



February 26, 2019

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

RE: Urgent request for Congressional resolution censuring Masood Azhar, leader of UN designated terrorist organization, Jaish-e-Mohammad.

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We the undersigned organizations, which represent Indian and Hindu American communities across the United States of America, write to you to request your leadership in censuring Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and China for their direct and indirect roles in the latest terror attack in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir and for fomenting terrorism, religious extremism, and instability across South Asia.

Specifically, we respectfully request that:

- 1. The US advocate for and support the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to officially designate cleric Masood Azhar, head of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), a global terrorist pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1267. Further, we ask that the US issue a formal demand that the People's Republic of China support such a designation;**
- 2. The State Department continue to enhance its designation of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and China as Countries of Particular Concerns in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 by utilizing sanctions and additional diplomatic measures to ensure that these nations respect the fundamental right of religious freedom for their own citizens, and cease their support of religious extremism and global terrorists such as Masood Azhar.**

Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) "*Army of Mohammad*", a Pakistan based terror group led by Islamist cleric Azhar and sponsored by the Pakistani security establishment, has claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing on February 14th, 2019 in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, at Pulwama.¹

40 peacekeeping soldiers died in this attack perpetrated by a radicalized 19 year old, making it the single largest attack in the region since 1989, when such terrorists drove the minority Hindu population, better known as Kashmiri Pandits, out of Kashmir.² Since this attack, several other soldiers have died in operations to prevent further violence in the Kashmir Valley.

¹ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/37-crpf-jawans-martyred-in-ied-blast-in-jks-pulwama/articleshow/67992189.cms>

² https://www.hafsite.org/sites/default/files/HAF_16_Kashmir_V4.pdf

JeM has been officially designated a terror organization by India, the United States,³ the United Kingdom, and the United Nations (UN).⁴ **Previous UNSC efforts to sanction Azhar as a global terrorist, however, have been blocked by China**, which has provided diplomatic cover to Pakistan for JeM's previous attacks against India including:

- December 2001: attack on the Indian parliament killing 14 civilians;
- November 2008: attack on Mumbai (26/11) killing 169 civilians, including 6 Americans (tangential role);
- January 2016: Pathankot Air Force Base attack killing 17 Indian personnel; and
- September 2016: Uri Army Base attack killing 19 Indian personnel.

Accordingly, designating Azhar as a global terrorist would result in a travel ban on Azhar and block his financial assets, thereby impeding JeM's terror activities in the region.

We will also request the U.S. Congress to urgently convene special hearings to examine the international terror nexus in South Asia affecting the stability of India and other countries in the region. Relevant US State Department, Defense Department, and intelligence agency reports should then reflect these findings.

Thank you,

40 Community Organizations across the United States

³ <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg944.aspx>

⁴ https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1267/qa_sanctions_list/summaries/entity/jaish-i-mohammed