



KASHMIRI PANDIT SANGARASH SAMITI

Sathu Barbar Shah, Srinagar, Kashmir (J&K) – 190001

e-mail: kpss.kashmir@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

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**(Open Communication to
Chairman – United Jihad Council and Tehrik ul Hurriyat)**

KPSS has decided in executive body meeting to approach Hizbul Mujahideen Supremo Jenab Syed Salla-u-Din Sahib and respected Syed Ali Shah Geelani Sahib, Chairman, Tehrik-ul-Hurriyat, through press to highlight the problems facing by the Kashmiri Pandits living in the Valley since the eruption of political turmoil and militancy in 1989-1990.

We the Kashmiri Pandits living in the Valley who opted to live with the Muslim friends despite of mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandit Community in 1990.

Kashmiri Pandits living in the Valley are being treated as second class citizens by the Successive Governments at State and Central Level. Our voice and existence are been ignored and packed down by some vested interest politicians in the Valley and some organizations outside the Valley. Even, declare us as traitors because we the Kashmiri Pandits living in the Valley did not come under their nefarious designs (right from 1990 till today, like slogan's which were raised against our community in 1990, massacre of our community members after the migration in March 1997 - Sangrampora, January 1998 – Wandhama, March 1999 – Telwani, November 2001 – Hugam and March 2003 – Nadimarg).

We are facing social – religious – economic problems for last 18 years without any fault of ours'.

Though, last 10 years we are pleading our problems to all the parties concern, even to All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and other separatists organizations but, alas! we are only getting lips sympathy. Even some of the separatists organization leaders are treating us as liabilities for the Muslim Community in the Valley. Our thousands year old temples, shrines and other religious institutions are either had been desecrated, looted, encroached, leased, sold by some vested interest elements from both the community and non-state subject holders taking un-due advantage of present turmoil in the Valley.

Our population has been reduced to 4000 members living in 196 inhabitants, comprising of 952 families all over the Valley (census details as on year 1996 – 25



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685 souls, Year 1998 – 19865 souls, Year 2001 – 10342 souls, Year 2003 – 6866 souls).

Even the Kashmiri Pandits living in the Valley are facing harassments by some Government Officials towards our Community Members, who so ever is presently working in the Government Departments by using the sentence “Bata Chi Kyazi Chuk Na Dramut” or “Bata Chi Kar Chuk Aamut Jamipath” These words are being commonly used by the some percentage of the Majority Community while seeing our female folk with Tika and Dajhoru (Tika and Dejhoru are women’s folks identity).

Even, finally the encroachments in the temples properties by some vested interest persons, who are facilitated by the majority Community, is a clear indication that we every one here is trying to remove us from nook and corner of the State. These acts are hurting our religious sentiments. Which can prove fatal in the recent future for everyone if it is not been stopped right here. And a warning should be given to those persons who are involved in these acts or facilitate these persons, who are trying to hurt our religious feelings. We need protection for our temples, which is even your duty as per the Islamic Law.

These types of harassments, slogans and attitude towards the microscopic community will force us to take hard decisions in the coming days, if the Civil Society in the Valley fails to take our day-to-day problems seriously and to minimize the same at their respective levels (here the Civil Society means Government, Political Parties, Separatists Organizations, Journalists, Doctors, Educationists, Business Houses, NGO’s etc.)

The KPSS is hopeful that any reply from any quarter will be by words not by bullets.

Sanjay K. Tickoo
President, KPSS
9906564741