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Dear Mr Surya Deva

Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR) NGO, in special consultative status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations, would like to draw your attention to the critical challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. As a global advocate for human rights and development, we would like your intervention and support to address the pressing issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The right to development "is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realised. The human right to development also implies the full realisation of peoples' right to self-determination, which includes, subject to the relevant provisions of both International Covenants on Human Rights, the exercise of their inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources."

However, it is difficult to ascertain what steps have been undertaken in the last decade to realise the right to development of vulnerable or marginalised individuals and communities in Jammu and Kashmir due to the region's complex political and social situation.

Jammu and Kashmir, a disputed territory in South Asia, has been plagued by a long-standing conflict that has had a detrimental impact on its development prospects. The ongoing political instability, armed conflict, and human rights abuses have severely hampered the region's socioeconomic progress and hindered the well-being of its inhabitants. The right to development, as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, must be upheld for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The conflict in Jammu and Kashmir has had a significant impact on the ability of every human person and all people living in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan to realise the right to development in the region.

We want to bring the following key challenges to the attention of the United Nations Rapporteur on the Right to Development:

1. **Lack of Infrastructure and Basic Services:** The infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir has been impeded due to the persistent conflict. Essential services such as healthcare, education, electricity, clean water, and sanitation are inadequate, resulting in a lower quality of life for the population.

2. **Economic Stagnation and Unemployment:** The prolonged conflict has severely impacted the region's economy, leading to high levels of unemployment and underemployment. The lack of employment opportunities and economic development initiatives has resulted in poverty and limited livelihood options for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

3. **Human Rights Violations:** The people of Jammu and Kashmir continue to face human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly. These violations impede the realisation of their right to development and create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity.

4. **Access to Justice:** The lack of an effective justice system in Jammu and Kashmir hampers the ability of individuals to seek redress for human rights violations. The judicial infrastructure needs strengthening, and measures should be taken to ensure the impartiality, independence, and accessibility of the justice system.

Given the urgency of the situation, we humbly request the United Nations and the international community to:

1.    Call for an immediate end to the armed conflict and initiate a meaningful dialogue to find a peaceful resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

2.     Support and encourage infrastructure development projects in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on improving access to essential services such as healthcare, education, electricity, clean water, and sanitation.

3.    Facilitate economic development initiatives, job creation programs, and vocational training to alleviate unemployment and poverty in the region.

4.    Monitor and report on human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir, and urge the concerned authorities to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for such violations.

5.    Advocate for establishing an effective justice system that ensures access to justice for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

We firmly believe that with the collective efforts of the United Nations and the international community, the people of Jammu and Kashmir can exercise their right to development and achieve a more secure, prosperous, and equitable future. Therefore, JKCHR seeks your valuable support in addressing the core issue of utmost importance for the right to development of the people of Jammu and Kashmir: the full realisation of the right of peoples to self-determination in all the regions of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir.

As you are well aware, the right to development, as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, encompasses the principle of self-determination for all peoples. This principle recognises the inalienable right of individuals and communities to determine their political status, pursue their economic, social, and cultural development, and exercise sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources.

Jammu and Kashmir have been a long-standing area of contention, marred by political and territorial disputes. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, comprising diverse communities with varied aspirations, have yearned to realise their right to self-determination fully. It is crucial that their voices are heard, respected and their rights protected.

In recent years, there have been persistent reports of human rights violations, including restrictions on freedom of expression, arbitrary detentions, and excessive use of force in Jammu and Kashmir. These incidents have significantly impacted the lives and well-being of the local population, hindering their socioeconomic progress and impeding the exercise of their right to self-determination.

JKCHR would like to ask your office to help and leverage your mandate to advocate for fully realising people's right to self-determination in Jammu and Kashmir. Your involvement would be instrumental in highlighting the issue on an international platform and fostering a conducive environment for dialogue and peaceful resolution.

Furthermore, we would like you to engage with relevant stakeholders, including the government of India, the government of Pakistan, and representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, to facilitate a constructive dialogue addressing the concerns of all parties involved. It is through such dialogue and negotiations that a lasting and peaceful solution can be achieved.

We firmly believe that your support and involvement in this matter will contribute significantly to promoting and protecting human rights, peace, and stability in the region. The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve the opportunity to determine their destiny according to international norms and principles.

We are excited to hear from you and follow the progress made towards realising the right to development, including self-determination in Jammu and Kashmir. If there are any updates or actions that we can undertake to assist you in your work to support the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E), the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.unisdr.org%2Fwe%2Fcoordinate%2Fsendai-framework&data=05%7C01%7Chrc-sr-development%40un.org%7C5d31b26fe3d64cfa678408db7329711f%7C0f9e35db544f4f60bdcc5ea416e6dc70%7C0%7C0%7C638230394061649826%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1sbrmX05O9X1rv2pxT4bxDADEj9FT6zJ1oOXT5LPQOo%3D&reserved=0), the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf), and the [Paris Agreement on climate change](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27&lang=_en&clang=_en) in Jammu and Kashmir, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sardar Aftab Khan,

On behalf of

Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights

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