practices are in line with international standards. We continue to monitor the situation in Kashmir closely.

Kashmir: Human Rights

16 Nov 2020 | 114306

Asked by: Layla Moran

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent diplomatic steps his Department has taken to tackle the human rights abuses in Indian-administered Kashmir reported by UN Special Rapporteurs on 4 August 2020.

Answering member: Nigel Adams | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We are aware of the statement written by UN Special Rapporteurs on 4 August. The UK recognises that there are human rights concerns in India-administered Kashmir. We encourage all states to ensure domestic laws are in line with international standards. Any allegation of human rights violations or abuse is deeply concerning and must be investigated transparently, promptly and thoroughly. We raise our concerns, where we have them, with the Government of India, including at ministerial level.

Jammu and Kashmir: Human Rights

02 Nov 2020 | 807 cc1129-485

Asked by: Lord Hussain

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, the Government recognise that there are human rights concerns in Indian-administered Kashmir. We encourage all states to ensure that domestic laws are in line with international standards. Any allegation must be investigated thoroughly, promptly and transparently. We also welcome reports that some restrictions are being relaxed and detainees released. We call on the Government of India to lift all other restrictions as soon as possible. We continue to raise our concerns with the Indian Government directly.

Jammu and Kashmir: Human Rights

02 Nov 2020 | 807 c769

Asked by: Lord Ranger

The Minister will agree that India is the largest working democracy in the world. The rights of her 1.3 billion citizens are protected in the constitution regardless of race, religion or gender—I repeat, gender. India also has the world's most diverse population, living side by side in perfect harmony for

centuries. The rights of all are protected through the constitution, including those of over 200 million Muslims. The same is reflected in Jammu and Kashmir; the province benefits from all rights under the Indian constitution.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, we of course support Indian democracy. My noble friend is right to raise the constitution of India, which protects the rights and freedoms of all communities.

Jammu and Kashmir: Human Rights

02 Nov 2020 | 807 c484

Asked by: Baroness Tonge

My Lords, will the Minister explain why we immediately supported sanctions against Russia when it annexed the Crimea, even though 97% of the people of Crimea regarded themselves as Russian and had supported Russia in its annexation, yet no action has been taken since India's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status? It has imposed total lockdown on the majority Muslim population and thousands, as we have heard, have been taken prisoner and many tortured. Can the Minister please explain why we behaved differently?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The issue was raised by the noble Baroness herself; one is a revocation of a constitutional item and the other is an annexation of a territory. They are two very different legal positions. We continue to raise the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir with the Indian authorities.

Jammu and Kashmir: Human Rights

02 Nov 2020 | 807 c483

Asked by: Lord Thomas of Gresford

Is the Minister aware that hundreds of applications for habeas corpus have been lodged in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir over a 15-month period, arising out of the arbitrary detention without trial of thousands of people — including, as we have heard, political and community leaders—under the public safety Act? The court rules specify a 14-day time limit from lodging an application to the hearing. They have not even been listed, let alone dealt with. This is especially urgent since the shocking wave of arrests on 28 October. Will Her Majesty's Government join the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association in its strenuous protests to the Indian authorities against these breaches of the United Nations human rights convention?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, the United Kingdom Government are clear. We have a constructive and strong relationship with India which allows us to raise candidly and privately issues of human rights abuses, wherever they may occur, or human rights concerns we may have. As I have said, any allegation of human rights abuses must be investigated thoroughly, promptly and transparently. We make that point to the Indian authorities.

Jammu and Kashmir: Human Rights

02 Nov 2020 | 807 c1130

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

My Lords, Amnesty International raised particular concerns over the crackdown on civil society and journalists in Kashmir and Jammu. Can the Minister detail what steps the Government have taken to protect press freedom? Have they engaged with the International Federation of Journalists, which has consistently fought for reporting rights in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as globally?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, I will write to the noble Lord on his final point about formal engagement. As he knows, media freedom and the protection of journalists is a priority for Her Majesty's Government. We are leading on a coalition with Canada on the specific issue of Amnesty International and its situation in India; I assure the noble Lord that I have raised that directly with the Government of India.

Topical Questions

18 Jun 2020 | 677 cc943-1060

Asked by: Debbie Abrahams

Complacency from the Government, and indeed from the international community as a whole, over human rights violations in Kashmir has contributed to the crisis that is unfolding at the line of actual control. The Indian and Chinese armies are now toe to toe, and there has been a Mexican stand-off between Pakistan and India since last August. I do not need to remind anybody that these are three nuclear powers. What economic and other levers is the Secretary of State using to resolve this crisis? Will she urge the Prime Minister to call for a UN Security Council meeting to avert a global disaster?

Answered by: Greg Hands | Department for International Trade

Obviously the whole of government is extremely concerned by the situation in Kashmir. It is primarily of course a matter for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. However, I can tell the hon. Lady that trade assists dialogue and assists countries and peoples to come together. In reference to India, we are having a JETCO—India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee—shortly to talk about trade between the UK and India. In relation to Pakistan, as I said earlier, we are rolling over the GSP-plus arrangements that the EU currently has with Pakistan, which also include a key human rights element. Making sure that dialogue continues and that trade continues will assist in that.

Kashmir

20 Jan 2020 | 801 c916

Asked by: Baroness Verma

My Lords, surely a constitutional matter that is internal to a country is the issue of that country. As close friends of India, we must respect that India has a right to amend its constitution when it chooses to do so. Does my noble friend agree that this change gives equal rights to women, the LGBT community, those in minority communities and the disadvantaged?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, my noble friend refers to Article 370. In the UK, we have consistently retained our position across successive Governments, and it is important to re-emphasise that. As for the situation in Kashmir, or indeed any issue between India and Pakistan, we retain and will continue to retain the view that it needs to be resolved bilaterally by both countries, while respecting the views of those in Kashmir.

Kashmir

20 Jan 2020 | 801 c915

Asked by: Lord Hussain

On 5 August 2019, the Indian Government revoked Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution, which gave Jammu and Kashmir a special status in the Union of India, removed the state Government and arrested and detained thousands of Kashmiris, including three former Chief Ministers. According to Human Rights Watch:

“Prior to its actions in Jammu and Kashmir, the government deployed additional troops to the province, shut down the internet and phones, and arbitrarily detained thousands of Kashmiris, including political leaders, activists, journalists, lawyers, and potential protesters, including children.

Hundreds remain in detention without charge or under house arrest to prevent protests.”

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, there was a lot in that question, but on a serious issue. As the noble Lord has heard, I have already made our position very clear. Indeed, as Minister for South Asia, I have been dealing directly with this issue, but not just me: my right honourable friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have also raised the very concern the noble Lord raises.

As far as India’s membership of the Commonwealth is concerned, India is the largest democracy. It is an important and valued member of the Commonwealth and will continue to be so. As the largest democracy, India knows—we have these exchanges with India—that the importance of respecting human rights is one of the fundamental tenets of the charter, and we encourage all member states, India included, to uphold those shared commitments.

4 Further Parliamentary material

4.1 Debates

[Kashmir](#)

13 Jan 2021 | House of Commons | Westminster Hall | 687 cc184-202WH

Motion that this House has considered the political situation in Kashmir.

Motion lapsed and sitting adjourned without Question put.

4.2 Early Day Motions

[Kashmir and the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A of India's Constitution](#)

EDM 370 (session 2021-22)

18 August 2021

Tahir Ali

That this House recognises that it has been two years since the Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party Government in India revoked Articles 370 and 35a from its constitution, effectively stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its regional autonomy; notes that since 6 August 2019, Kashmir has been under militarised occupation by India; condemns that occupation which has resulted in the suspension of democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir, censorship of journalists in that region, the repression of activists opposed to that occupation, a communications blackout which has hampered Kashmir's response to the covid-19 pandemic and serious human rights abuses by Indian forces in that region, including extrajudicial killing, torture, rape and illegal detention which have been well-documented by international monitoring organisations; and calls on the UK Government to bring diplomatic pressure, including sanctions, to bear upon Prime Minister Modi and his Government as a means of ending the occupation of that region and all of the human and civil rights abuses that continue to take place in that region.

[Kashmir](#)

EDM 27 (session 2021-22)

12 May 2021

Debbie Abrahams

That this House affirms that UK foreign policy should promote human rights internationally; expresses concern regarding the long-standing conflict

between India and Pakistan both nuclear powers, which makes Kashmir the number one security concern in the world; notes the recent conflict between India and China which exacerbates that concern; states that the 2018 and 2019 Report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the revocation in August 2019 of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the recent Amnesty International Annual Report and continuing reports of human rights abuses, restrictions to communications, peaceful dissent and key freedoms, are a cause for alarm particularly at a time when governments are responding to the covid-19 pandemic; and therefore urges both the Indian and Pakistani governments to enter into dialogue for the development of a sustainable peace and reconciliation with the Kashmiri people at the heart of this peace process; and further calls on the UK Government in collaboration with the UN, the Commonwealth and wider international community, to provide the necessary support to enable that peace process to happen.

Kashmir

EDM 1639 (session 2019-21)

12 March 2021

Layla Moran

That this House affirms that UK foreign policy should promote the values of human rights and equality internationally; expresses concern regarding the long-standing conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir; states that the June 2018 Report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and its update in July 2019, the revocation in August 2019 of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and continuing reports of human rights abuses, are a cause for alarm; and therefore urges both the Indian and Pakistani governments to enter into a process of peace and reconciliation; and calls upon the Government to support UN inspection and engagement to assist cooperation between India and Pakistan to secure a peaceful and sustainable solution to the conflict.

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