

Statement by Dr. Vijay Sazawal at the Rally Outside of The Washington Post Building

(Dr. Sazawal is the International Coordinator, Indo-American Kashmir Forum [IAKF], www.KashmirForum.org)

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I used to be a regular subscriber of the Post ever since I settled in the Washington area in 1996. In 2013, the paper was sold by Don Graham and his family and an era of objective, fair, and balanced reporting in the paper came to an end.

In the summer of 2014, Kashmir valley was hit by massive floods. The Post correspondent in India, Anne Gowan, visited the valley and reported that people were desperate for help as no one had helped them or was helping them. This seemed strange given that the Indian Army had put massive resources in the relief operations and many soldiers had in fact perished during rescue attempts. I contacted Ms. Gowan and explained the facts to her. But she stood by her story that no Army personnel had helped the people in Kashmir. Later I sent her a few photos of rescues made by the Army and told her that her Srinagar based assistant had misled her by connecting her with only those vested parties that wanted to put the Indian Army in bad light. She stopped responding to my messages.

The Post showed its deep one-sided bias while reporting on events following the Indian Parliamentary decision regarding abrogation of Article 370. I pointed this out to the Post correspondents in India, namely, Niha Masih and Joanna Slater, giving them specific examples where their reporting fell short. But in spite of my repeated efforts, they continued to ignore the viewpoint of Kashmiri minorities.

On August 17, 2019, an article in the Post, under the byline of Marissa Lang, described an anti India demonstration outside of the Indian Embassy at DuPont Circle on August 16. But a day earlier, on August 15, an even bigger demonstration expressing support for the Indian Parliamentary decision was held at the same location. This demonstration received no coverage in the Post even though the crowd was larger in size. Neither did Ms. Lang make any reference to this demonstration in her reporting.

On the same day, I wrote to Mr. Fred Hiatt of the Post stating the facts noted above and requested him to give the minorities of Kashmir equal time to make their statement and have it published in the paper. I received no reply.

Western journalists, including the Post, should be ashamed of their reporting on Kashmir. The Post by stating the changes introduced by the Indian Parliament on the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir State as a victory of Hinduism over Islam is disgraceful, disgusting, and disingenuous.

I CHALLENGE MR. HIATT TO COME OUT OF THE BUILDING AND MEET WITH REAL KASHMIR BORN AND RAISED AMERICANS WHO FULLY SUPPORT AND ENDORSE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND THEIR PARLIAMENT REGARDING ARTICLE 370. THE POST MUST STOP ITS BIASED ONE-SIDED REPORTING ON THE SITUATION IN KASHMIR.