



I am writing to you to express my concern over the Indian state's abolishment of Article 370 and annulment of Article 35A and ask you to condemn the Indian government's abrogation of the rights of Kashmiris and the enforcement of its occupation of the region and its people. These events are deeply concerning as the Indian state has completely circumvented parliamentary procedures and ignored the Indian constitution and the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. These moves include a plan to bifurcate Indian occupied Kashmir into 2 Indian Union territories.

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution gave special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which granted it autonomy to make its own laws in all matters except defence, finance, foreign affairs, and communications and allowed for the state's own constitution.

Article 35A gave the government of Jammu and Kashmir the power to define permanent residents of the region and prevented outsiders from permanently settling, buying land or holding local government positions.

Kashmir is currently the most militarised zone in the world, and the Indian government has sent 35,000 troops in addition to the 700,000 already present in the lead up to the abolishment of the Articles. Indian occupied Kashmir is currently under total lockdown, with communication services, including phones, internet and cable networks being cutoff, public officials being placed under house arrest and a curfew instated. This further isolates Kashmiris from the rest of the world, preventing reports from on the ground and is laying the groundwork for an escalation of violence against Kashmiris by the Indian state.

The abolishment of Article 370 and 35A is a clear move to orchestrate a demographic shift in the region and a blatant continuation of the Indian state's history of eroding Kashmiri peoples rights and struggle for independence.

In light of these events, I urge you to stand in solidarity with the people of Kashmir and condemn the Indian state in Parliament.