

Witness Biography: *International Court of Justice*
Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri



Background:

Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri is the current Foreign Minister of Pakistan. He comes from a well-known political family of Punjab; his grandfather Maulana Abdul Qadir Kasuri was a leader of the Indian National Congress and his father Mahmud Ali Kasuri was also in the Congress. Throughout his academic career he has attended many excellent establishments of education. He has attended Punjab University Government College Lahore, Trinity Hall, Cambridge University, Oxford University, as well as a few courses at the Universities of Paris and Nice, France. He is currently the foreign minister of Pakistan.

What he adds to the case:

Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri is the current foreign minister of Pakistan. His enthusiasm in resolving the issue of the Kashmir territory peacefully is evident. His aspirations of peace show Pakistan's hopes of a peaceful outcome in this feud between themselves and India over Kashmir.

View On the issue:

Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri feels the wishes of Kashmiris have to be respected. He feels that Pakistan cannot envision a solution without that. He has spoken to many Foreign Ministers and they all are convinced that durable peace in South Asia is not possible without addressing Kashmiris' aspirations. He feels that, all political disputes that affect Muslims should be resolved. That includes Palestine and Kashmir - the most important unresolved disputes on the international agenda. We want durable peace. We are prepared for bilateral talks. But they should be meaningful, sustained and composite. Both Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf showed great statesmanship and enormous flexibility at the Agra summit. He feels Pakistan will need such an attitude in future as well to resolve the long-standing issues.

Quotes: In response to his opinion on Kashmir as an independent state, "It will be foolish on my part as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to start giving my opinion on possible solutions. I will only say, durable peace between India and Pakistan can only be ensured if the aspirations of the people of Kashmir are accommodated. It will be stupid at this moment to try and say which solution is good, which is bad. If you want to be positive, you should concentrate on dialogue - the initiation and the structure of the dialogue. It

should be uninterrupted and unintermittible. You know why? The Vietnamese and the Americans were talking when they were bombarding each other. The Koreans and the Americans were talking all the time. You need to talk even when the situation is not good. We have the tendency of talking when the situation is better and then we stop talking... No progress can be made without constantly talking to each other.”

In response to Pakistan setting aside U.N. resolutions on Kashmir, “The bottom line, which is also reflected by the resolutions, is the wishes of Kashmiris have to be respected. We cannot envisage a solution without that. I have spoken to many Foreign Ministers and they are convinced that durable peace in South Asia is not possible without addressing Kashmiris' aspirations. So, the international community has realized it. Moreover, all political disputes that affect Muslims should be resolved. That includes Palestine and Kashmir - the most important unresolved disputes on the international agenda. We want durable peace. We are prepared for bilateral talks. But they should be meaningful, sustained and composite... Both Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf showed great statesmanship and enormous flexibility at the Agra summit. We need such attitude in future as well to resolve the long-standing issues.”

Internet Sources:

a. <http://vic.apan-info.net/Primers/050411-P-Pakistan.doc>

b. <http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/fl2101/stories/20040116005012200.htm>