



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

The Honorable Mélanie Joly
Minister of Foreign Affairs

May 18, 2023

RE: G20 Meetings Held in Kashmir Region

Dear Minister Joly,

We are writing to share concerns expressed by members of the Kashmir Scholars Consultative Action Network, an interdisciplinary group of scholars from various countries and regions engaged in research on the region of Kashmir.

This group has joined with organizations from Canada and around the world, including Canadians for Peace and Justice in Kashmir, Just Peace Advocates, and Friends of Kashmir Canada, to urge Canada and other Group of Twenty (G20) Members to withdraw from G20 meetings scheduled to be held in the Indian-administered Jammu & Kashmir (Kashmir) region. We join them in urging you to withdraw Canada's delegates from these meetings in Kashmir.

As you know, as part of G20 meetings being hosted throughout India between December 2022 and September 2023, the upcoming Third Tourism Working Group meeting will be held from May 22-24, 2023, in Srinagar, the capital city of the Kashmir region.

We would like to raise with you the following concerns raised by the Kashmir Scholars Consultative Action Network, which we also share:

- India's choice to host G20 meetings in this region runs contrary to the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 47 (1948), the United Nations Charter, and principles of international law.
- There is documented evidence that the Indian state has committed serious breaches of international legal norms in the Kashmir region – including its occupation, annexation, and colonization and the commission of human rights violations.
- The already dire humanitarian and human rights situation in the Kashmir region has substantially deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when Indian authorities dismantled guarantees protecting the territorial and cultural integrity of the Kashmir region and its people's rights to their land, educational access, and local employment.
- There have been instances of expropriation of land, destruction of common and private property, various forms of invasive surveillance, extraction of resources, ecological destruction, and the rapid expansion of forced demographic change in favour of non-local Hindus.
- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues has stated that by holding a G20 meeting in the Kashmir region: "The Government of India is seeking to normalize what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalising a G20 meeting and portray an international 'seal of approval'."
- Canada's attendance at India's G20 meetings held in the Kashmir region risks lending inadvertent support and credibility to India's historic and ongoing actions within the Kashmir region.

We share these concerns of the Kashmir Scholars Consultative Action Network and their partner organizations and join them in urging Canada to withdraw from any G20 meetings held in

the Indian-administered Jammu & Kashmir region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morrice". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Mike Morrice
MP for Kitchener Centre

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth May". The signature is highly stylized and cursive.

Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich—Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada