



World Kashmir Diaspora Alliance

The International Council for Human Development (ICHD) & Kashmir Council EU in association with IKV Pax Christi – The Netherlands and support of World Kashmir Diaspora Alliance (WKDA)

## **Announce:**

### **'Beauty of Kashmir: Preserved Past, Bruised Present'**

**Cultural and Literary Fair on Kashmir: 14, 15 & 16 Sept. 2010  
Altiero Spinelli Building (European Parliament) - Central Exhibition Zone 3rd floor**

In last few years, the Himalayan region of Kashmir not surprisingly has grabbed more attention all over the world, especially in the diplomatic and political centers as the European Union. The volatile situation in the region that surrounds Kashmir, coupled with popular uprising within Kashmir, triggered a growing awareness of global civil society about the conflict and issue of Kashmir.

Kashmir has been known as Paradise on Earth because of its natural beauty, its civilized history and because of the compassionate cultural and social fabric of its people. Unfortunately, the beauty of Kashmir's cultural history became overshadowed by the present day turmoil which has resulted in immense human right abuse of its people. Thus, due to unresolved dispute and denial of self-determination, promised by the international community, Kashmir is presently mainly known as the zone of conflict: a 'nuclear flashpoint' between its two neighboring states India and Pakistan.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation in Kashmir, the European Parliament adopted a few specific resolutions on Kashmir, as e.g. the one about the issue of massgraves that were reported by credible human rights activists on the ground.

**The future of Kashmir is significantly dependent on EU's future policy towards the South Asian region.**

Therefore, we as International Council for Human Development (ICHD), in collaboration with the Dutch NGO IKV Pax Christi, have taken this initiative to organize a Cultural and Literary Fair on Kashmir titled: 'Beauty of Kashmir: Preserved Past, Bruised Present', on 14,15 & 16 Sept. 2010 in Brussels.

**It is our objective to, this way, encourage ongoing EU-attention for present day reality in Kashmir so that a conflict of two countries, India and Pakistan, and the human and political issue of the people of Kashmir can finally be resolved with the guarantee of peace with dignity and justice for all. And thus contribute to sustainable peace and stability in the wider South Asian region.**

'Beauty of Kashmir: Preserved Past, Bruised Present' will be a three day event during which a Book Fair will be held on Kashmir's cultural and socio-political heritage. A Reading & Meeting Room will offer a space to read and meet, and learn and interact about Kashmir. Alongside the three day book fair, specific activities will be programmed as e.g. Q & A sessions with specially invited authors about their work and a Q & A session with MEP's on the subject of the exhibition.

The Book Fair/Reading & Meeting Room will throw light ranging from academic research to literary novels, poetry and political history. Program in headlines:

- Tuesday 14 September: inauguration of Exhibition and Book Fair
- Wednesday 15 September: Q & A with authors, artists and MEPs
- Thursday 16 September: Reading Room and Book Fair & Exhibition

Looking forward to welcome you,

Ali Raza Syed,  
Chairman

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