

Witness Biography: *International Court of Justice*  
Dr. Mubashar Hassan  
*Chair: Peoples' Forum for Peace and Democracy*



Background:

Dr. Mubashar Hassan is a founding member of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), a mainstream liberal political party in Pakistan. He was born near Delhi, India, and attended, at the selection of the Indian Government, Columbia University, to obtain his Master's degree in Civil Engineering. After gaining his PhD from the University of Iowa, he moved to Pakistan, and in 1967 wrote "A Declaration of Unity of People," shortly before joining the founding of the PPP. In 1970 he was elected a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, followed by serving as the Finance Minister of Pakistan from 1971 to 1974, during which he made a speech at the UN General Assembly's Economic Session on the New International Economic Order. After leaving his government post, he remained a part in India-Pakistan Relations, the "Indo-Pak Track II diplomacy," and has met with every Indian Prime Minister since Rajiv Gandhi.

What he adds to the case:

Mubashir Hassan is currently the Chair of the Pakistan Chapter of the People's Forum for Peace and Democracy. His and his organization's role allow for them to take a major role in the discussions between India and Pakistan, organizing and involving them in an attempt to bring a peaceful solution to the Kashmir Conflict. His unique role as both a founding member of a major Pakistani Political Party, the founding member of the Pakistan-India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy, and is a well-known figure in India, having met the recent Prime Ministers.

View on the Issue:

Dr. Hassan believes that considering Kashmir "legally" belongs to India, who has little true control over it, that Pakistan has "no legal rights to control Azad Kashmir," and that Kashmir wants independence, even though neither India or Pakistan see it as a potential solution, Kashmir should be given as much autonomy as possible, with Pakistan and India keeping troops to protect the borders, and that Kashmir should determine the policy, believing that people should manage their states.

Quote(s):

"Why should the central forces, either in Pakistan or India, get involved in civil matters in different regions?"

“The gains for Pakistan, India and Kashmiris will be true gain for the South Asia and, indeed, for the whole world. The spectre of nuclear war will lift for ever. The long term prospects of peace and prosperity will be greatly enhanced.”

“The people of Kashmir should be encouraged to meet and develop a solution to the Kashmir issue that is acceptable to them, Pakistan and India.”

Internet Sources:

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[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story\\_24-1-2004\\_pg7\\_16](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_24-1-2004_pg7_16)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mubashar\\_Hassan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mubashar_Hassan)