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September 16, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to express my concern about the current conflict in the territory of Kashmir which has evolved into a humanitarian crisis. The decision to revoke Article 370, the special status accorded in India's constitution to Kashmir has created tension and civil unrest throughout the region. It is extremely important, that Pakistan and India, which are nuclear powers, work through this crisis, and that the United States play an important role in changing the conditions created on the ground that are impacting families and innocent children.

I strongly urge you and Secretary Pompeo to conduct bilateral talks with the leadership of India and Pakistan during the UN General Assembly. These talks will allow an opportunity for dialogue and cooperation, not interference, on this issue between the two nations. This issue can be resolved in a democratic and civil manner that provides opportunity and a bright future throughout the disputed territory. The United States should encourage the withdrawal of all the restrictions imposed on the people of Kashmir and provide for the protection of human rights, the restoration of communications so families can reach their loved ones, and medical care, which must be documented and made public.

Both India and Pakistan are very important nations in the world community and especially in that region of the world. The Indian and Pakistan communities in the United States have contributed tremendously to every facet of American life. It is imperative that the United States negotiate using a unifying approach that maintains strong U.S. relations in the region with both the government of Pakistan and the government of India.

I look forward to working with the Administration in producing results during this critical time and crisis. Finally, as Chair of the Pakistan Caucus, I look forward to meetings on these matters and discussing a direct-action plan for peace.

Very truly yours,



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

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