

# APPEAL

## FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY OF POONCH TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Peace process means different things for the people living in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. For the people residing alongside 103 km long LOC in Poonch region, ceasefire of 26 November 2003 had brought peace, security and created conducive atmosphere for development in border areas. This was important as this region and the people and their socio-economic needs had remained neglected for 58 years, due to continues firing and shelling across the LOC. These conditions had subjected people to limitless pain and sorrow, Death and injuries and filled their life with miseries and tension before ceasefire.

However in November 2003, For the first time after 58 years, the people of border areas got relief from war like situation. When the LOC CBMs were introduced in 2005, and the cross LOC bus service started. It provided opportunities for the divided families to meet their relatives after decades. In 2008 traders from both side of the LOC were able to establish trade relations. Thus an atmosphere of peace and hope was created during the past ten years and the people residing alongside the LOC started the journey of progress and prosperity.

However in last few days this peaceful atmosphere has been disturbed due to unfortunate incidents of firing and brutal killings across the LOC at various places in Poonch and Uri areas. These incidents have shaken the confidence of the people. There is a lot of tension and panic among the public. We the people of border areas who have enjoyed the fruit of peace and the LOC CBMs following the ceasefire on the LOC do not want the escalation of the situation and lives being disturbed as a result of more killings.

The members of civil society of Poonch would like to make a humble appeal to Governments of India and Pakistan to take immediate steps towards the restoration of peace on the LOC and implement in letter and spirit the ceasefire agreement of November 26, 2003. We urge that all efforts be made to defuse the tension on the LOC and restore trade venture and weekly bus service from Poonch –Rawalakote route so that we the people of border areas can live in our houses and localities near the LOC with a sense of peace and security in conducive atmosphere. This, we believe is in the utmost interest of the people residing on both the sides of LOC.

### Name of the signatories

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Iftikhar Ahmed Bazmi        | Secretary BAR Association Poonch                    |
| 2. Inder Raj Sharma            | President Baparmanda Poonchl                        |
| 3. S. Karishan Singh           | Gen.Secretary Cross LOC Trader`s Association Poonch |
| 4. S. Harbajan Singh           | President Journalist Association Poonch             |
| 5. Mohd Farooq                 | Imam Jamia Masjid Poonch                            |
| 6. K.K. Kapoor                 | Peace Activist                                      |
| 7. Molvi Abdul Razaq           | Sarpanch Panchayat Hari Budha                       |
| 8. S. Divinder Singh           | Owner Khidmat Centre                                |
| 9. Prof. Mussaraf Hussain Shah | Chairman, Syed Habibullah Memorial Society          |
| 10. Muzaffar Ahmed             | President, Public Peace & Development Foundation    |
| 11. K.D. Maini                 | President Heritage Centre Poonch                    |
| 12. Zaki Haider                | President Anjuman-e-Jaffria                         |