



UPF speaks at a seminar on the Kashmir Conflict organized by the Pakistan Embassy

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By Steinar Murud

One of the Norwegian Ambassadors for Peace invited me to give a speech in a seminar about the Kashmir conflict. I said yes, not realizing what I had said yes to, as this is a complicated conflict.

Naturally, India and Pakistan have different perspectives on this issue. Even though the event took place in the Pakistan Embassy with a majority of Pakistanis in the audience, I had to be careful not to take sides and to remain impartial. I gave a speech with the title «Relevant dimensions on the Kashmir conflict» trying to put in principled

viewpoints in order for the sides to reach a political agreement.

Afterwards the deputy head of mission, who served as the MC, said she appreciated an outside perspective on the issue and said that being a part of the conflict they naturally see it with Pakistani eyes.

Among the other speakers were former Prime Minister in Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik, and the Pakistani Ambassador.

During the dinner the ambassador received True Father's autobiography and asked to get it signed.

Kjell Magne Bondevik is planning a tour to Pakistan and India later this year. He does not have many contacts in India and when I suggested that UPF in India may be of help, he gave me his business card in response.

The seminar was attended by around 150 people. During the seminar, the ambassador, our former Prime Minister and myself were sitting together on a sofa in the front. I am not used to sit on a sofa in the front, but the MC said «that is the price you have to pay to be a speaker».

