

LAUNCHING OF POLICY BRIEF ON “INSTITUTIONALIZING CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES ON KASHMIR



Islamabad, 31, Jan, 2014, Future of Kashmir centric Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) is chiefly dependent upon the much needed initiative to institutionalize them, lest they should continue hanging in balance in view of heightened tension between India and Pakistan along Line of Control (LoC). This was held by speakers at the launch ceremony of a study 'Institutionalizing Confidence Building Measures on Kashmir at Islamabad'. Co-authored by Dr. Shaheen Akhtar and Zafar Choudhry, the study has been brought out by the Kashmir Initiative Group (KIG), a cross Line of Control body, in collaboration with Conciliation Resources and jointly launched by the Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad and Kashmir Initiative Group.

While discussing the efficacy of the CBMs, guest speaker from Indian Administered Jammu Zafar Choudhry held that CBMs alone can create an environment for peaceful and lasting solution to the Kashmir issue. “The key concern at present is that the ownership of these measures is yet to be accepted by the Kashmiris as the principal party to

the conflict”, he observed, while adding that it is widely believed they have been introduced by India and Pakistan with, little, if any, in put by the Kashmiris themselves. He lamented that though a wider acceptance can be witness in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir but such kind of consensus was still missing in India. Dr. Shaheen Akhtar, co-author of the paper and teaching at National Defense University (NDU) Islamabad, underlined that the success of CBMs is contingent upon durable and lasting ceasefire on LoC as even a minor aberration from it can endanger the whole process.

“It should be taken full note of that CBMs should create a peace constituency across LoC which should always be on the fore front to underline the peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue”, she



ABOUT NEWSLETTER

Kashmir Institute of International Relations has started Quarterly Newsletter to highlight the activities that KIIR and its partner organizations and other civil society groups carry out for the promotion of peace building initiatives so that space for dialogue and reconciliation is created in the conflict ridden region. The main purpose of launching the KIIR Newsletter is to create awareness and sense of hope in civil society activists that their voice counts and does reflect in the future policy planning of the governments and policymaking institutions. In this regard KIIR is thankful to Conciliation Resources London (CR) for their support and Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms, Kashmir Initiative Group for their contributions. KIIR will welcome other civil society groups who are involved in Kashmir, to send their activities for circulation and sharing.

ABOUT KIIR

Kashmir Institute of International Relations is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization established in 1993 in Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir. With the motto of "Peace through Dialogue" KIIR is working for a peaceful South Asia. KIIR believes that peace can only be achieved by the resolution of the Kashmir dispute through substantive dialogue between India, Pakistan and Kashmiris.

To achieve this goal, KIIR has engaged policymakers and policy implementers: Members of Parliament, Political Activists, Lawyers, Journalists, Academics and Social Activists. KIIR is working to enhance the capacity of Kashmiri civil society actors in the areas of reconciliation, negotiation skills and conflict resolution. The objective of these initiatives is to facilitate dialogue that is conducive to reconciliation and peace in the region.



added. She proposed that India and Pakistan should now take a step forward and declare at least 30 km area along the LoC as no man's land for peace, communication and trade purpose.

Shafqat Mahmood, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf member of the National Assembly, on the occasion thoroughly appreciated the study and said that the authors of it have concertized the many ideas which have been only in minds but never put into writing. He assured the audience that his party would do its best to ensure that the recommendations given in the paper are put before the concerned circles. He appreciated the proposal that India and Pakistan should adopt a forward looking approach and agree on de-mining of area on LoC. Earlier, Ershad Mahmud, a peace activist from Rawalakot introduced the study to the audience and held that CBMs, set in motion in the heel of a ceasefire along LoC in 2003, are aimed at kicking off trade, travel and dialogue between two parts of the divided state, but their true potential is marred by operational

difficulties. Persistent stalemate in the peace process has affected them badly. "Travel across LoC remains limited due to clearance of difficulties, while the trade has remained a barter system. The ceasefire remains fragile and intra-Kashmir dialogue has yet to take of meaningfully", he said.

Andy Carl, executive director Conciliation Resources, London, on the occasion reminded that his organization would continue supporting the efforts of GIK to bring out such publications as peaceful settlement of issues between India and Pakistan is in the interest of everybody in and around the South Asian region.

Ambassador Fouzia Nasreen in her concluding remarks appreciated KIG for bringing out the study which includes

highly valuable recommendations including, but not limited to, increase in the number of tradable items on the trade list, speedy return of inadvertent crossers of LoC and demining of an area of LoC to convert that into a safe zone for trade and communication purpose between two sides.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Shah Ghulam Qadir, Secretary General Muslim League-N AJK, Arish A. Khan, senior research fellow Institute of Regional Studies, Ambassador Ishtiaq H. Andrabi, Zulfiqar Abbasi, ex-President of JK-JCCI, Sardar Amjad Yousaf, Executive Director KIIR, Sardar Khalid Ibrahim Khan, president and Anis Jilani, Supreme Court lawyer.



Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) CSOs representatives' workshop organized by Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms (CPDR) in Islamabad, March 31, 2014.

MEETING WITH DG SOUTH ASIA ON KASHMIR SITUATION

30TH JANUARY 2014

Executive Director KIIR Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Co-Founder and Executive Director CR Mr. Andy Carl, Director Programs CR Mr. Tahir Aziz and Mr. Zafar Chudhry had a meeting with Director General South Asia Ms. Riffat Masood on 30th January 2014.

Mr. Andy Carl and Mr. Tahir Aziz introduced their work and contribution of Conciliation Resources in Kashmir. CR is working to prevent violence, promote justice and transform conflict into opportunities for development. After that Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan briefed about Kashmir Institute of International Relations and the purpose of the meeting. The main purpose was to discuss the Kashmir project and government positions on policy issues.

This was the opportunity for project partners to share their views, action plan, ideas, challenges and current issues regarding this project. The Loc Trade & establishment of JCCI (elections) were also discussed. D.G South Asia, Ms. Riffat Masood, appreciated the work of CR & KIIR and approach to involve the larger civil society.

RECEPTION OF ANDY CARL

31ST JANUARY 2014

Kashmir Institute of International Relations hosted a reception in honor of Mr. Carl on 31st January 2014 at Islamabad Club. Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan extended warm welcome to the participants and remarked the achievements of Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR). After that he presented a brief introduction of the Institute and its efforts for promoting new thinking and ideas to resolve Kashmir conflict.

Mr. Andy Carl thanked the Kashmir Institute of International Relations for the reception and giving him the chance to speak about the Kashmir conflict and peace initiatives. He said that CR is working for conflict resolution and for peace building around the world. We are working in Kashmir with the purpose of creating awareness among people of Kashmir about the appropriate solution of Kashmir.

Chairman KIIR Shah Ghulam Qadir expressed gratitude and appreciated the participation of the guests. In his remarks he said, there is only one solution of Kashmir dispute and that is Democratic solution. We affirm the right to the self determination of Kashmiri people in this regard the implementation of international Humanitarian law is important and necessary. At the end he extended his thanks to the CR in helping to strengthen the effective peace process through their projects.



(Left to right) Chairman KIIR Shah Ghulam Qadir, Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Mr. Andy Carl & other participants

Participants List

1. Shah Ghulam Qadir, Chairman KIIR
2. Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Executive Director KIIR
3. Mr. Andy Carl, Co-Founder & Executive Director CR
4. Mr. Tahir Aziz, Director Programs CR
5. Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Director Programs KIIR
6. Sardar Waleed Khan, Finance Officer KIIR
7. Syed Faiz Naqshbandi,
8. Mr. Ishtiyaz Hameed,
9. Mr. Ershad Mehmood, Executive Director CPDR
10. Syed Waqas Ali Kausar, CPDR
11. Mr. Athar Rashid
12. Ms. Noreen Atif
13. Mr. Waqas Mughal
14. Mr. Qaisar
15. Mr. Yasir Abbas
16. Mr. Danish Afaqi
17. Mr. Altaf Hameed Rao
18. Mr. Sohrab Ahmed Khan
19. Sardar Ejaz Nazir
20. Mr. Zulfiqar Abbasi
21. Mr. Zafar Ch.
22. Mr. Mohsin Baig
23. Mr. Shahid Aziz
24. Prof. Qazi Zubair
25. Mr. Mohsin Raza
26. Mr. Ahmed Qureshi
27. Ms. Riffat Masood, DG South Asia
28. Ms. Shaheen Akhter
29. Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa, KIIR
30. Ms. Sidra Aslam, AD Kashmir Affairs
31. Ms. Maria Shah, KIIR
32. Ms. Uzaira Shah, KIIR
33. Ms. Attia Anwer Zoon, KIIR
34. Ms. Mashal Raza, CPDR
35. Amb: Nedim Makarevic (Bosnia)
36. Amb: Sr- Jesus Zenen Vuergo (Cuba)
37. Amb: Lars-gunnar Wigemark (EU)
38. Political Off. Quentin weiler (EU)
39. DHM: Peter Felten (Germany)
40. DHM: Samsu Rizal (Indonesia)
41. Amb: Emilian ION (Romania)
42. Amb: Tomwit (Thailand)
43. Political Off. Andera Hillyer (USA)
44. Political Off. Stephanie L. Reed (USA)
45. Political Off. Ameer Muhammad Khan (USA)
46. Amb: Arif Kamal

HURRIYAT MEETING AT KIIR

4TH MARCH 2014

A Hurriyat meeting held at KIIR on 4th March 2014. The purpose was to discuss the overall Kashmir situation, role of All Parties Hurriyat Conference in the peace process between India & Pakistan and also about the Proposed Leadership Conference. The meeting was to discuss



in particular the participation of Hurriyat leader in the proposed leadership conference to make it inclusive of all the stakeholders.

MEETING WITH KASHMIRI JOURNALISTS

7TH MARCH 2014

On 7th of March 2014 Kashmir Institute of International Relations organized CT workshop titled Role of Social Media (Arab) with kashmiri journalists working in the AJK's newspaper and national print & electronic media. During this workshop participants discussed how Kashmiri journalists can play role in promoting people-to-people contact and Indo-Pak peace process vis a vis Kashmir.



The participants of meeting/workshop appreciated the efforts of KIIR & involving the kashmiri journalists in a sustained and structured process. The meeting decided a five members committee (Ejaz Abbasi,(KJF), Shehzad Rathor (Editor Council), Khalid Gerdazi, Ather Wani, Basharat Abbasi) to co-

ordinate with 350 kashmiri journalists based in Islamabad, Rawalpindi & AJK and provide list of 25-30 journalists to be involved in the 2-day CT Workshop in April.

This meeting proposed formation of a working group of journalists in AJK to institutionalize the efforts in sustaining and supporting peace process. The main purpose of this workshop was to discuss the idea of Peace Journalism and how



the media of AJK can contribute to the peace process in balanced manner.

Participants List

1. Shah Ghulam Qadir Chairman KIIR
2. Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan Executive Director KIIR
3. Altaf Hussain Wani Director Programs KIIR
4. Mehr un Nisa, KIIR

5. Ershad Mehmud Executive Director CPDR
6. Waqas Ali Kausar Educational Youth consultant CPDR
7. Ishtiyaq Hameed Member APHC
8. Syed Faiz Naqshbandi APHC
9. Abid Naqi Khan, Production News reporting, PTV
10. Muqaddar Naqvi, Sub-Editor, Daily Ausaf
11. Mushtaq shujah D K E
12. Javed Iqbal, Editor Daily Parliament Times
13. Ather Wani, Journalist
14. Basharrat Abbasi, Editor Daily Ausaf
15. Murtaza Durrani, Executive Editor Daily Kashmir Times
16. Waz abbasi, Journalist
17. S. Shaukat Mehmood, Chairman JKYA
18. Zahid Tbbasum Journalist Daily Kashmir Express
19. Altaf Ahmed Butt, Political Activist Daily Kashmir Post
20. Shehzad Rathor, Journalist Editor Daliy Jammu Kashmir
21. Shehzad Khan, Daily Kashmir
22. Khalid Gerdazi Journalist Daily Kashmir Times
23. Syed Munir Hussain Shah

WOMEN CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

9TH MARCH 2014

Women Capacity Building Workshop was held in Islamabad Club on 9th March 2014. The workshop was well attended. 17 women from diverse professional backgrounds participated in the workshop.

The main objectives of this workshop were:

1. Training & capacity building of Women Core Group.
2. Providing an opportunity to women from all three regions of AJK: Muzaffarabad, Mirpur and Pooch, to Sit together and deliberate upon what initiatives they can take at different levels.
3. Increasing awareness about the women participation in capacity building and conflict transformation.

The participants viewed that AJK Women should be given opportunities where they can build awareness and understanding about conflict,

its dimensions, and where they can explore options to play their role as women. The women core group also stressed on the need to mobilize the women in all three divisions of AJK so that they can play active role

in peace building initiatives. Cross LoC Women connectivity and networking was also highlighted as an issue of high concern.

The training session and discussions generated interest among the target group, participants highly appreciated the training sessions and stressed on conducting further training and capacity building workshops.

Participants List

1. Attia Anwer Zoon
2. Mehr un Nisa
3. Tahira Touqeer
4. Hafsa Masoodi
5. Zainab Babur Butt
6. Mehwish Durani
7. Shaista Safi
8. Dr. Sara Irshad
9. Dr. Shaheen Akhter
10. Meemoona Javeria
11. Nabeela Irshad
12. Saeeda Akbar
13. Isha Ooj
14. Alishba Hassan Khan
15. Ayesha Jahangir Khan
16. Syed Waqas Ali Kausar
17. Syed Munir Hussain Shah



About Kashmir Initiative Group (KIG)

KIG mission statement: "An intra-Kashmir peace-building platform, building bridges between community perspectives and policy-makers."

Aims of KIG

- To influence policy strategy
- To engage in advocacy
- To promote peace and reconciliation
- To empower local narratives through advocacy, research, and capacity-building
- To network/provide a platform for peace
- To provide Kashmiris more agency
- To bridge local level civil society with policy-makers

Members:

1. Dr. Shujaat Bukhari, Convener, senior journalist, Srinagar
2. Ershad Mahmud, Co- convener
3. Asma Khan Lone, Analyst, Islamabad/New Delhi
4. Dr. Shaheen Akhtar, Associate Prof. National Defense University (NDU), Islamabad
5. Fayaz Ahmed Dar, Researcher and Social Activist
6. Javaid Hayat Khan, Researcher and Political Analyst, Berlin
7. M. Ismail Khan, Public Policy and Regional Cooperation Specialist, Islamabad
8. Dr. Parikshat Singh Manhas, Professor, University of Jammu
9. Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Executive Director, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) AJK
10. Shafat N. Ahmad, Lawyer and co-founder of Centre for Law & Development Policy, Srinagar
11. Zafar Choudhary, Journalist, Jammu

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