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PAKISTAN AND UKRAINE: INTERSTATE RELATIONS DURING THE WAR



Посольство Ісламської Республіки Пакистан у Києві разом із пані Ваджіхою Харіс, президенткою фонду «Шехерезаде», зібрало гуманітарну допомогу та передало її фонду «Карітас Краматорськ» для українців на Донеччині. 27 травня 2022 року

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kyiv together with Ms Wajiha Haris, President of the Scheherazade Foundation, arranged humanitarian aid and handed over to Caritas Kramatorsk Foundation to help Ukrainians in Donetsk region on 27 May 2022

It is unfortunate that while I am writing this article, Ukraine has been subjected to aggression since 24 February 2022. The war has caused immense destruction, unjustified deaths and injuries, especially amongst civilians. Millions of Ukrainians have become refugees or are internally displaced, and many more have been rendered homeless.

On the outbreak of hostilities, our embassy had to immediately evacuate more than 1,800 Pakistani expatriates and their families from Ukraine. It included a large number of students, and they are still struggling to recommence their academ-

ic lives, disrupted by war. The embassy functioned from Ternopil and is now providing full services from Kyiv since 30 May 2022. We are thankful to the Government of Ukraine for facilitating the evacuation and embassy's work.

The Government of Pakistan has repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire and recourse to diplomacy and dialogue. The media in Pakistan keenly follows developments in Ukraine, and provided an opportunity to Ambassador of Ukraine in Islamabad to apprise the people of Pakistan about the situation in Ukraine. Our state accords importance to its relations with Ukraine. Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba in New York on 20 September.

The Government of Pakistan sent humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine by four special cargo planes on 16 March and 2 June. However, since then, the worst floods in the country's history have hit Pakistan, devastating the lives of more than 33 million people and killing more than 1,800 with women and children in the majority. The floods have caused damage worth billions of dollars to the critical infrastructure, which will take years to rebuild. We appreciate the message of condolence by the Embassy of Ukraine in Islamabad for the devastation caused by floods.



Понад сто пакистанських студентів виїхали з Харкова до Львова. Співробітники Посольства Пакистану надають інформацію та організують їхнє перевезення до найближчих пунктів пропуску

More than 100 Pakistani students went from Kharkiv to Lviv. Pakistani Embassy's Lviv facilitation desk provides them with information and transfer to the nearest border points

Our embassy continues to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine. We also coordinate the work of European NGOs led by Pakistani-origin expatriates and focus them on delivering humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. In this context, Ms Wajhia Haris, President of the Scheherazade Foundation, has been a leading figure. Jointly we delivered medicines worth 15.8 million dollars on 1 April to Chernivtsi Regional Clinical Hospital. Critical medicines of 50,000 dollars' worth were delivered to the medical faculty of Uzhhorod National Uni-

versity on 23 June. Another consignment of medicines is being processed for delivery to the Military Medical Clinical Centre of the Southern Region based in Odesa in October.

The embassy coordinated the delivery of more than 20 tons of food and water through the CARITAS Foundation on 27 May and 31 August, as well as 1.7 tons of halal meat for Muslim soldiers in Ukraine were delivered to the Mufti of Crimea on the mainland of Ukraine Aider Rustamov on 30 August. The Scheherazade Foundation is also taking care of 102 minors, who came from war-torn regions to Romania unaccompanied. The NGO has provided them with laptops, TVs, Wi-Fi equipment, mobile phones, refrigerators, washing machines, and school supplies so that they can live normal lives, remain in contact with their loved ones and continue their school studies online. Beverages and snacks are also being provided to them regularly. Pakistanis who had to evacuate joined forces to support Ukraine and handed over much-needed medicines to the Embassy of Ukraine in Islamabad.

The Government of Pakistan has also met the needs requested by the Government of Ukraine, as the people of Pakistan value their relations with the people of Ukraine. We are confident that peace will soon return to Ukraine and the country will once again set itself on a course of recovery, rebuilding, and prosperity. The Government of Pakistan will continue to assist the people of Ukraine in realising their aspirations.