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FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Date: October 11, 2019

Time: 3:30 PM

Location: Niagara Square

In front of City Hall, Buffalo, NY

Contacts:

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KASHMIR PRAYER FOR

BUFFALO, NY: WNY Muslims, Buffalo Muslim Community Service, and Muslim Student Association of UB and other organizations has organized

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It is being held to acknowledge that the community of WNY is united and standing firm against the brutalities of the BJP's extremist rule in India, and praying from the bottom of our hearts for our oppressed brothers and sisters. We request the community of WNY to join us as we strongly believe that through protests, possibilities of change may emerge and our voices may become the cries of silent Kashmiris.

For the past 70 years Kashmir has been a source of dispute between India and Pakistan -- both of which are now nuclear powers that have already fought two wars over the region. An armed revolt has been waged against Indian regime in the region for three decades, claiming thousands of lives. Every week dozens of Kashmiris are losing their lives. Kashmiris have been denied their inalienable right to self-determination. More than 100,000 killed during the last decade, over 15,000 Kashmiri women violated, over 5,000 Kashmiri youths imprisoned in India, interrogation center and torture cells, more than 20,000 kids orphaned, 8,000 to 10,000 involuntarily disappeared, over 200 totally blinded with pellet guns.

A sudden change to Kashmir's status on the Indian side has created further trepidation as on Aug 05 India unilaterally revoked its' seven-decade-long privileged status by abrogating Article 370, a constitutional provision that granted Kashmir semi-autonomous status along with article 35A, which prevented non-Kashmiris from owning property in Kashmir. This abrogation may change the ethnic demographics of Kashmir and eventually eradicate Kashmir's identity and political will. Kashmir is put under strict military curfew, telephone networks and the internet were cut off in the region, and tens of thousands of troops were sent in. Despite the unprecedented security lockdown, thousands of people demonstrated in Srinagar and have faced live fire, tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets. Excessive force on protesters in Indian-administered Kashmir is causing life-threatening injuries. The cost of that occupation is not only paid by Kashmiri lives, but also the ordinary people in India who are being held hostage to the rhetoric of nationalism.

Pakistan's PM, Imran Khan's recent UNGA address in which he described Kashmir as a disputed territory that has been absorbed by the Indian government's policy in line with the "ideology" of the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) party — an organization that is declared as a terrorism organization by the US government and said to be a parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). His address was an eye-opener, which not only depicted the actual situation of the region but also

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For the PM's UNGA address please click here.

"Worried about the situation in India and peace in South Asia"-- Prof. Faizan Haq.

"It is in our small effort with the hope that our voices might be heard if not by the so-called Pharaohs of today but by God Almighty'. -- Attiqur Rahman,

President -- BMCS.



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