

Nepali Human Rights and Civil Society Organisations' Statement on India-Pakistan Situation

Resolve the conflict through dialogue, respect South Asian people's aspiration for peace and security

We, the undersigned human rights and Civil Society Organisations and leaders from Nepal are concerned about the deteriorating relationship between India and Pakistan after the incident in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir on 14th February 2019.











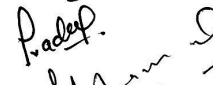











The people of the region are suffering from the militarised retribution from each other. The fundamental human rights including the economic-social and cultural rights of the people are violated if the tension between the countries escalates. Being the largest countries of the South Asia region in terms of geography and the population, the conflict between India and Pakistan also affects the regional integrity and the lives of the people.

The peace gesture of the government of Pakistan by repatriating the detained Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot on the 1st March 2019 can be taken as an important step to de-escalate the conflicting situation between the countries. The militarised retribution is not the way to resolve the state of conflict but the peaceful negotiation and dialogue between India and Pakistan.

We recall the remarks made by the officiating Prime Minister of India in his early stage in the government calling Pakistan to fight against the poverty, inequality and injustices in their countries as the people are struggling for livelihoods and basic services.

We emphasise on the revival of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as a regional platform to maintain the peace and integrity in the South Asia region. We call the governments of India and Pakistan to restrain and initiate peace, dialogue by peaceful way of settling the conflict to promote the peace and security in the region.

Signatories:

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On behalf of Nepali CSOs, Jitaram Lama (President, NGO Federation of Nepal)

