

# ERRATA

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**NEW YORK TIMES**

**Interview**

**PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD**



**Errata – Subject: Interview**

By: Senator Professor Khurshid Ahmad

**Dear Allen Ridge**

Unfortunately the answers of Prof. Khurshid Ahmad to your questions on the subject conveyed to you vide email of August 18th were arranged erroneously. The text of the interview may please be read as follows:

**Question.No.1: Do you admit to the presence of Mujahideen and Freedom Fighter training camps in Azad Kashmir?**

Answer: No. I have no knowledge of any training camp in Azad Kashmir.

**QuestionNo.2: What role of the APHC is envisaged by you in settlement of the Kashmir dispute?**

Answer: APHC in my view represents the popular aspirations of the people of Kashmir who are struggling for their right of self determination. The APHC headed by Sayyid Ali Shah Geelani is the most representative forum in the present context in Indian held Kashmir. The recent Srinagar mammoth assembly is a real indicator of the Mashes and support of the people for the APHC in Indian held Kashmir.

**QuestionNo.3 What, in your opinion, is the sincerity of the Congress- led government in the Centre for the settlement of the dispute?**

Answer: We all are very eager that whoever is in the Government in India respects the commitments made by the first Governor General and first Prime Minister of India. Who is in power in Delhi is not important to us because it is the right of the people of India to choose whomever they want to run their government. But international commitments are not, and must not be, subject to the whims of changing governments. However, I have reservations about the political capability of the present Coalition Government led by the Congress to deliver a settlement. Yet, effort must be made and I hope the Indian leadership may succeed in evolving something in the nature of a consensus for a just and lasting solution that could bring peace and stability to the region. I would submit that the right of self determination of a people cannot be denied or suppressed by use of force. The issue has to be squarely faced and a solution

worked out.

**Question No.4: Is there any change of stance of the local government in Indian Held Kashmir as compared with the previous government led by Farukh Abdullah?**

Answer: I do not see any major difference with the change of local governments in the Indian held Kashmir

**Question No.5: What is the role and significance of Kizbul Mujahideen and other mujahideen outfits in the settlement of the Kashmir dispute?**

Answer: Indian held Kashmir is faced with a revolutionary situation. Resistance which was peaceful and seeking change through political process/was frustrated in 1989 when the possibilities of a solution through the ballot were killed by the attitude and policies of the Indian government. The mujahidin represent a powerful indigenous movement, on the same patterns resistance movements have emerged and struggled against colonial rule and foreign occupation during the last century. No solution can be lasting which does not have the support of the resistance movement.\* Hizbul Mujahidin is the largest group and has been accepted by different Indian leaderships as an indigenous phenomena. In my view their involvement would be of critical importance for a final resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

Inconvenience caused is very much regretted, please.

Regards,

**SHIRAZ GUL**

**Executive Secretary**

**Institute of Policy Studies.**

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