

Witness Biography: *International Court of Justice*
Mufti Mohammad Sayeed
Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir



Background:

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed (born January 12, 1936) was the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir until November 2005. He leads the People's Democratic Party or the PDP, a Jammu and Kashmir-based party which he formed in July 1999 to "persuade the Government of India to initiate an unconditional dialogue with Kashmiris for resolution of the Kashmir problem". He has previously been a member of the Congress party. He is said to have brought about the downfall of the Farooq Abdullah led National Conference government of Jammu and Kashmir in 1984. In 1987, he quit the Congress to join the party Janata Dal, which led to his becoming the first Muslim Home Minister in 1989. His daughter Rubaiya was kidnapped by terrorists within few days of his taking office. She was released in exchange for the release of some militants. He has been the target of several terrorist attacks.

What he adds to the case:

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed is the head of the People's Democratic Party and a former Chief Minister of Kashmir, and has considerable experience with the Kashmir issue and terrorism. The People's Democratic Party is now emerging as a dominant force in Kashmiri politics, and Sayeed has more than fifty years of experience in Indian Politics. Furthermore, as a Muslim, Sayeed has significant support in mostly Muslim Kashmir. His former job as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir makes him the ideal person to testify against Pakistan.

View on the Issue:

As the head of the PDP and as a Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has seen Kashmiri politics for more than half a century. He favors a "softer border" between Kashmir and Pakistan so as to facilitate greater stability and peace in the area. Furthermore, he advocates bilateral talks between India and Pakistan on the future of Kashmir.

Quote(s):

On the topic of the border, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed has advocated for a "softer border".

"When such a proposal [softer border] can be considered for Rajasthan and Sindh [in Pakistan], why can't the same be considered for our state? This will only increase the pace of normalisation."

"People in the state have understood that violence is no answer to any problem and they are praying to almighty for complete normalisation of the situation."

"Both India and Pakistan have a stated position on Kashmir. We can only hope that both the countries attempt to solve all issues bilaterally."

Internet Sources:

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