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## **Kashmir is the world's most densely militarized region**

Kashmir has long been a source of dispute between India and Pakistan -- both of which are nuclear powers that have already fought two wars over the region. Kashmiris are an Indigenous people living under colonial occupation who have been fighting for their right to practice sovereignty through self-determination and self-government. Although the United Nations has maintained for decades that the political status of Kashmir be determined by the Kashmiri people. Kashmir is not a bilateral issue. Instead, its resolution depends on the implementation of the right to self-determination, which the Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the international community has promised Kashmiris via UN Resolution 47(1948). Kashmir does not belong to India or Pakistan.

**On Aug. 4,** India ordered all tourists and outside students to leave Kashmir effective immediately. They simultaneously implemented emergency measures to protect tourists and Indian Hindu pilgrims. It also airlifted almost 10,000 more soldiers into Kashmir within a matter of two days. Approximately 28,000 additional armed troops then invaded Kashmir Valley in trucks and tanks.

**On Aug. 5,** the Indian Home Minister Amit Shah told parliament that the president had signed a decree abolishing Article 370 of the Indian constitution. **a constitutional provision that granted Kashmir semi-autonomous status and prevented non-Kashmiris from owning property in Kashmir.** India has put political figures under house arrest, ordered tourists to leave, placed everyone under curfew, and cut off all access to communication including landlines, broadband, internet, cell phones, and the news media. The curfew is lifted, yet the region remain under extensive lockdown.

### **Here is what is happening right now:**

- India has closed down all local media in Kashmir
- International media is not allowed by India to enter Kashmir
- After 75 days of no cell phone and landline service, some people are av=able to access postpaid mobile services. Most Kashmiris use prepaid services.
- Internet service in Kashmir has been blocked by India
- The Indian government evacuated all tourists and Hindus
- Violations of Religious Freedom: Kashmiris were not allowed to celebrate Eid Al Adha

*Justice For All is a non-governmental, Illinois-registered nonprofit organization based in Chicago, with Consultative Status at the United Nations (DPI) and staff and volunteers in Washington DC, New York, Boston, Texas and other locations. The organization advocates for the global strengthening of human rights and has been instrumental in shaping the discourse around the 'genocide' debate in the U.S. Free Kashmir Action is a project of Justice For All. Contact [info@justiceforall.org](mailto:info@justiceforall.org)*

- Human Rights Violations: [Children as young as 6](#) detained
- Indian bureaucrats, civil society and retired military officers and bureaucrats have filed a petition in the Supreme Court in New Delhi against this action, calling it constitutionally invalid.
- There is deliberate silencing of people and no right to protest the siege
- The [misuse of Public Safety Act](#) to detain people without charges for up to 2 years
- By some estimates **13,000 boys** have been taken by Indian military
- International aid agencies are not allowed to access the area
- 6 [UN Special rapporteurs have written to the United Nations](#) about their concerns on the “severe restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and of association imposed during the past week in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the arbitrary arrests and detention of political figures, journalists, members of civil society and human rights defenders in the state, and violations to the right to life.”
- “Children in Kashmir are prevented from accessing urgent medical care. Basic necessities — including baby food, milk and medicines are in short supply. Parents are not sending their children to school for fear they will be injured, detained or killed and have no way of communicating with them. Armed forces have illegally detained Kashmiri children and abused them, physically and sexually. Children have been shot in the eye by soldiers firing pellet guns and even marble slingshots. A 17-year-old boy recently died of tear gas and pellet gun injuries. Women in labor cannot access obstetric care for safe delivery, putting their newborns at risk. Fathers are randomly detained by the military; many disappear, leaving children behind.” [Alisa Khan](#)

These unilateral moves by the Indian state obliterate the rights Kashmiris had as citizens of India as well as their Indigenous rights. Under the United Nations Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), India is obligated to ensure decisions pertaining to Kashmiri are made with them, using the principle of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) that recognizes Kashmiris as sovereign Indigenous people.

Many believe this is meant to change the ethnic demographics of Kashmir and eventually eradicate Kashmir's identity and political will. Kashmir is at the center of a potential nuclear global conflict, with the U.S. largely allied with India and with China largely allied with Pakistan.

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