

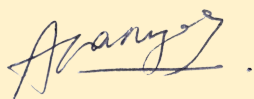
Minutes – The Cambridge Majlis, Michaelmas 2023-24

On Friday 17th November 2023, the Cambridge Majlis hosted an Emergency Teach In on Settler Colonialism & Military Occupation in Kashmir and Palestine. The event was held in collaboration with the Palestine Society and saw a full house with over 200 attendees. What followed was an engaging discussion on military authoritarianism, life in a surveillance state, and the screening of a romantic music video made by *Rafael Arms* featuring Israeli missiles donning var malas.

Dr. Touseef Mir initiated the evening with a powerful presentation on the *zulm* felt by Kashmiris. Speaking on the history of the protracted conflict in Kashmir, and the loss of over 100,000 lives to date, he shed light on brutalities of life under occupation. Dr. Mir spoke on the five layers of surveillance and military violence in Kashmir, and the creation of a pervasive 'toxic geography' under the Indian regime. The conversation was an eye-opener for many in the room, and encouraged further understanding and action for the Kashmiri cause.

This was followed by an insightful talk by Abdullah Moaswes on the intertwined relationship of Zionism and Hindutva ideologies, and its role in informing India and Israel's strategic partnership. Blending humour and rigorous research, Moaswes shone light on India's contradictory diplomatic dance – publicly aligning with Palestine while simultaneously extending strategic technological and surveillance support to Israel. Ending with the aforementioned *Dinga Dinga De* music video, he captivated the audience by outlining the shared tool-kit of the two states.

The teach-in culminated with a Q&A, touching on topics like the relationship between Kashmir and Pakistan, the sanitization of the coloniser's image, and the profound bond between people and their land. Later, some folks spoke to the speakers over coffee and cakes, cracking warm jokes at the expense of the surveillance state. It was an incredible event, and undoubtedly, one of the Majlis' finest, and most necessary, of the year.



Ananya Jain

President, The Cambridge Majlis 2023-24