

# URGENT BRIEFING FOR UK MPs AND APPG ON KASHMIR

## Rawalakot / Azad Jammu and Kashmir Emergency Update

**For immediate parliamentary, ministerial and consular action on Monday, 8 June 2026**

Purpose: to request urgent UK Government intervention for de-escalation, protection of civilians and British nationals, restoration of communications, medical access, and independent humanitarian access.

### 1. Immediate update: Rawalakot funeral prayers and reported mass casualties

This is an emergency update to the earlier briefing paper. The situation in Rawalakot, District Poonch, Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has reportedly deteriorated sharply following the attempted funeral prayers of Shazaib Habib on Sunday, 7 June 2026.

Local community and activist reports received on the morning of 8 June 2026 allege that more than 10,000 people gathered in Rawalakot for funeral prayers, that security forces used tear gas, shelling, pellet guns and rubber bullets to disperse crowds, that a curfew was imposed, and that live fire was later used after military deployment. Local activist reports further allege more than 60 civilians killed and over 200 injured. Because the internet and direct communications remain restricted, these figures require urgent independent verification. They should be raised immediately with the FCDO, the British High Commission in Islamabad and the Government of Pakistan.

Public reporting confirms that serious violence occurred in Rawalakot around the funeral and that casualties have been reported. Pakistan Today reported on 8 June 2026 that at least seven civilians were killed in Rawalakot clashes according to Poonch Commissioner Sardar Waheed Khan, with 30 arrests and 23 police injuries also reported. News18 reported fresh violence during funeral-related clashes in Rawalakot and referred to Pakistan Army personnel cordoning off the area. Republic World reported that paramilitary forces reportedly opened fire on protesters in Rawalakot, with multiple casualties feared. The FCDO has separately warned that the 9 June strike in AJK may involve road closures, severe disruption, clashes and suspension of mobile and internet services.

### 2. Why MPs must act immediately

- British Kashmiri families are unable to contact relatives in Rawalakot, Poonch and surrounding districts because of internet, mobile and WhatsApp disruption.
- Thousands of British citizens, dual nationals, pensioners and visitors may be in AJK for family, holiday, business or social visits.
- The FCDO currently advises against all but essential travel to AJK and warns that strikes have previously led to road closures, severe disruption, clashes and suspension of mobile and internet services.
- There are urgent reports of injured civilians being denied access to treatment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalakot after the army's control of the facility.
- Families and local activists report fear that bodies of civilians may have been removed by security forces, preventing identification, family access and proper burial rites; this requires immediate independent humanitarian verification.
- Reports of house raids, intimidation of women and children, beatings and arrests of young people require urgent human-rights monitoring and consular concern.

### 3. Immediate humanitarian demands

1. Immediate ceasefire and de-escalation by all security forces in Rawalakot and across AJK.
2. Allow funeral prayers and burial rites for Shazaib Habib and all deceased civilians to proceed peacefully and safely.
3. Immediate access for injured civilians to CMH Rawalakot and all available hospitals without arrest, intimidation or obstruction.

4. Allow International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), independent medical teams and humanitarian organisations to access Rawalakot, treat the injured, verify deaths and assist families.
5. Publish a verified list of all deceased, injured, detained and missing persons.
6. Preserve all bodies and forensic evidence; prohibit removal, concealment or forced burial of bodies without family identification and consent.
7. End house raids, arbitrary arrests and intimidation of families; release all peaceful civil-rights detainees or produce them promptly before competent courts.
8. Restore internet, mobile and WhatsApp communications immediately, at least for emergency, medical, journalistic and family-contact purposes.
9. Permit journalists, lawyers, ambulances and human-rights monitors safe access to Rawalakot.

#### 4. Requested action from MPs today

- Raise an Urgent Question or Written Question to the Foreign Secretary on the safety of British nationals and civilians in AJK.
- Write immediately to the Foreign Secretary, Minister for South Asia and British High Commissioner in Islamabad.
- Ask the FCDO to activate an AJK crisis welfare contact route for British families unable to reach relatives.
- Press the Pakistan High Commission in London for urgent assurances on ceasefire, medical access, restoration of communications and protection of funeral prayers.
- Request an emergency APPG on Kashmir meeting with FCDO officials and British Kashmiri community representatives.
- Call for ICRC and independent humanitarian access to Rawalakot and CMH Rawalakot.
- Support or table the updated Early Day Motion below.

#### 5. Updated draft Early Day Motion

##### **Title: Emergency in Rawalakot and protection of British nationals in Azad Jammu and Kashmir**

That this House notes with grave concern reports of mass casualties, communications shutdowns, curfew, arrests and the use of force against civilians and mourners in Rawalakot, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, following the attempted funeral prayers of Shazaib Habib on 7 June 2026; further notes that public reporting confirms deaths, arrests and continuing unrest in Rawalakot, while local community reports allege a much higher death toll and large numbers of injured persons requiring urgent independent verification; expresses grave concern for British citizens, dual nationals, pensioners, visitors and families currently in Azad Jammu and Kashmir who may be unable to contact relatives in the United Kingdom; calls for immediate de-escalation, restoration of internet, mobile and WhatsApp communications, protection of peaceful funeral prayers, safe access to medical treatment at CMH Rawalakot and other hospitals, publication of verified lists of deceased, injured, detained and missing persons, and access for the International Committee of the Red Cross and independent medical and human-rights monitors; urges the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to end arbitrary arrests and house raids, protect civilians, journalists and civil society representatives, and resolve the crisis through dialogue and implementation of the Muzaffarabad Agreement; and calls on His Majesty's Government to make urgent representations to Pakistan, provide enhanced consular support to affected British nationals, and report to Parliament on steps taken.

*Note for MP offices: please ask the Table Office to check the final wording against House rules, including the 250-word single-sentence requirement for EDMs.*

#### 6. Suggested urgent oral question

“Will the Foreign Secretary make an urgent statement on the situation in Rawalakot and wider Azad Jammu and Kashmir, including reports of mass casualties during attempted funeral prayers, communications shutdowns, denial of medical access at CMH Rawalakot and arrests of civil-rights activists; and will the Minister confirm what immediate consular steps are being taken to protect British citizens and dual nationals currently unable to contact families in the United Kingdom?”

## 7. Key sources and verification note

*Verification note: Because communications in AJK are restricted, casualty figures from local activists require urgent independent verification. The briefing therefore distinguishes between public reporting and local/community reports. MPs should press the FCDO to verify the facts independently through the British High Commission, humanitarian actors, journalists and trusted civil society sources.*

- FCDO Pakistan travel advice, updated 6 June 2026: advises against all but essential travel to AJK and warns of 9 June strike-related disruption, road closures, clashes and mobile/internet suspension. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/pakistan>
- FCDO Pakistan “Getting help”: UK emergency contact for urgent help involving a friend or relative abroad is 020 7008 5000. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/pakistan/getting-help>
- Pakistan Today, 8 June 2026: reports at least seven civilians killed in Rawalakot clashes, with arrests and continuing crackdown. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2026/06/08/seven-civilians-killed-in-rawalakot-clash-as-crackdown-on-banned-jaac-continues>
- News18, 8 June 2026: reports fresh funeral-related violence in Rawalakot and cordoning by Pakistan Army personnel. <https://www.news18.com/world/fresh-violence-in-pok-five-security-personnel-killed-during-clashes-at-funeral-in-rawalakot-ws-l-10135503.html>
- Republic World, 8 June 2026: reports paramilitary forces opened fire on protesters in Rawalakot, with casualties feared. <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/chaos-in-rawalakot-casualties-feared-as-pakistan-rangers-open-fire-on-rights-protesters-2026-06-08-127353>
- The Azadi Times, 7–8 June 2026: front-page updates include funeral prayers for Shahzaib Habib and heavy shelling reported on protesters in Rawalakot. <https://azaditimes.com/>

## 8. Practical information for British families

- FCDO urgent help in the UK for a friend or relative abroad: 020 7008 5000.
- Emergency services in Pakistan: 1122 for ambulance/fire; 15 for police.
- Families should keep written records of last contact, location, passport/nationality status, medical needs and any witness evidence.
- MP offices should collect names, UK addresses, AJK location, contact numbers, vulnerability status and last known contact for casework escalation.