

His Excellency,  
Dr. Manmohn Singh

The Prime Minister of  
The Republic of India  
New Delhi

**Free flow of information across LoC and Freedom of Press**

Dear Sir,

Press for Peace (PFP) is a Kashmir based NGO and think tank, striving for prevalence of peace, security and sustainable livelihood in South Asia, particularly the peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute which is considered the major factor of enduring conflict, hostility and economic and social deprivation of the region. The PFP, being a pro people liberal entity, has been highlighting the suffering of the common people, specially the victims the state terrorism and religious extremism in all countries of the region.

You are more aware that with the latest interventions of technology and communications this planet Earth is growing smaller and fragile, enormously connecting the people of remote and far away communities and region, however, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been left far behind in catching up with the strides of information revolution. The 'Iron curtain' of Line of Control (LoC) has compelled citizens of state of Jammu and Kashmir to live in an ill-informed and to some extends misinformed life about other parts of their divided homeland. In the absence of factual and accurate information rumors and half-truths spread uncontrollably and create mess among the people on both sides and they feel vulnerable and insecure. This information and communication gap could only be transformed through free flow of information and free access of media to all sides of State.

Admittedly, free and objective media, access to and free flow of information is not only a pre-requisite for growth of a dynamic democratic society and socio economic development, transparency and accountability, but is profound tool for conflict reduction and conflict resolution. The PFP strongly believes that the free movement of journalists across LoC would lead towards promotion of regional cooperation and reconciliation, therefore, it is necessary to exempt Kashmiri journalists from getting visa to travel other parts of the their divided state.

Kind Regards

Zafar Iqbal  
Executive Director

Press For Peace ( PFP)

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