

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 22 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 22 February 2019 from Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, addressed to the President of the Security Council (see annex), drawing your attention to the deteriorating security situation in our region resulting from Indian belligerence and threats of use of force against Pakistan, which poses a threat to international peace and security.

I should like to request you to kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council in connection with the item entitled “The India-Pakistan question”.

(Signed) Maleeha Lodhi



Annex to the letter dated 22 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 22 February 2019 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with a sense of urgency that I draw your attention to the deteriorating security situation in our region resulting from Indian belligerence and threats of use of force against Pakistan. The situation poses a threat to international peace and security.

As you are aware, there was an attack on a Central Reserve Police Force convoy in the Pulwama district of Indian-occupied Kashmir (IOK) on 14 February 2019. Within moments of the attack, without holding an investigation or providing any proof, India began accusing Pakistan and started threatening retributive action. The entire basis of India's unfounded allegations was a social media video of completely suspect content.

It is clear that India is making the attempt to present its fallacious assumptions as established facts, seek to cover up its own operational and policy failures and shift the blame to Pakistan.

Simultaneously, for domestic political reasons, India has deliberately ratcheted up hostile rhetoric against Pakistan and created a tense environment. The Prime Minister of India, in several public statements, stoked passions and threatened a "befitting response". Among other things, the Indian Prime Minister said: "[T]here is a lot of anger, people's blood is boiling. ... The next steps will be taken by our armed forces. What should be the time, what should be the place and what should be the form, they have been authorized to take all the decisions."

Separately, senior members of the Indian Government are threatening to use water as a weapon. The long-standing legal arrangements agreed under the Indus Waters Treaty are thus being imperilled.

For its part, the Government of Pakistan has strongly rejected Indian allegations of involvement in the Pulwama attack, without any investigation or provision of evidence. Pakistan has offered its cooperation if tangible evidence emerging from a credible investigation is shared. The Prime Minister of Pakistan has also announced Pakistan's readiness for talks with India on the issue of terrorism, along with other disputed issues. Pakistan has also reaffirmed its resolve to defend itself against any act of aggression by India.

The frenzy created by the Indian Government has resulted in reprisal attacks against Kashmiris in Indian-occupied Kashmir and in several states of India. It is a matter of record that the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir are being punished because they are demanding their inalienable right of self-determination – pledged to them by India, Pakistan and the international community. The Security Council resolutions on the Kashmir dispute stipulate the holding of a democratic and impartial plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their own future.

While persisting with the brutal use of force to keep the Kashmiri people under illegal occupation and deny them their fundamental rights, India continues a motivated propaganda campaign to portray the legitimate Kashmiri struggle for self-determination as "terrorism". This is a travesty that should not be allowed to mislead

the world. The legitimacy of the Kashmiri struggle and the reality of the untold sufferings of the Kashmiri people are self-evident.

The people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir are counting on the international community to take immediate cognizance of their unending plight, initiate steps to bring an urgent halt to the horrendous violations of human rights taking place in Indian-occupied Kashmir and enable them to exercise their right of self-determination under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I take this opportunity to underscore the need for the world community to dissuade India from its current warmongering. India must refrain from escalating the situation and enter into dialogue with Pakistan and the Kashmiris to ensure de-escalation and continued peace and stability in South Asia.

I have already apprised the Secretary-General of the serious situation and underlined that the United Nations must step in to defuse the current tensions. We would also keep the Security Council members abreast of the evolving situation.

I am attaching to the present letter a document containing key elements of the address that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, delivered on the subject of the Pulwama attack on 20 February 2019 (see enclosure 1). Also enclosed is a copy of the statement issued after the meeting of the National Security Council, chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, on 21 February 2019 (see enclosure 2).

I request that the present letter and its enclosures be circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Makhdoom Shah Mahmood **Qureshi**

Enclosure 1

20 February 2019

Prime Minister Imran Khan on the Pulwama attack

I had taken notice of the Indian allegations against Pakistan in the Pulwama Attacks. However, I decided to hold off my response, as I did not wish to divert attention from the visit of the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and the Investment Conference we had been planning for a long time. I am responding to the Indian allegations, now that the visit has ended.

Firstly you accused Pakistan without any evidence, or even considering what advantage Pakistan would derive from this. Let me assure you, Pakistan derives no benefit from such acts - Even a foolish person would not sabotage such an important visit and conference by such an act.

What benefit would Pakistan have from such acts at a stage when we are progressing towards prosperity? We have suffered the consequences of the fight against terrorism for 15 years and lost 70,000 lives. What benefit would we gain from such an act, at this point when terrorism is subsiding and Pakistan is becoming prosperous?

I would like to ask the Indian government if they wish to stay trapped in the past and blame Pakistan for any incident in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir, making Pakistan a regular whipping boy, instead of trying to resolve the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and resuming dialogue to move forward?

I am clearly telling you, this is the new Pakistan, a new mindset, a new thinking. It is in our interest that no one goes from our soil to carry out acts of terrorism anywhere outside Pakistan and similarly no one is allowed to come into Pakistan from outside for terrorism against us. We want stability.

I therefore wish to convey to the Government of India, our willingness for any investigation, if any Pakistani is involved. If you have any actionable evidence about the involvement of any Pakistani, I guarantee we will take action. We will take action, not because we are under pressure from anyone but because such acts are hostile to Pakistan's national interest. If anyone is using Pakistani soil for such acts it is against our interest. Secondly, whenever we speak about dialogue with India, their precondition is to discuss terrorism first. I am telling you we will speak about terrorism too. Terrorism is a regional issue and we are totally willing to discuss it because we want this scourge to end. Pakistan is the country which has suffered the most from terrorism; 70,000 Pakistanis have lost their lives and we have incurred losses of more than 100 billion US\$ due to this menace. We are ready to speak to you.

I want to say 2 final things to you. India needs to develop a new mindset, to introspect about the reason why Kashmiri youth have reached the point where they have lost all fear of death. Do you think one-dimensional oppression, cruelty and resorting to use of force to solve a problem is the right way? If that has not worked earlier, do you think it will work now?

In Afghanistan, after 17 years, the whole world has accepted that there is no military solution and the only way to solve issues is through dialogue. Should not there be discussion on this in India too?

Secondly, we are hearing voices in India, including from the media and politicians about seeking revenge and carrying strikes against Pakistan – firstly, which law in the world allows any person or country to become judge, jury and executioner, all in one by any standard of justice? We understand it is your election year and

slogans of teaching Pakistan a lesson will yield results. However, if you think you can attack Pakistan in any manner, Pakistan will not think of retaliating, Pakistan will retaliate. We will have no option, but to respond.

I cannot predict where it will go from there. We all know it is easy to start a war - that is in human hands. Ending war is beyond man; only God knows where it ends. I hope that better sense will prevail. We will exercise restraint and maturity. As in Afghanistan, this matter can only be solved through dialogue.

Enclosure 2

Prime Minister Imran Khan today chaired a meeting of the National Security Committee at the Prime Minister's Office

Islamabad, 21 February 2019

Participants discussed geo strategic and national security environment and situation arising after the Pulwama Incident. The forum noted that the state of Pakistan is not involved in any way, means or form in the said incident. The incident was conceived, planned and executed indigenously. In this regard, Pakistan has sincerely offered investigation of the incident as well as the offer of dialogue on the issue of terrorism among other disputed issues. We expect India to positively respond to the offers. Based on the investigation or any tangible evidence provided, State of Pakistan shall take action against anyone found using our soil. However, India also needs deep introspection to realize that why people of IOK have lost fear of death. The violence by Indian forces in IOK is highly counterproductive. The global community needs to play its part in resolving the long pending Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiris.

The Prime Minister said that this is a new Pakistan and we are determined to demonstrate to our people that the State is capable of protecting them and believes that monopoly of violence stays with State. This will not come with commitment alone. We recognize that terrorism and extremism are the top issues in the region and the whole region including Pakistan have suffered. Pakistan alone has endured over 70,000 casualties in the process besides heavy loss to national exchequer. That is why the National Action Plan conceived and issued in 2014, outlined concrete sequenced measures with consensus of all political parties and institutions of Pakistan. Having addressed direct threat to State of Pakistan, we need to move to ensure that militancy and extremism are routed from the society and the State never becomes hostage to extremists. In this regard, Prime Minister directed both the interior ministry and the security institutions to immediately accelerate actions on ground.

At the same time, the Prime Minister authorized Armed Forces of Pakistan to respond decisively and comprehensively to any aggression or misadventure by India.
