

The Kashmir Files

Release of information about classification decisions

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* Two attachments, from the Hindu Council of New Zealand and Australasian Hindu Coalition, cannot be included in this release for technical reasons. Copies are available on request via the details below.

[Publication Search Screen](#) > Publication

Publication History for The Kashmir Files

2200077.000 Film (online)

Status History

Status	User Name	Date
Complete	sys	01/04/2022
Decision Registered	s 9(2)(a)	17/03/2022
Classified & Signed	s 9(2)(a)	17/03/2022
Decision Affirmed	s 9(2)(a)	16/03/2022
Draft Complete	s 9(2)(a)	16/03/2022
Drafting Decision	s 9(2)(a)	14/03/2022
Examined	s 9(2)(a)	14/03/2022
Examining	s 9(2)(a)	14/03/2022
Queued	s 9(2)(a)	10/03/2022
Logged	s 9(2)(a)	10/03/2022

Publication Movements

Movement	User Name	Date	Notes
Pub Received	s 9(2)(a)	10/03/2022	Link saved to spreadsheet
Direction Emailed to LB	s 9(2)(a)	17/03/2022	
Disposal Action Destroy	s 9(2)(a)	17/03/2022	
Final Docs Dispatched	s 9(2)(a)	17/03/2022	
Pub Received	s 9(2)(a)	17/03/2022	Copy saved to USB. s 9(2)(k)

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Film and Game Submission Form





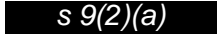
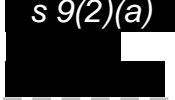
OFFICE OF FILM
& LITERATURE CLASSIFICATION
Te Tari Whakarōpū Tukuata, Tūhītūhinga

Title:	Kashmir Files, The		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feature	<input type="checkbox"/> Trailer	<input type="checkbox"/> Game <input type="checkbox"/> Poster / Slick
Translated Title or A.K.A.:			
Director:	Vivek Agnihotri		
Producer:		Year of Production:	2022
Country of Origin:	India	Release Date:	17/03/2022
Language:	Hindi	Running Time:	170.00
Media:	Film DCP	Format/Zone:	
For Theatrical:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
# of Trailers/Extra Footage:	0	Barcode	Catalogue Number:

Request for Urgency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Waiver or Group Submission <input type="checkbox"/>	Digital Label Required <input type="checkbox"/>
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No files chosen

For Office Use Only	
	Publication #: 2200077.000
Received by: 	
Date Received:	
10/03/2022	

Applicant Information	
Applicant: Deepu Thoppil	Phone: 
Contact: Deepu Thoppil	Email: 
Address: 	Application Date: 9/03/2022
	Purchase Order:

Contents	Run Time
Kashmir Files, The	170.00

No extra footage chosen

Distributor Declaration

The following components of the publication submitted for examination will NOT appear on the version that is to be made available to the public:

Please specify – e.g. burnt-in time code, trade on promotional notices, trailer, etc.

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Consideration Sheet

OFLC ref:	2200077.000
Submission channel:	s12(1)

Title of publication:	The Kashmir Files
Other known title:	Not stated
Medium:	Film (online)
Distributor:	Deepu Thoppil
Director:	Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri
Country of origin:	India
Language:	Hindi, English
Applicant:	Film & Video Labelling Body

Examination transcript No:	777 p.95
Examination date:	14 March 2022
Other identifying information:	

Components Of Film

Components of film originally examined:

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	The Kashmir Files	170:23
Total running time:		170:23

Components of film excised:

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Consideration of the Publication under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1994 (FVPC Act)

Description
<p><i>The Kashmir Files</i> is an Indian historic drama film about the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits (Hindus) from their homeland in the 1990s. It is told from the point of view of the Pandit family, and at a university rally where the truth of the tragedy is spoken about.</p> <p>In present day Kashmir, Krishna Pandit has come to scatter his grandfather Pushkar's ashes, together with Pushkar's friends: retired policeman Hari, journalist Vishnu, doctor Mahesh, and retired Division Commander Brahma. Having left as an infant, Krishna has no memories of Kashmir. He believes that his parents, Karan and Sharda, and older brother Shiva died in an accident. He has never seen their photos and his grandfather never talked about them. Only later does he find out that his parents and siblings were among the victims of the atrocities perpetrated on Pandits by Kashmiri Islamic militants headed by Farooq Ahmad Bitta.</p> <p>Krishna now has to consider two conflicting narratives about Kashmir: the one taught in school, and the one he cobbles together from snippets shared by Pushkar's friends, information from old newspaper articles and documents, as well as his present day experiences.</p> <p>Language is in Hindi and English, with English subtitles.</p>

Section 3(1): the Subject Matter Gateway	
Does the publication describe, depict, express, or otherwise deal with matters such as:	
–	Sex ¹
✓	Horror
There are elements of horror to the creeping ethnic cleansing that unfolds. Neighbours quickly betray their Pandit neighbours to the militants. While fleeing to refugee camps, Pandits see the frozen bodies of a Muslim poet and his son nailed to trees. Both men's eyes are open with bullet wounds in their foreheads. A lingering view of their corpses seen from a distance follows.	
✓	Crime

¹ Note that a publication can be found to deal with a matter such as sex if (a) the publication is or contains 1 or more visual images of 1 or more children or young persons who are nude or partially nude; and (b) those 1 or more visual images are, alone, or together with any other contents of the publication, reasonably capable of being regarded as sexual in nature. (s 3(1A)).

Section 3(1): the Subject Matter Gateway

Islamic militants freely threaten and harass the Pandit community. Pandits were threatened and beaten up by street mobs. The targeting of Pandits was also emboldened by the lack of support from the Indian government. Black and white news footage shows militants cheering and chanting over the body of a dead judge they had killed in broad daylight. The crimes highlight the ill-treatment of Pandits at the hands of the militants, framing them as victims of persecution, oppression, and violence.

✓

Cruelty

Forced by Islamic militants to relocate, Pandits ended up in squalid conditions in refugee camps where many died from snake bites, preventable illnesses and lack of medical care.

Also refer to s3(3)(a)(i)

✓

Violence

Three men surround a boy, Abdul, who cheers for the wrong cricket team. One man pushes him to the ground and the three men punch and kick him. Abdul's friend Shiva throws a stone at them, allowing the boys to run and hide. Sounds of gunfire erupt while they run away. Also refer to s3(3)(a)(i).

–

None of the above, proceed to s 3A and s 3B

Section 3(2): Certain publications are "deemed to be objectionable"

Does the content of the publication raise any of these issues? If it does, discuss, and conclude whether the publication promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, that matter.

–

s 3(2)(a) The exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes

–

s 3(2)(b) The use of violence or coercion to compel a person to participate in, or submit to, sexual conduct

–

s 3(2)(c) Sexual conduct with or upon the body of a dead person

–

s 3(2)(d) The use of urine or excrement in association with degrading or dehumanising conduct or sexual conduct

Section 3(2): Certain publications are "deemed to be objectionable"

–	s 3(2)(e) Bestiality
–	s 3(2)(f) Acts of torture or the infliction of extreme violence or extreme cruelty
✓	None of the above
If the publication promotes or supports (or tends to) any of these matters, could excisions be used to remove the problematic content?	
–	Yes. Consider the rest of the publication under s 3(3) and s 3(4) and discuss the required excisions in the conclusion.
–	No. The publication is deemed to be objectionable. <u>Proceed to Conclusion</u>

Section 3(3): Matters to be given particular weight

If any of the following criteria apply, discuss in terms of the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication:

✓	s 3(3)(a)(i) Deals with the infliction of torture, serious physical harm, significant cruelty
<p>The infliction of serious physical harm and acts of significant cruelty are depicted to a moderate extent and degree.</p> <p>A woman is shot at while taking her child to a doctor but an officer is shot instead. Blood spatter is seen as he falls. A brief view of his bloody face with a bullet hole in his forehead is shown. The perpetrator shoots the woman point blank, after saying he will marry off her little girl to his younger brother. Blood spatters on the young girl's cheek as the gun is fired. The dead woman's bloodied face is shown with a bullet wound to the head. The girl's screams are drowned out by armed men chanting "Convert, leave, or die."</p> <p>Militants invade Pushkar's home. Pushkar's son Karan hides in a drum of rice. After beating and kicking Pushkar, a militant peppers the drum with bullets. This occurs in front of Sharda, Karan's wife, and she is devastated. Blood flows through the holes on to the rice, indicating Karan's death (we don't see his body). Bitta offers to spare Sharda's life if she eats the blood-</p>	

Section 3(3): Matters to be given particular weight

soaked rice. She puts the rice in her mouth; he smears the rest around her face. The family later sit shocked, staring at Karan's corpse in the living room.

Four Indian Army officers are shot by two men on scooters. The hail of bullets also hits two mothers walking their children to school; they are left lying in pools of blood. The sudden incident is shown from the point of view of the schoolgirls witnessing the killings.

Militants storm a hospital and shoot a nurse at point blank range when she questions their leader. Blood and body matter spatter on a nearby patient's face.

A patient offers to donate blood to an injured militant. Their leader pulls out the donor's catheter and forbids the doctor from treating him and the other Pandits because they are "infidels". The now convulsing patient soon bleeds to death.

The intensity of cruel violence increases in the last ten minutes of the film.

Militants disguised as Indian soldiers gather Pandits in a village square and beat Pushkar with a rifle. When Sharda tries to protect her son, Shiva, Bitta tears the back out of her blouse and parades her around the square. Another militant grabs Shiva. Bitta casually shoots a pregnant woman between the eyes (shown at some distance). A saw is set in motion. The terrified Sharda is held down on a table. Blood suddenly spatters on the face of an onlooker, followed by a side shot of men taking Sharda's body through the saw, sawing her in half, vertically. Blood splatters over her dress. Shiva is made to watch. Although horrific, impact is somewhat limited by the brevity of this scene, and by its distance.

The remaining 24 Pandits are lined up and shot one by one between the eyes, shown in close up with bloody effects as victims fall back. Shiva is the last to be shot. A lingering view of the murdered Pandits in a pit, ending with Shiva's bloody face, is shown.

–	s 3(3)(a)(ii) Deals with sexual violence or sexual coercion, or violence or coercion in association with sexual conduct
✓	s 3(3)(a)(iii) Deals with other sexual or physical conduct of a degrading or dehumanising or demeaning nature
See 3(3)(c) and 3(3)(a)(i)	
–	s 3(3)(a)(iv) Deals with sexual conduct with or by children or young persons
–	s 3(3)(a)(v) Deals with physical conduct in which sexual satisfaction is derived from inflicting or suffering cruelty or pain

Section 3(3): Matters to be given particular weight	
–	s 3(3)(b) Exploits the nudity of children or young persons
✓	s 3(3)(c) Degrades or dehumanises or demeans any person
<p>The treatment of the Pandits is degrading and dehumanising – it is presented in a negative way. Islamic Militants harass, intimidate and threaten them. Local shops refuse to sell food to Pandit women. Muslim women prefer to throw away grain instead of letting “infidels” eat it. Pandits are refused hospital treatment. There is a repeating veiled threat of a sexual nature against Pandit women, who are urged to tell their husbands to flee Kashmir but leave them and their children behind, so that a “new Kashmir” can be populated. The hostility soon results in a call for outright jihad against the Pandits. See also 3(3)(a)(i).</p>	
–	s 3(3)(d) Promotes or encourages criminal acts or acts of terrorism
–	s 3(3)(e) Represents that members of any particular class of the public are inherently inferior to other members of the public by reason of an characteristic that is a prohibited ground of discrimination specified in s 21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1993
–	The publication doesn’t deal with any s 3(3) criteria

Section 3A:	
Does the publication contain highly offensive language to such an extent or degree that it is likely to seriously harm viewers under a certain age?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Discuss (including any necessary consideration of offensive language that is not ‘highly offensive’ or any highly offensive language which is not likely to cause serious harm to young viewers):</p> <p>Islamic militants call Pandits “Indian dogs”. Such slurs are an accurate reflection of the discrimination endured by Kashmiri Pandits in the time period. Largely uttered by Islamic militants and their rabid followers, the language is unlikely to be imitated and is of lesser concern compared to the presence of stronger material in the film.</p>	

Section 3B:

Does the publication contain any of the following material?

–	Harm to a person's body, including self-inflicted death, self-mutilation or harmful body modification (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).
–	Conduct that, if imitated, would pose a risk of serious harm to self or others (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).
–	Physical conduct of a degrading, dehumanising or demeaning nature (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).
–	Visual images of a person's body that alone or with any other contents of the publication are of a degrading, dehumanising or demeaning nature (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).
✓	None of the above

Does the extent and degree of the material make the publication likely to cause any of the following harms to young people under a specified age because of their general levels of emotional and intellectual development and maturity?

- Cause them to be greatly disturbed or shocked
- Increase significantly the risk of them killing, or causing serious harm to, themselves, others, or both
- Encourage them to treat or regard themselves, others, or both, as degraded, dehumanised or demeaned.

Discuss likely harm/s or why the content is unlikely to cause these harms:

Submissions & consultations (if applicable)

–	Consultation or enquiries required under s 21
–	Submissions received from interested parties under s 20

Any other information to be taken into account (if relevant)

(e.g. previous OFLC decisions, decisions of other classification bodies, research, books, articles, reviews, etc.)

UK15 – Strong Bloody violence, threat, brief scene of sexual humiliation
Au 18+- High impact themes and violence

Conclusion

- In addition to all of the above matters, consider relevant s 3(4) matters: the dominant effect of the publication, character of the publication (including any merit, value or importance), impact of the medium, intended or likely audience, intended purpose, and any other relevant circumstances relating to its use
- Identify any likely injury to the public good from the unrestricted availability of the publication
- Determine the classification, taking into account the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA) and the need to impose the least restrictive limitation on the right to freedom of expression that will prevent injury to the public good

The Kashmir Files is a well-made historic drama that is both intense and harrowing to watch. Inspired by interviews with over 700 war victims, the film has historical merit as it documents an aspect of modern Indian history that remains largely overlooked.

Its unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good. The film has a pervasively cruel tone. Younger viewers are likely to be highly shocked and disturbed by the cruel, violent and abusive treatment of the Pandits, particularly the scene where a mother is sawn in half. However, these depictions are sporadic and injuries are not lingered upon. Violence and cruelty are presented as inherently wrong and unjustified. However, children and younger teenagers are unlikely to have the knowledge and understanding to be able to distance themselves from the content and view it in its historical context. The film is therefore restricted to older teenagers and adults.

The film is classified R16. This is a limitation on the right to freedom of expression but is reasonable and justified to prevent injury to the public good.

Conclusion

Classification
R16
Descriptive note to cover: graphic violence, cruelty, and offensive language

Excisions (if applicable)

Display conditions (restricted publications only)
Are display conditions necessary? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Reason for any display conditions:

Classification Office Decision

Title of publication: The Kashmir Files

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 2200077.000

Medium: Film (online)

Distributor: Deepu Thoppil

Director: Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri

FVLB Applicant: Deepu Thoppil

Country of origin: India

Language: Hindi, English

Applicant: Film & Video Labelling Body

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Graphic violence, offensive language and cruelty

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 17 March 2022

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: No notice of decision has been issued

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	The Kashmir Files	170:23
Total running time:		170:23

Summary of reasons for decision:

Not applicable

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Summary of correspondence about *The Kashmir Files*

to 21 March 2022

Notes:

- Propositions are ordered by the amount of times they were expressed to us in emails to the Classification Office's Information Unit inbox between 18 and 20 March 2022.
- The first six propositions which occurred most frequently were included in form responses, but all were also made in other, unique responses.
- Propositions which simply supported or opposed the release of the film in New Zealand are not included, but the number of responses in support far outweighed those opposed.
- For expediency, correspondence from 21 March onwards was not counted as most of this consisted of two types of form response. If it had been counted, the table would have been unchanged except for the figures in the first column. A breakdown of form messages is contained in section 2(d).

The summary table is contained on the following page

# of emails mentioning	In a form response?	Proposition	Mentioned by groups?	Mentioned by academics?
78	Yes	<i>TKF</i> contains an accurate historical account.	Indian Association Manukau NZ Coalition of Hindus of NZ Hindu Organisations Forum Auckland Indian Association	
63	Yes	<i>TKF</i> depicts the atrocities that Kashmiri Hindus have faced.	Coalition of Hindus of NZ Hindu Organisations Forum Auckland Indian Association	
49	Yes	Freedom of expression in Aotearoa would be adversely affected if <i>TKF</i> could not be screened.	Coalition of Hindus of NZ Auckland Indian Association	
29	Yes	<i>TKF</i> has not caused any violence at screenings elsewhere in the world.	Indian Association Manukau NZ Coalition of Hindus of NZ Auckland Indian Association	
24	Yes	The events in Kashmir should not be covered up to protect the sentiments of perpetrators.		
19	Yes	The themes in <i>TKF</i> are comparable to those in <i>Schindler's List</i> , <i>The Pianist</i> , and/or <i>Hotel Rwanda</i> .		
13		<i>TKF</i> is designed to spread distrust and hatred between groups.	NZ Muslim Association FIANZ	s 9(2)(ba)(ii)
9		The ruling party in India has sponsored and/or promoted <i>TKF</i> .		s 9(2)(ba)(ii)
8		<i>TKF</i> contains exaggerated, distorted, and/or untrue portrayals of events in Kashmir.		s 9(2)(ba)(ii)
5		<i>TKF</i> is a violent and graphic movie.		s 9(2)(ba)(ii)
5		<i>TKF</i> is propaganda.	NZ Muslim Association	s 9(2)(ba)(ii)
5		<i>TKF</i> depicts events which much of the world lacks knowledge about.		
4		<i>TKF</i> depicts the genocide the Hindu pandits had to endure at the hands of militants.		
3		Islamophobic sentiments have been expressed at screenings of <i>TKF</i> overseas.	NZ Muslim Association FIANZ	s 9(2)(ba)(ii) s 9(2)(ba)(ii)
2		<i>TKF</i> is supported by Hindutva elements to raise anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments.		
2		<i>TKF</i> portrays Kashmiri Muslims to be bloodthirsty murderers and rapists, and Kashmiri Hindus as hapless and defenceless innocents.		
2		Audiences of <i>TKF</i> vow to be peaceful.		
1		<i>TKF</i> could cause a rise in Islamophobia and hate towards Muslims in Aotearoa by NZ Hindutva groups which has already been seen in India.		

Community groups who corresponded with Te Mana Whakaatu about *The Kashmir Files*

Date sent	Via	Organisation
18/03/2022	Email	Islamic Ahlulbayt Foundation of New Zealand
18/03/2022	Email	New Zealand Muslim Association
18/03/2022	Email	Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (applied for s 42 reconsideration on 20/03/2022)
20/03/2022	Email	Indian Association Manukau New Zealand
20/03/2022	Email	Coalition of Hindus of New Zealand
20/03/2022	Email	Hindu Council of New Zealand Hindu Organisations Forum
20/03/2022	Email	Auckland Indian Association
21/03/2022	Email	Free Speech Union
21/03/2022	Email	Shri Ram Mandir Charitable Trust
21/03/2022	Email	Global Kashmir Pandit Diaspora Kashmir Pandits Australia Hindu Human Rights Australia Australian Hindu Association
21/03/2022	Email	Kashmiri Pandits Association of New South Wales
21/03/2022	Email	Hindu Council Of Australia
21/03/2022	Email	Fiji Girit Foundation New Zealand
21/03/2022	Email	Hindus For Human Rights Australia/New Zealand
22/03/2022	Email	Hindu Swayamsewak Sangh New Zealand
23/03/2022	Email	Aotearoa Alliance of Progressive Indians
23/03/2022	Letter	Pakistan Association of New Plymouth
24/03/2022	Email	Pakistan and Friends Association Hawkes Bay

Form complaints received by Te Mana Whakaatu about *The Kashmir Files*

Between 18 and 26 March 2022, 6 types of complaints were received a total of 187 times. These are broken down below.

Received 4 times between 18 and 20 March 2022

To whom it may concern,

Got the news this evening that a movie about what happened in Kashmir in 1990 was taken down, and the release was pushed because a certain community wants to bully us again.

This movie depicts the genocide the hindu kashmiri pandits had to endure at the hands of militants that was never acknowledged till date. This movie is not fiction but a toned down version of the atrocities kashmiri hindus faced.

A humble request to let the movie release 🙏

The number of people not wanting to let the movie release are way less than the ones who want to watch it.

Please let the movie release.

Thanks

Received 24 times between 18 and 21 March 2022

Kia ora,

My name is **complainant's name**. I live in **complainant's place of abode**.

Having been born and raised in a multicultural environment in India, it was an easy transition moving to New Zealand. I am truly proud of the diversity of race and views we respect in New Zealand.

In spirit of this I was surprised to learn that an Indian movie called Kashmir Files is in the process of being banned in New Zealand. The Kashmir Files is a box office success worldwide screened in America, Australia and India without censorship. Due to release at Event Cinemas from 24th of March, members of the Hindu NZ community noticed the shows were no longer open for tickets on the 18th of March 2022.

A Facebook post at Muslims of New Zealand requested members to contact the NZ Police with a template declaring the film "Islamophobic" because it is "violent and graphic", "supported by Hindutva elements" and alleges the purpose is "to raise anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments." The letter addressed to the NZ Police alleges that the film will lead to a "rise in Islamophobia in New Zealand and hate toward Muslims in Aotearoa."

I reject claims that a film depicting true events of a 1990 ethnic cleansing of Hindus due to Islamist terrorism is Islamophobic. The film clearly depicts the consequence of Hinduphobia, and has nothing to do with mainstream 'Muslims' who by and large denounce and reject all forms of terrorism stating that those who commit acts of violence in the name of Islam are not Muslims.

We say that silencing public debate on religious extremism is dangerous and that protection against Islamophobia does not include shielding Islamist terrorists. NZ had a recent ISIS inspired attack. Censoring this film for the reasons provided by Muslims in NZ is akin to not allowing the stabbing victims to speak of their experience so as to not harm the feelings of Muslims. This logic assumes that ISIS represent Islam or Muslims, which is by definition, Islamophobia.

We remind authorities that the film depicts the extreme end of Hinduphobia. Evidence of the ethnic cleansing can be readily found in news archives on Kashmir since the 1930s when the first round of this wave of terrorism was unleashed on the Hindu community.

The argument of Muslims in New Zealand that the film is violent and graphic, and therefore should not be shown, supposes that violent, graphic depictions of true events should be banned ~ if they are about Islamist terrorists. This would set a precedent of silencing the victims of terrorism, no different to a ban on depictions of 9/11.

Whilst we are sympathetic to the Muslim community since the Christchurch attack, there is no evidence that this film has lead to / or will to attacks on Muslims.

In recent months there has been a spate of attacks by Islamist terrorists on Hindus in Kashmir and in Bangladesh similar to events depicted in The Kashmir Files and there were no reprisals against the Muslim community even when the incidents were a reality rather than a film.

To censor a film depicting the 1990 ethnic cleansing when such incidents still occur in South Asia would send the wrong message to the global community, that harms can be inflicted against Hindus and we will cover them up to protect the sentiments of perpetrators or people who look like them.

The film was screened in 674 locations since opening, 114 of which are outside India. Not a single hate crime against Muslims has been reported from the 1170 million viewers to date.

We therefore submit that the reasoning provided by the Muslims in New Zealand template is logically flawed and inconsistent with the evidence. Of the 400,000 Kashmir Pandits who are presently in exile after 32 years, at least 99.99% reported it is an accurate depiction of their experience in 1990.

Hindus of New Zealand have been doubly victimised by this false allegation that accuses them of telling lies for political gain when Kashmir Pandits are still in exile today because the terrorism that cast them out has not stopped in over 30 years.

I hope you will consider my humble submission, intervene and extend your support in your capacity.

ngā mihi

complainant's name

Received 5 times, all on 20 March 2022

I am writing to personally bring to your attention my request to release of the film The Kashmir Files in New Zealand. As a person of Indian origin/ Hindu identity, I see this film as an important historical event of my civilisational identity. It is an important story to share to contribute to the healing of the victims who have been subject to the violence leading to mass exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from Kashmir in India for over 30 years.

The Kashmiri Files is a film based on the historical events that transpired in the Kashmir Valley in 1990. At the hands of terrorists, Kashmiri Hindus suffered.

The filmmaker, Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri, has undertaken extensive research to capture the story and experiences of the victims authentically. This includes interviewing more than 700 Kashmiri Hindus over 3 years. Unfortunately, history is not always pleasant. Regardless of how uncomfortable history may be, it remains what it is. Attempts to defame and censor genuine, research-based work, is not a pathway that the Classification Office promotes.

Preventing and denying the acknowledgement of a civilization's genocide is nothing but preparation to abet a future persecution of a community. Those who do not learn their history are condemned to repeat it.

There have been other movies shown on genocides, violence and themes of extreme violence. However, these have been allowed to be released in New Zealand and left to the discerning audience to make up their minds on whether to watch it or not.

So why is this film getting a different treatment?

Would New Zealand feel similar in addressing the historical offences towards the indigenous people of New Zealand?

Would New Zealand not allow the victims of March 15 2019 to share their story for the fear of how people will perceive white people afterwards?

The story portrayed in the film is in fact a humanitarian issue that needs to have a place in our society. The persecuted are looking to a freer world where they want to have their story shared.

I write to urge the Office to consider the voice that would be suppressed if this movie is completely banned in New Zealand.

The film has been released in several countries including Australia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, India and to be released in France on 23 March. There have been no reports of what the Muslim community is claiming in New Zealand as the potential outcome of showing the film.

I request to Classification Office to permit the release of the film as planned on 24 March and contribute to having history recognised.

Received 154 times between 21 and 26 March 2022

Hello There,

Hope this email finds you well. The global Indian community is shocked to know that the release of the movie "The Kashmir Files" which shows genocide of the Kashmiri Hindus in early nineties at the hands of radical Islamists have been put on hold by the New Zealand government and administration as per reports. It's unfortunate to know that democratic government of New Zealand has become a tool at the hands of radical extremists who are trying hard to suppress the genocide of Hindus.

To bring to your attention, the movie does NOT spread hatred against any religion including Islam. Actually, the movie is based on actual portrayal of the events and it didn't try to demonize or target any religion.

Suppressing this movie would be equivalent to suppressing the holocaust of Jewish at the hands of Nazis. The movie is released in India, US, UK and most of the other western countries where there is diversity of faiths and religion.

We would urge the New Zealand government to not succumb to radical groups but let the freedom of expression to flourish.

Failing to act responsibility and reasonably might impact the relations between New Zealand and Indian government and may also jeopardize the participation of New Zealand players in upcoming Indian Premier League.

Sources:

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/politics/5/400178>

<https://www.republicworld.com/entertainment-news/bollywood-news/the-kashmir-files-director-vivek-agnihotri-alleges-pressure-on-nz-censor-to-ban-movie-articleshow.html>

Petition floating around: https://www.change.org/p/release-of-the-film-kashmir-files-in-nz?recruiter=37760272&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=psf_combo_share_initial&recruited_by_id=e2555130-3550-0130-b898-3c764e049b13

We expect your cooperation in this regard and hope the truth will not be suppressed.

Narration from one of the victims of the genocide:

Here is my modest tribute to the film, the film makers and the many innocent victims of the Kashmir genocide. And to also those who survived to tell the horrific stories of their life and times in Kashmir, in the 90s.

I am married to a Kashmiri Pandit, 23 years back, in 1998, while their wounds were still wet from the ordeal they had been through, several of them, uprooted from their beautiful homeland, had managed to cope with life outside of Kashmir, adapt to cultures and people from Delhi, Jaipur, Pune, Bangalore and many other places that were nothing like where they came from.

In the last 2 decades, living in a Kashmiri household, I learnt about how they lived, celebrated, worshipped, prayed, hosted and ate.

They laugh about the absolutely un-authentic Dum aaloo and kashmiri pulao made in restaurants around the world.

My father in law, great human being, a steadfast son of the soil and a great story teller, spoke very fondly of the good times of his life in Srinagar.

He did tell me in short, on and off about how things took a turn in the late 80s and how they fled from kashmir overnight, with just a bag of clothes, leaving behind their big homes, their land and their gardens.

They always thought, they would go back in a few days, but who knew...that was never to happen.

Kashmiris are peaceful, highly intellectual and very warm people. A visit to any Kashmiri home, to date and you will realise it.

They rarely talk about that dark era of their lives giving you details. They probably think no one would ever understand.

The film maker, in one of the talks mentions, the Jews haven't let the world forget what happened to them. But Kashmir was burnt, their culture destroyed and people killed, but not many even know about the gravity of their situation then.

I'm intentionally not going to sound like a film reviewer because I'm not one.

I have no right or qualification to say a word about the film, can only salute the intense thought that has gone into making this film and bringing in front of people, the reality of Kashmir from under the big fog of politically coloured narratives.

Tears welled up, when I saw Anupam Kher mentioning about the letters he wrote to the government of India with no reply and respite.

I remember 'Baji', my father in law, writing letters to the land records office, till the year he passed away in 2018, to get documents of the lands he owned. He would say, 'mein khud jaunga aur dekhunga', but he could never make it... I don't know if he carried that regret with him...☹

He managed to get through someone after many attempts and sold a piece of one of his lands for a meagry sum.

When the local touts came over to our place in Mumbai, he told me, you stay in your room. Your mother in law will serve them tea. Even in 2017, he felt the need to be protective of the daughters of the house like he may have been in 1990 when he didnt let his daughter return to Srinagar and made her stay in Delhi where she had gone for a wedding.

He was round the corner that morning when bullets were fired at the Air force officers in Rawalpura and managed to get back inside his own house.

He suffered a heart attack in early 1990 and was in hospital. They couldnt get an ambulance to take him back home. Somehow, managed to arrange one with help of an administrative officer who was a neighbor.

The hospital staff covered him, my husband and his mother with 15 to 20 blankets and the ambulance fled the hospital. By the time they reached home there was broken glass and stones pelted all over them, the ambulance driver bruised, thankfully all alive.

They eventually left Srinagar in June 1990.

I must admit, this film is an eye opener, even for someone like me, who is married to a Kashmiri. I've adapted and learnt many a things, the food, the language, the rituals.

But they kept me shielded from the gruesome times they lived through...

Even when most are settled outside and made other cities their homes, they still occasionally mention, hum to refugee hai.

The pain of leaving their own motherland, a place thats called heaven on earth (Jannat) will be there in their hearts...forever probably.

Sincerely Yours,

From Global Indian Community,

From: Islamic Ahlulbayt Foundation of New Zealand <s 9(2)(a)@islam.org.nz>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 9:39 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir files

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Non-form

Assalam u Alaikum everyone,
An Islamophobic Indian movie, "the Kashmir Files", a violent and graphic movie, which is supported by Hindutva elements to raise anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments in India will be screened in NZ THIS WEEKEND.
Please write to NZ Police and other relevant organisations to stop its screening and to ensure this doesn't happen again.
You may use the below template and reword it if needed.
Jazakallah khair

To
The officer-in-charge
NZ Police
I would like to bring to your attention that a controversial Indian movie, the Kashmir Files, a violent and graphic movie, which is supported by Hindutva elements to raise anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments in India will be screened in NZ. <https://www.eventcinemas.co.nz/Movie/The-Kashmir-Files#date=2022-03-24>.
As a concerned citizen and a Muslim, I am worried that there could be rise in Islamophobia and hate towards Muslims in Aotearoa by the NZ Hindutva groups which is already seen in India (<https://www.siasat.com/the-kashmir-files-ishindutvas-latest-anti-muslim-weapon-2290523/>)
Rise in Anti-Muslim and NZ Hindutva groups were mentioned in the whitepaper Cultural Hindutva and Islamophobia by Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation (CARE) and covered by major new paper publications as rise of Hindutva in NZ.
We recently remembered the terror attack of 15th March, with an overwhelming support from NZ government, authorities and the community to overcome with the tragedy and trauma and to be united to fight against hate and racism.
I request the authorities to look into this matter to maintain peace in the community. Appreciate a swift action as the movie is scheduled to be screened this weekend.
Regards!

Jazak Allah khair!

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:50 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Submission

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a submission/exemption/reconsideration?: I was able to get my hands on an advance copy of the Kashmir Files, a new Bollywood produced film scheduled for release on March 11.

I'm in shock! It's far worse than I had imagined.

In fact, this is propaganda film that would've made Joseph Goebbels blush with embarrassment, and while I know Nazi metaphors are lazy and boring, let me explain...

Hitler tasked Goebbels with the job of producing Nazi propaganda to serve multiple aims: to promote German nationalism, the goals of the Nazi Party, and the party itself, while also demonizing political opponents and the Jewish people.

And it's not for nothing, scholars and analysts are comparing Modi ruled India to Nazi ruled Germany, because in BJP, we have a fascist authoritarian regime that serves up propaganda to promotes Hindu nationalism, the goals of BJP and the party itself, while also demonizing political opponents and Muslims.

This is what this movie does. It portrays Kashmiri Muslims to be blood thirsty murderers and rapists, and Kashmiri Hindus as hapless and defenceless innocents.

It's for this reason the Indian government is hell bent on promoting this film around the world, because it knows that if it can get American audiences to see Hindus to be the victims of radical Islamic terrorists, then it can silence US opposition to its Hindu settler colonial enterprise in Kashmir.

A lesson India has learnt well from Israel.

We must counter the false narratives told in this film, and for this reason - I will expose its lies and hateful tropes in next week's episode of the CJWS

https://youtu.be/aAiqKJ9_OPU

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 12:12 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Submission

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: This propaganda film produced by a right wing producer on a script to spread distrust and hatred between the majority Hindu and Minority Hindu community in India. This Film highly exaggerates, distorts actual facts and incorrectly portrays Kashmiri muslims (10 million) and by extension all muslims as bloodthirsty rapists, murderers, intolerant Jihadis. This is promoting Islamophobia and festering violence in ignorant audiences throughout India and is due to release on 24th Mar. here. I & many members of my community are extremely worried this will result in stoking Islamophobia, causing divisions in our country and creating potential problems. FYI this summerises https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAiqKJ9_0PU.

PLEASE seriously consider this and if more facts are required, I can provide whatever is needed.

https://twitter.com/FriedrichPieter/status/1504273340118171651?s=20&t=c5Q0B5jIJQ6I_BLHLk-HuA

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

From: [redacted] s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@nzma.kiwi.nz>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 1:02 pm
To: Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: Kris.Faafoi@parliament.govt.nz; P Radhakrishnan (MIN); rk02@nzsis.govt.nz; David Shanks; Mervin Singham; [redacted] s 9(2)(ba)(ii)
Subject: Screening of The Kashmir Files
Attachments: TheKashmirFiles - Whitepaper.pdf; Kashmir Files - PM Ltr.pdf
Categories: Non-form

Rt. Hon. Jacinda Arden

Kia Ora / Asalaamu Alaikum

Please find attached a letter outlining our communities concerns regarding the screening of the "**The Kashmir Files**" in NZ. This movie promotes Hindutva's Islamophobia and propaganda.

I have included a copy of the [redacted] s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Nga Mihi

[redacted] s 9(2)(a)

18 March 2022

Rt Hon. Jacinda Arden
Prime Minister
New Zealand

Dear Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Jacinda Arden

Kia Ora / Asalaamu Alaikum

I am writing to you to raise my concerns about the Indian movie, the Kashmir Files, which has resulted in widespread anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments in India. This movie is scheduled to be screened in the Event Cinemas from 24 March.

I want to bring to your attention that The Kashmir Files is currently being promoted globally by Hindu Right Wing groups, including in Aotearoa New Zealand. The purpose of this movie is to promote the ongoing efforts of the far-right Hindu organisations to spread anti-Muslim hate and social discord globally, including in Aotearoa New Zealand. These groups have already been reported to NZ Police and are under watch by our intelligence agencies.

Genocide Watch has already issued a [Genocide alert](#) for Kashmir. The Kashmir files is a movie which is driving the false narrative of Hindu Genocide to **make the impending Kashmiri Muslim Genocide acceptable and necessary**. You can learn more about the movie in this [10 min video from C J Werlemann – an Australian journalist](#).

Currently, the movie is promoting widespread hate and social discord in India, identified by the President of Genocide Watch, Gregory Stanton, as an [at-risk country for genocide targeting Muslims](#). The Islamophobic hate triggered by Kashmir Files can be seen in the following [twitter thread](#). In this video, a young man rises from his seat as the credits of the film of **The Kashmir Files** roll on and makes a short, passionate speech. He exhorts Hindu men to abduct, marry and impregnate Muslim women so that Hindu babies may be harvested from Muslim wombs.

We are concerned that the movie will cause further social discord in Aotearoa New Zealand. People who watched this movie are coming out emotionally distraught and filled with hate.

Given this is so close to the 3rd anniversary of the Christchurch terrorist attack, which was a result of Islamophobic hate, the screening of this movie is a direct threat to the wellbeing of Muslims and to social cohesion of Aotearoa New Zealand. Screening of this movie in Aotearoa is already invoking strong emotional feeling within Aotearoa New Zealand's Muslim Community as well as the local Kashmiri Muslim Community.

I request the relevant Ministries and agencies look urgently into our concerns regarding "The Kashmir Files" and take a strong action against organisations and individuals who are spreading hate and help protect our community's wellbeing. These organisations and individuals need to get a clear message that hate and Islamophobia has no place in Aotearoa New Zealand. Sensor Board needs to closely look at the suitability of this movie being shown in Aotearoa New Zealand.

I have included a copy of [REDACTED] s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] an analysis of the online and offline climate of hate and Islamophobia that form the Hindutva ecosystem surrounding this film.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

cc: Hon. Priyanka Radhakrishna, Minister of Ethnic Communities
Kris Faafoi, Minister, Broadcasting and Media
Rebecca Kitteridge, Director of the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service
David Shanks, Chief Sensor Officer
Mervin Singham, Chief Executive, Ministry of Ethnic Communities

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

[Draft]

[Note: This s 9(2)(ba)(ii) is not a critical analysis of the film. Instead, it is an analysis of the online and offline climate of hate and Islamophobia that form the Hindutva ecosystem surrounding the film]

[Confidential and not to be circulated without the author's permission because of security concerns]

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

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s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 1:05 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: This movie is shows violence, hate and misleading. the movie is creating unrest and hate in India towards a specific community with partial facts.

I am worried we New Zealanders should not be go through such incidents and mistrust amount the communities.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone:

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 1:11 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Submission

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: The film is based on false, concocted, partial truth with violent and abusive scenes.

The purpose of the film is to create hate against Muslims.

It promotes Islamophobia.

It will vitiate the atmosphere in New Zealand.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 4:46 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Submission

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: For the first time, a movie based on an extreme tragedy & exodus of Kashmiri Pandits is being weaponised to create hatred against the opposition & Muslim minorities. Instead of reconciliation & justice, this is the alarming sentiment that's being wildly reinforced. This needs to be reviewed again and banned from filming. This will trigger more hatred in the community towards Muslims. This movie is propaganda from the extremist Hindutva group in India.

I request you to ban the movie from screening in NZ and maintain harmony and peace. Thanks First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@fianz.com>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 6:48 pm
To: David Shanks
Subject: FW: LETTER TO HON MINISTER KRIS FAAFOI
Attachments: LETTER TO HON MINISTER KRIS FAAFOI - 18 MAR 2022.pdf

Categories: Non-form

Mr David Shanks
Chief Censor
Classification Office
Wellington

Kia Ora and Assalaamu Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You)

Please see letter copy of letter addressed to Hon Minister Kris Faafoi.

Ngā Mihi

s 9(2)(a)
s 9(2)(a)



18 March 2022

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister for Broadcasting and Media
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

Kia Ora and Assalaamu Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You)

I am writing to you on behalf of FIANZ, the umbrella Muslim organisation in New Zealand, to raise our concerns regarding the Indian movie “The Kashmir Files”, which I note is scheduled to be screened in cinemas in Aotearoa New Zealand. This film has already resulted in serious and widespread anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments in India.

It is relevant to note that The Kashmir Files is being promoted globally by Hindu Right Wing groups such as RSS and VHP both overseas and here in Aotearoa New Zealand. The purpose of this movie is to undermine Kashmiri and Indian Muslims in general, as well as inciting hatred against Muslims in India and globally, including here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Currently, the movie is promoting widespread hate and social discord in India, identified by the President of Genocide Watch, Gregory Stanton, as an at-risk country for genocide targeting Muslims. Genocide Watch has already issued a Genocide Alert for Kashmir. The Kashmir Files is a movie which promotes a false narrative around a fictitious genocide against the Hindu population of Kashmir, most probably to make any impending genocide of Kashmiri Muslims acceptable and necessary. You can learn more about the movie in this 10 min video from the Australian journalist C J Werlemann at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAiqKJ9_0PU

The Islamophobic hate triggered by The Kashmir Files can be exemplified by emerging social media threads including a video which shows a young man rising from his seat as the credits of the film roll onscreen and who then makes a short, passionate speech. In this speech he exhorts Hindu men to abduct, marry and impregnate Muslim women so that Hindu babies may be harvested from Muslim wombs. This is just one example of an alarming trend.

We are concerned that this film will cause further social discord in Aotearoa New Zealand as well as fuel Islamophobic hate, seriously disrupting all our efforts to create a cohesive society.



Three years ago, on March 15, our community paid a terrible price when a man filled with hatred murdered 51 Muslims while they were praying at two Mosques in Christchurch. The continued screening of this movie shows an incredible insensitivity to the feelings of the local Muslim community and will also actively promote hatred amongst communities in New Zealand. We urge you to take positive action and stop the screening of The Kashmir Files throughout New Zealand.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 8:35 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files movie

Categories: Non-form

Hi there,

Myself s 9(2)(a) from Christchurch would like to request you to kindly release this bollywood movie in NZ as it depicts the real story of Kashmiri Pandits, Kashmir is an integral part of India which has its own history, I Myself been to Hoyts Riccarton Christchurch and spoken to Manager, they are happy to support this movie as it will bring a lot of business, its already been released in India that also tax free declared by the Government. It's also released in Australia too.

Please consider this request and give an opportunity to Indian community to watch this beautiful movie on screens.

Please let me know if you need any further information regarding this.

Thanks,

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 8:47 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please release Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hi

I hope I am not too late,

The movie Kashmir Files is about humanity and human rights , it's about people whose voices were suppressed for decades

Please don't silence them again
Please be in the right side of history
Please help the world see the tears of a generation
Please see that genocide doesn't begin or end with Holocaust
Please help us understand history so we don't repeat it

--

Thank You



Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 8:54 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Submission

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The kashmir file Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: It has violence, Hate & Islamophobia in it. Please stop broadcast of this movie in New Zealand.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone:

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 9:16 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Classification for The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear NZ Classification Team,

I understand that you are currently reviewing The Kahsmir Files for clarification. According to certain media reports, the movies might well be banned in New Zealand.

Please note that the movie depicts the horrific genocide on Kashmiri Hindus by a certain community. A genocide that killed thousands of Hindus and displaced even more. They became refugees in their own country. This story has not been told to Indians themselves in India.

I am sure that you can a reference to such a movie in also Schindlers List and in The Pianist. Would you ban these movies? Just because a hard hitting truth has been told to the audiences, however convenient, it does not mean that a movie should be punished in any form. The Hindu genocide in Kashmir is as much as a fact as was the Jewish genocide.

The fact that people don't know about it is all the more reason that they should.

There are pressure groups currently in NZ who want this movie banned. If you think that this movie is fit for viewing in your right mind, please do not give in to these pressure groups.

I am sure that you are very objective but pressure groups have a way to ensure that their voice is heard. Your objectivity will help boost independent cinema and the democratic ideals and the true freedom of expression that New Zealand stands for.

Best Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 9:32 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Exemption

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The kashmir files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: It is totally against our religion.just one side of story is mentioned.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 9:32 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Request for release of "The Kashmir Files"

Categories: Non-form

To whomsoever,

My name is s 9(2)(a), resident of Auckland New Zealand.

I heard some people are trying to stop the release of the movie named "The Kashmir Files" which is based on true story of Kashmiri Pandit's Genocide. It's my humble request please allow the release of the movie. I have complete faith in New Zealand which always stood up for the right cause and upheld's fundamental rights of the people. It's one of much awaited films and I am looking forward to watch in cinema theaters.

I strongly believe our request would be accepted. Thanks.

Best regards
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 9:37 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please release kashmir files movie.

Categories: Non-form

Dear sir please release kashmir files in every theater of new Zealand NZ.
This movie highlight the attrocity happened to kashmiri hindus and sikh.
There genocide is unheard by global community as well as by indian establishment.
Please release this movie.
Thank you. 🙏

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 9:42 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files Movie From India

Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora

Please advise if this movie is getting released in New Zealand?

If not, please advise me the reason.

Much appreciated.

Thanks

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 9:44 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: I would like to bring to your attention that a controversial Indian movie, the Kashmir Files, a violent and graphic movie, which is supported by Hindutva elements to raise anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments in India will be screened in NZ. <https://www.eventcinemas.co.nz/Movie/The-Kashmir-Files#date=2022-03-24>.

As a concerned citizen and a Muslim, I am worried that there could be rise in Islamophobia and hate towards Muslims in Aotearoa by the NZ Hindutva groups which is already seen in India ([https://www.siasat.com/the-kashmir-files-is-](https://www.siasat.com/the-kashmir-files-is-hindutvas-latest-anti-muslim-weapon-2290523/)

[hindutvas-latest-anti-muslim-weapon-2290523/](https://www.siasat.com/the-kashmir-files-is-hindutvas-latest-anti-muslim-weapon-2290523/))

Rise in Anti-Muslim and NZ Hindutva groups were mentioned in the whitepaper Cultural Hindutva and Islamophobia by Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research and Evaluation (CARE) and covered by major new paper publications as rise of Hindutva in NZ.

We recently remembered the terror attack of 15th March, with an overwhelming support from NZ government, authorities and the community to overcome with the tragedy and trauma and to be united to fight against hate and racism.

I request the authorities to look into this matter to maintain peace in the community. Appreciate a swift action as the movie is scheduled to be screened this weekend.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone:

Email: s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 9:59 pm
To: bhav.dhillon@consulateofindia.in
Cc: office@consulateofindia.in; Information Unit; CABNET@dpmc.govt.nz;
cabinetoffice@dpmc.govt.nz
Subject: Thw Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Namaste Indian Embassy

This movie was getting released in NZ on 31st March then 24 March.
Now, it is not getting released.

It is disgraceful that the government of India approved movie is not getting released here.

Please the petition signed and continued to be signed by people who wants to watch the movie in NZ.

<https://chng.it/bvnQFJMN>

Please could you address the matter officially with NZ Government.

Much Regards

A concerned resident of NZ and sharing the voice of many.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:00 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir files movie release in NZ

Categories: Non-form

Good Morning Classification Office,

Please do press release on reason to ban subjected movie from release.

Its creating more support to watch piece of history presented in movie. Ban on movie started fission reaction among audience to watch.

Appreciate your transparency and sincerety toward duties.

Any concerns please contact me.

Kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:00 pm
To: J Ardern (MIN)
Cc: David Shanks; andrew.coster@police.govt.nz; Bhav.dhillon@consulateofindia.in; Indian High Commission; john.luxton@parliament.govt.nz; Rebecca.Kitteridge@nzsis.govt.nz
Subject: Kashmir Files - release delay and proposed ban
Categories: Non-form

Namaskar Rt Hon Prime Minister

I am writing to express my deep horror that you and/or the NZ Censor board are even contemplating banning the Kashmir Files in NZ because some Muslim groups are protesting its release in NZ.

The film received an R16 rating from the NZ Censor board. I was told that after pressure from a Muslim member of the board and numerous emails from NZ's Muslims community, a decision was taken to review this. Why was this done?

Please note that there has been absolutely no violence in India by Hindus following the screening of this movie in India.

This movie has been screened in Australia and other parts of the world without any violence there.

I find that incredible that Zealand Muslims seem to be threatening violence from them in New Zealand if this movie is screened. Do then not know what happens if bigotry of any sort is permitted to rear its ugly head in NZ?

NZ Muslims want the world to know of the terrorist attack on them. NZ Hindus wholeheartedly expressed shock and horror at such an attack on us.

Why then are some NZ Muslims preventing the telling of the story of the terrorist attack on Kashmiri Pandits in India? It was a mass terrorist attack of immense proportions. Terrorist attacks on Hindus in Kashmir continue to this day, with the active support of the Pakistani government. FATF's recent continuation of Pakistan on its grey list is testimony enough of Pakistan's involvement with supporting anti India terrorist groups on its soil.

The violence in Kashmir was not perpetuated by New Zealand Muslims, why do they identify themselves with it? If they do not like the movie, they just do not have to go to see it.

Such an attack on free speech in NZ is similar to the one carried out by fanatics on Charlie Hebdo, the beheading of a teacher in France for supporting Charlie Hebdo and the ongoing fatwa on Salman Rushdie. Will you bow down to such terror tactics?

The NZSIS might want to check if it was primarily Muslims from Pakistan who are behind this attempt to stifle free speech in New Zealand. The less said about terrorism emanating from Pakistan the better.

I have never come across a New Zealand government stopping the screening of a movie about a genocide committed in our times. You must be aware, that victims and decedents of victims of that genocide are currently resident in NZ some as NZ citizens. Please do not go down in history as being the first genocide denying government of NZ.

I have a few questions for you:

- Would you or the NZ Censor Board even for a fraction of a second consider banning a movie on 9/11 if the New Zealand Muslim community objected to it?
- Would you or the NZ Censor Board even for a fraction of a second consider banning Schindler's List if the NZ German community objected?

- Did you consider banning the movie on the Christchurch terrorist attack because it might offend some pakeha Kiwis?
- Did you ever consider banning the movie on the genocide in Rwanda?
- Were any New Zealand Muslims responsible for the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits that is shown in this movie?
- What are New Zealand Muslims afraid of about the screening of this movie to such a degree that they resort to bombarding the government and the censor board with demands to stop its screening?
- Were they or their relatives or friends the perpetrators of this genocide that they fear being 'outed' if this movie is released?
- What right do New Zealand Muslims have to tell non-Muslims what they can watch or not watch?
- Do you know that if you permit NZ Muslims to make any demands whatsoever on how non-Muslims must conduct themselves in New Zealand, your government and they risk a serious backlash from ordinary Kiwis?
- Will you let Muslim dictate how the Labour government will interact with its Hindu community?
- Will your government let a handful of NZ Muslims decide what can and cannot be screened in New Zealand?

In one breath you say that terror has no religion but then on the other hand you let a handful of New Zealand Muslims take ownership of terrorism in India.

You may wish to ask these people if they will protest and create a law and order problem if it is screened? Is that how a peaceful New Zealand community is expected to behave?

What will they protest about anyway? That NZ screened a movie on genocide?

Such actions by self-serving Muslim groups will only alienate the Muslim community in New Zealand society. It could also globally portray New Zealand Muslims as religious bigots.

NZ Muslim victims of terrorism do not want Hindu victims of terrorism to tell their stories because that terrorism was committed by members of the Indian Muslim community? What do you call that?

I request you to not be pressurised by a handful of bigoted Muslims into stopping this movie in New Zealand. Doing so will, without a shadow of doubt, completely alienate Labour from the New Zealand Hindu Community. It could also make sections of Hindu community identify themselves with other Muslim hate groups presently active in New Zealand. It will be extremely regrettable if that were to happen.

There are also some Marxist Indian groups present in New Zealand who also indulge in anti-Hindu activity. They pose more serious risk to our peace than all Hindu groups put together!! I hope you agree that Marxism and democracy is not a good mix.

NZ Govt has finally shown courage to introduce Maori history into schools. Why do you appear to support an attempt to suppress a film that tells the story of a more recent genocide? This is extremely disappointing.

I request you not to let yourself be pressurised by fringe elements of New Zealand's Muslims into banning the Kashmir Files.

I look forward to your reply.



s 9(2)(a)

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s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:02 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release " The Kashmir Files" movie

Categories: Non-form

Hi this movie doesn't hurt sentiments. It just shows the reality what happened few years back.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:03 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Dear Board,

Why the Kashmir files is censored in NZ? Are you under pressure from certain group? We want to know the truth and we want this movie back in NZ cinemas. Looking forward your response. There is no logical reason you will stop the movie vehicular is based on truth and what in real happened only Kashmir. I am the witness of this what happen to my broth and sisters in Kashmir. We want to see truth. You must realest this movie. I will do my best to make it happens. Are we free country or run by certain migrant foreign pressure group?

Think about it

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:12 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Do NOT ban The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

To whom it may concern,

As a member of New Zealand's Hindu community I am appalled that the censor board is considering banning the movie The Kashmir Files.

This movie depicts **true events** of unspeakable persecution of the Kashmiri Hindu population in 1990. The director of the movie has on-camera interviews of the survivors of this genocide to back up the events depicted in the movie.

Banning the movie is tantamount to denying a genocide which has already been buried for so long. Would you ban a movie on the holocaust? Would you ban a movie on the Armenian genocide? Doing so would clearly be a deplorable move. Then why ban this movie?

I urge you in the strongest terms to let this movie be screened so that what happened to the Kashmir Hindus will be known. Don't be so heartless as to deny them a long-awaited moment of recognition of the unimaginable trauma they have gone through.

An example of a case depicted in this movie is that of a woman called Girjia Tikoo who was pulled over for being Hindu, then gang raped, tortured, and SAWN IN HALF WITH A CARPENTER'S SAW WHILE SHE WAS ALIVE. Her family has been grieving since. Her niece and brother recently spoke up. I attach their comments.

Her niece

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CbBMKBkPYp4/>

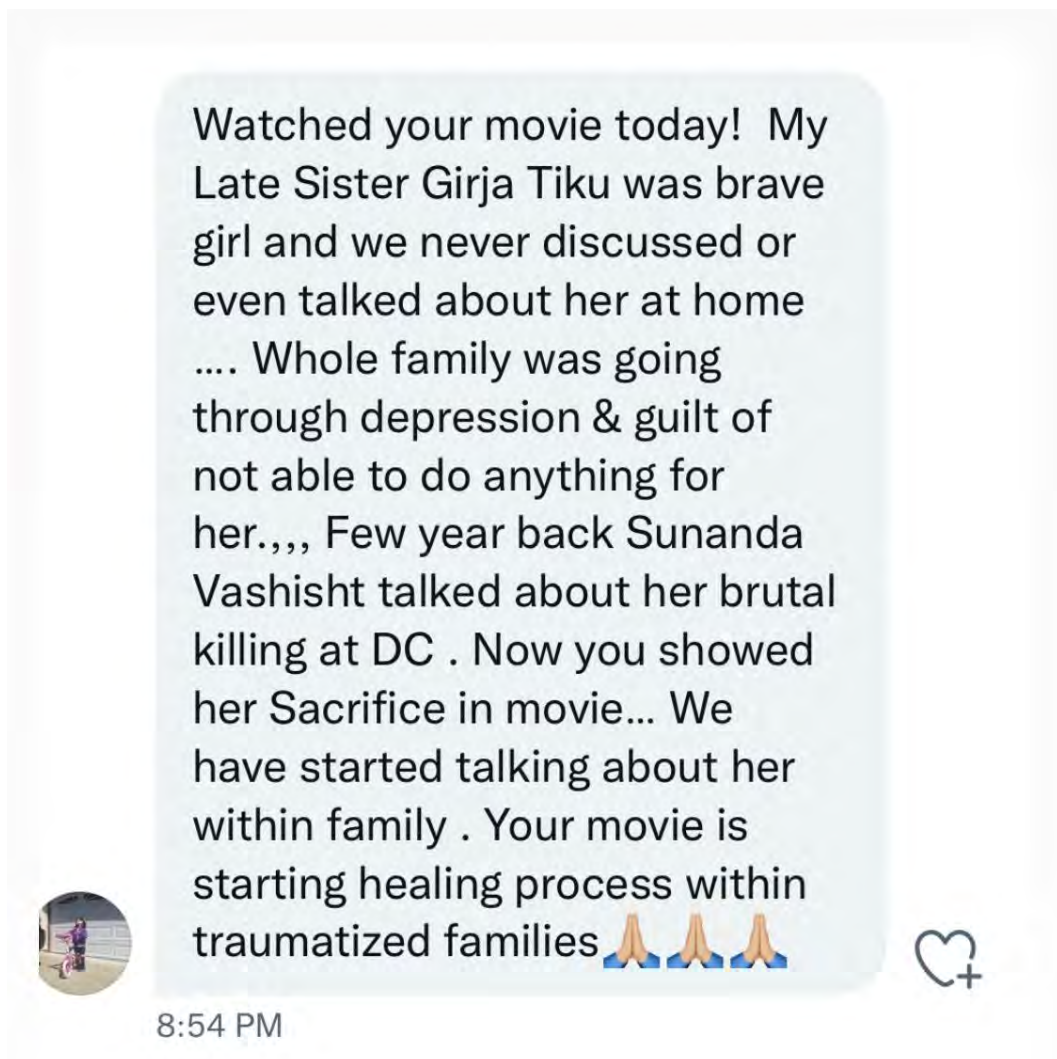
██████████ The Kashmir Files has released worldwide. This film shows the horrifying nights not only my family went through but what every Kashmiri Pandit family went through.

TW: Rape, Torture, Murder

My father's sister, Girjia Tickoo, was a librarian at a University who had gone to collect her paycheck, on her way back the bus she was traveling from was stopped and what happened next still leaves me in shivers, tears, and nausea. My bua was then thrown into a taxi, with 5 men (one of them being her colleague), who tortured her, raped her, and then brutally murdered her by cutting her alive with a carpenter saw. Imagine being the brother who had to recognize his Babli, who wasn't at fault in this gruesome battle of total hypocrisy.

Till this date I've never heard anyone from my family speak about this incident. My father tells me every brother lived in such shame and anger that nothing had been done to receive justice for my Babli Bua.

I am fortunate enough to be part of @koayouth where I am connected to youth from the Kashmiri Pandit community where we can share our past.



This movie represents a healing process - and you have no right to deny the Kashmir Hindus and the wider Hindu community this healing.

Here are some reactions of the Kashmir Hindus who have watched the movie.

<https://youtu.be/oVoeF6Ei0Qo>

<https://youtu.be/OS9veYCXCvQ>

https://youtu.be/H_2WkBS1SSs

And if you're struggling to care about what Hindus think, then here are some non-Hindu audience comments from the US

<https://youtu.be/8iydXaa55Fw>

Perhaps this will convince you of the validity of this movie.

So please do the right thing and do NOT ban this movie in New Zealand.

To be clear, the New Zealand Hindu community WILL peacefully protest any censorship of accounts of the persecution and trauma we have gone through and we will not stop until the truth is told.

Sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:14 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please show the movie Kashmir files .
Categories: Non-form

Hi

I would like to request you to please let movie The Kashmir files be release in New Zealand. This will give kiwi's a lifetime lesson and they will come to know what happend to some innocent people.

Thanks

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:39 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please release the Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:43 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Film THE Kashmir Files , India

Categories: Non-form

To
The Classification office
NEWZEALAND

DEAR BOARD MEMBERS

PLEASE ALLOW THE MOVIE " THE KASHMIR FILES " which shows the human rights violation of extreme extent in Kashmir and unprecedented exodus due to communal hatred against a responsible, peaceful and law abiding Hindu Pundit Community .

Let the world know before it is too late

s 9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 18 March 2022 11:58 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files to be released [its the truth, that is difficult for a small faction to fathom]

Categories: Non-form

Hi,

I am writing to the classification board to release the movie The Kashmir Files. The PM of India, Senators in US, and many other valid top ranking officials have given positive credits. The movie is watched worldwide. Just because a group of people cannot fathom the truth you cannot rely on it. Check what the world is doing not what we tiny people need to do.

On 19 January 1989 an ethnic cleansing began in the state of Kashmir in India where 300,000 individuals were forced to leave their homeland and live as refugees in their own country. Thousands were massacred.

The events that led to this pogrom and the consequences have been depicted in a file called 'The Kashmir Files' which was released internationally on 11 March 2022.

It is on the lines of 'Schindler's List' and has received widespread global acclaim. It is running successfully in Australia, UK, USA, Canada and other countries.

The New Zealand Certification Office has passed the 'The Kashmir Files' for release with a R18 certificate.

HOWEVER vested interests, the ones who had sponsored the pogrom 30 years ago, are putting pressure on Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and other officials including the NZ Police, to stop the release of the film in New Zealand. This is so that the truth does not come out. The film was slated for release in NZ on 24 March 2022 but has now been put on hold due to pressure from the terror groups. The Certification Office is said to be reviewing the certification.

WE URGE the government, the NZ Police and other officials to uphold the rule of law and the principles of free speech and not give in to terrorists and their backers.

The world must know the truth of why 300,000 people were brutally thrown out of their ancestral homes.

I trust the classification board and I am hoping they watch the tactful movie and release it.

I belong to a community of 200 people of Indian origin living in NZ. Should you need a mass approval I can arrange that. People threatening that the release will cause protests, it could be the other way too the not releasing may also cause protests.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 12:23 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hello Team,

I'm looking forward for this to be released, seeing the reviews and trailer, it looks interesting to finally see some light around this.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 4:25 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release of Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Hello,

Recently I heard a news that New Zealand censor board is re evaluating their decision on release of Kashmir Files in New Zealand due to pressure from Islamic organisations.

I would like to request you to please reconsider on this decision and please give clearance for release of this film as many people who are originated from India are waiting to watch this movie.

This movie is the true story about the Genocide which happened in Kashmir in 1990's on Hindus by radical Islamic groups.

Please don't consider these pressures from these sought of groups as this movie showcases the human rights of Kashmiri Hindus and how they lost lives and left their motherland after this Genocide.

Hope my voice is heard

Thank you

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 4:51 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Movie
Attachments: IMG-20220318-WA0023.jpg
Categories: Non-form

Hi Team,

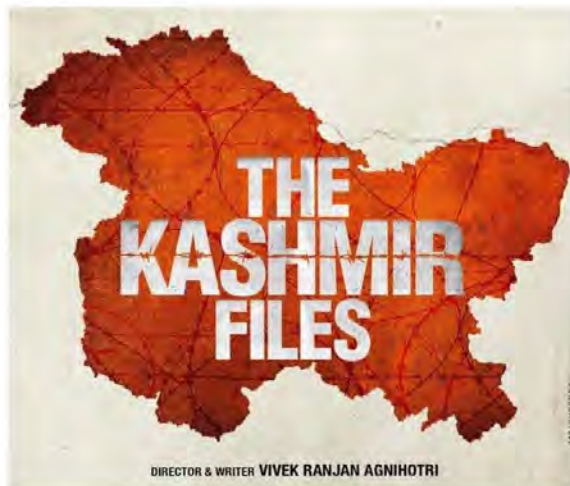
I certainly would want to watch the movie.

Thanks & Best Regards

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

#TheKashmirFiles was put under review this evening by [NZ Classification Office](#) as some members of the public showed some concerns about it releasing in New Zealand. [Event Cinemas](#) along with other places were asked to stop promoting it on their platforms.... See [More](#)



If you want The Kashmir Files to release in New Zealand 🇳🇿

Call 04 471 6770

Leave them a Voicemail or email them at info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 8:48 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files movie release in NZ

Categories: Non-form

Good morning,

I trust this email finds you well.

What is the Kashmir Files Movie?

"The Kashmir Files Storyline the Kashmir Files is an upcoming film that throws light on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s which led to the forceful emigration of several Hindus from the Kashmir valley. The film focuses on the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits and investigates into one of the biggest human tragedies in Independent India"

Why do we want this movie to be released in NZ?

I am writing this email to support the Kashmir files movie release in New Zealand. I am proud Kiwi India citizen living in New Zealand for past 11 years. I understand you may have received numerous emails from concerned community and their people, but we do not understand why this movie effecting and influencing them. This movie is all about the true event when the Pakistani terrorist killed so many our beloved Kashmiri Pandit in 29 Jan 1990. There were so many families lost their family and loved ones. We are as young youth want to know the reality that took place and effected so many innocent lives in Kashmir. We would like stands for all our Hindu families whose lives were destroyed during these human tragedies attack. We want to educate our young generation, so the events like this should not takes place in the future again. This movie is a great example for us to understand and build stronger Hindu community in our country. This movie has been released around the world without any concerns. We assure the classification office team that we are not going to create any concerns or violence from this movie for our community here and abroad.

I would like to request to classification office team to consider our request and grant the permission to release this movie as soonest as possible. If our request is being declined, then we would like to take further action and reach out to higher authorities.

Thank you for so much for your understanding and cooperation with our request.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)
Mob: s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 8:51 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Lifting the Ban - The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Hi There,

Can We please lift the ban on the Movie - The Kashmir Files and set the right precedent for the Community which is supposed to get released on 24th March.

It will teach the other segments in the society too that it is possible by putting pressure on NZ censorship Board.

So please I request again, To let the movie release in NZ on 24th March & Keeping our Freedom intact.

Thank You

s 9(2)(a)

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 8:52 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: TheKashmirFiles - Movie Release

Categories: Non-form

Hi Team,

I would like to request you to please do not block the release of The Kashmir Files movie in New Zealand.

Thanks

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 9:27 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hi, I would request you to view Petitions online for the release of this movie.

Denying NZ audience historical facts of Hindu genocide is equivalent to denying NZers of WW2 history. Kashmir Files is based on facts, akin to Schindlers List. Truth must be told especially if it has targeted any community based on race alone. Only when history is not told it repeats itself. Those opposing the movie are in in denial.

2 petitions with large number of signatures. Please view the comments to know the gravity of this realistic film.

<https://chng.it/4TnfpwDmTg>

<https://chng.it/ZQGmJYqV>

Email to info@classificationsoffice.govt.nz

Regards,
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 9:28 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear Sir/Madam ,

The movie Kashmir Files is based on true history.

Thousands of Hindu communities were forced to leave their birthplace Kashmir because of terrorists and those who did not leave were massacred.

We really want to watch our history and request you to please allow the release of this movie.

I can assure you this that the movie is not against any community but only against the terrorists in Kashmir region.

I hope you will allow the release of this successful movie in New Zealand .

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 9:33 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: release of movie

Categories: Non-form

hi we are emailing regarding the movie of kashmir files . can you please get release this movie on new zealand we just wanna see it . thats not fair if due to outside forces u ll ban this on new zealand .
thanks

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 10:18 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The kashmir files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: Kia ora, I believe this movie has been banned or delayed in New Zealand. I

would like to request to reconsider please or if you watch it and then make a decision would be helpful.

Thank you

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 10:58 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a submission/exemption/reconsideration?: It's based on true story.

It should be released as it is our democratic right to watch such a good movie.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 11:12 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Hi Good morning,

My name is s 9(2)(a) living in NZ since 2017. I was eagerly waiting for the movie "The Kashmir Files", but just show news on social media that this movie is not releasing because of some people falsely complain about it. This movie is just showing the truth what happen to Kashmiri people in 1990 and even many states in USA accepted that this was genocide of Kashmiri people shown in this movie. I would like to register my official request to ask your office to release this movie in NZ theatres. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 11:13 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release KASHMIR FILES

Categories: Non-form

I s 9(2)(a) wants to requesting authorities to release movie in New zealand as well and restore our faith In minorities rites.

This movie broadly describe what happened in reality in 90s and is based on true events. 90s original footages and interviews given at that time by terrorists stamp on it.

This movie been released in Australia UK US Europe and several other countries worldwide. Please do release in nz too.

Thanks and regards

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 11:24 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files movie banned in NZ only
Attachments: kashmir file updated.docx

Categories: Non-form

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Respected MEMBER OF THE parliament

This is in relation to the film "The Kashmir File," which has been placed on hold by NZ CENSOR due to extremist opposition.

The film is based on a genuine story of genocide against Kashmiri pandits in 1989, when they were forcibly displaced from their homes to a refugee camp overnight due to extremist violence. During that time, extremists committed rape, brutal murder, mass killing of Kashmiri pandits, and other atrocities. The book "Our Moon Has Blood Clot" was also published, recounting the happenings that occurred.

The movie is running successfully in western countries such as Australia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Europe; but, due to extremist opposition, the film's release in New Zealand has been postponed; it was meant to be released on March 24th.

Postponing a movie based on facts due to extremist objections goes against the spirit of our free democracy and freedom of expression, as extremists don't want world to know the truth or what occurred at the time.

The movie's postponement has shocked New Zealand's peaceful Indian and Hindu communities. Extremists are constantly propagating direct or indirect hatred towards Hindus in print media and social media portal in New Zealand as well. The Hindu community is feeling helpless as a result of an unjustified attack by extremists.

The movie is not any community rather it is about the cruelty that occurred in Kashmir in 1989.

The film's director, himself, took to Twitter to express his dissatisfaction with the film's lack of release in New Zealand. If the censor board decides to ban the film, it will cast a negative light on our lovely, peaceful, democratic country.

This is our humble request that you see the truth yourself and support peaceful Hindu communities in learning about their genocide in Kashmir.

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 11:30 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Exemption

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: Waiting for the movie to be released in NZ to know what really happened in Kashmir.

As per the reviews I have heard, it is a great movie to watch.

Thanks

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 12:04 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The kashmir Files- Release

Categories: Non-form

Hi There

Trusting you're doing well. I would like to assure you that this movie is very much about kashmir's Pundits who were forced to leave their houses in 1990s by some radicalised people and how local govt at that time failed them. This movie is basically on facts and not spreading any hatred.

Hopefully you will watch the movie and will decide to let it release in New Zealand. Thanks

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 12:17 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a submission/exemption/reconsideration?:

The Kashmir Files is not just a movie but a documentary prepared using testimonials of the victims and news reports. If this movies and the facts presented in this movie spread Islamophobia then then no news channels in NZ should be allowed report on the atrocities carried out by the Al Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram and other terrorist organisations that believe in Jihad.

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/jihad>

<https://youtu.be/IcX7EfSLtE>

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 1:05 pm
To: Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz; Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz;
David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz; Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz;
Kiri.Allan@parliament.govt.nz; Nicola.Willis@parliament.govt.nz;
Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz; hoc.wellington@mea.gov.in;
Subject: Information Unit; office@consulateofindia.in; shane.reti@parliament.govt.nz
Please release Kashmir Files movie
Categories: Non-form

Hello,

I am writing this email to request you all to please consider and take appropriate action in order to release the movie **Kashmir Files** in NZ at the earliest possible.

This movie is a must watch for all to know and understand the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits that happened in Kashmir in 90's. This movie is based on facts that can be easily found on internet. This movie is not against religion\community as there are some people are opposing the release of this movie. The truth of the atrocities on Kashmiri Pandits needs to be allowed to be shown to all as they have right of freedom of expression and speech.

Its a humble request to please take appropriate actions to release this movie at the earliest 🙏.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 1:12 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a submission/exemption/reconsideration?:

Kashmir Files has been under review in New Zealand because of pressure from some communal groups.

Please let this film release as this shows the sufferings of Hindus who were victims of this genocide.

This truth has been hidden for last 32 years.

Please let this movie release so that the truth comes out.

The sufferings of the Kashmiri Pandits have been unending and no one heard there story until this movie. Please give this movie a fair chance to present what they went through.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 1:28 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Request to release The Kashmir Files in NZ

Categories: Non-form

Kia ora,

We as Indians living in NZ would like to request of releasing The Kashmir Files movie in New Zealand theatres. Please don't get pressurised by some communal people. Everyone has a right to know the Truth. 🙏

Many thanks

s 9(2)(a)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 1:30 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a submission/exemption/reconsideration?:

This movie is based on true stories and events that occurred in Kashmir. More than half a million people became refugees in their own country. Australia and other democratic countries have allowed screening of this movie. We should be at par with these nations and should allow screening of Kashmir Files and let freedom prevail. Thanks.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 1:59 pm
To: Kiri.Allan@parliament.govt.nz; Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz;
Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz; Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz;
Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz; shane.reti@parliament.govt.nz;
David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz; Information Unit;
Nicola.Willis@parliament.govt.nz; cabnet@dpmc.govt.nz;
cabinetoffice@dpmc.govt.nz; bhav.dhillon@consulateofindia.in
hoc.wellington@mea.gov.in; office@consulateofindia.in
Cc:
Subject: Please release the movie "The Kashmir Files"
Categories: Non-form

Dear All

This is to request you to please help release the latest Bollywood movie – “The Kashmir Files” in New Zealand. This movie was earlier showing to be released on the 31st of March, later changed to 24th of March and now it has been removed from the upcoming movies list.

<https://www.eventcinemas.co.nz/Movie/The-Kashmir-Files#date=2022-03-31>

The movie depicts the real stories of Kashmiri Hindus and their genocide which forced over 500K Kashmiri Hindus to leave the valley overnight. For a very long time, these stories have been suppressed and that has added more trauma in their lives and now stopping the release of the movie which actually shows their true stories and what atrocities they have gone through is almost like rubbing salt on their wounds.

There have been 21 movies made on the genocide of European Jews during World War II, and this is the first movie which has been made on the genocide and Exodus of Kashmiri Hindus after 30 years. The movie is not about hating a particular group of people/community/religion, but rather shows the true stories of these people which the rest of the world also need to know. Like all the other communities out there, Hindus also have the right to freedom of Expression and Speech and this should not be hindered just because some communal groups are portraying it to be something which it is actually not.

As an honoured citizen of New Zealand, I request you all to please take appropriate actions for release of this movie at the earliest.

Yes, the truth may hurt, but not revealing it will become a crutch and will cripple us all.

Yours Sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 2:27 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please-NO BAN ON RELEASING INDIAN MOVIE- THE KASHMIRI FILES
Categories: Non-form

Hi sir,

I am requesting, please don't put ban on releasing Indian movie- THE KASHMIR FILES in New Zealand cinemas. It is released worldwide every where. It's based on true story. I and many Indian like to watch and support the cinema business.

Kind regards,
s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 2:53 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please release The Kashmir files.

Categories: Non-form

Kia ora,

We heard The Kashmir file movie is under review for release. I and my wife would like to watch this movie as it's approved by most of the countries's sensor board including USA, UK, India, Germany, Australia, France Canada etc.

We are requesting you to release this movie so we can watch in our nearest cinema.

Regards

s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 3:28 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Review of the Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hello there,

We understand that the release of the recent docu-movie **The Kashmir Files** is under review and that release date has been put on hold until further notice.

As an informed citizen, may I request a clarification on the decision to review and the reason for it being put on hold 'until further notice'?

There appears to be no official release of this information above.

what is the criteria and by when can we expect the movie to be released?

There is a lot of concern over this review from the community and support to challenge it, if necessary.

I am sure your office makes informed decisions and the right outcome will be seen.

Look forward to hearing from you at the earliest.

Kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 3:41 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: Depicts true event just like Schindler List. Please do not stop the launch of this film in New Zealand. We urge the labour government. You cant take one sided approach to Muslim community while sidelining more hindus, sikh and buddhists.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 3:46 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The KASHMIR FILES

Categories: Non-form

please let the truth come out.we all need to see what happened 30years ago in Kashmir.more than 400000 people still living like refugees in their own country.

THE KASHMIR FILES

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 4:32 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Regarding releasing The Kashmir Files Movie in to New Zealand.
Categories: Non-form

Hi dear,

As other movie and media related to humanity. We would like releasing The Kashmir Files Movie in to New Zealand.

This is should not affect to any community people.

Thanks,

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 4:48 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Urgent: please allow release of The Kashmir Files in NZ Cinema
Categories: Non-form

Dear Classification office

We urge you to please allow the kashmir files indian movie into NZ cinema.

I do not believe it will impact on the community because it depicts the real genocide of Hindu group by terrorist in India.

I support the below

Please allow it in Nz

Thanks

s 9(2)(a)

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TKF_Right_To_Justice?fbclid=IwAR0oU2yUeBcwCayjda00m0DCWkV0OBkK8VoRVre5Z0EMgp1adHhVnnKCCnk

Sent from my iPhone

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 5:22 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hi

Re: The Kashmir Files

If the the largest and the oldest democracies (and our neighbour Australia) have allowed The Kashmir Files movie in cinemas, so why can't NZers watch it?

Over 1 billion people have watched the film since its release on 11 March, so why we can't watch it in NZ?

I agree with the comments of the former NZ Deputy Prime Minister, Winston Peters on his Facebook Page:

The film is about true and real events surrounding the 1990 ethnic cleansing of Hindus in Kashmir and today over 400,000 Kashmir Pandits remain in exile after 32 years.

To censor this film is tantamount to censoring information or images from the March 15th atrocities in New Zealand, or for that matter removing from public knowledge all images of the attack on 9/11.

Please immediately remove the ban from this movie.

Regards
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 5:22 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Demanding the release of Kashir files in New Zealand

Categories: Non-form

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 5:31 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Ban on kashmiri files movie

Categories: Non-form

Dear sir / madam
New zealand should not be banning this movie.
This should be promoted instead...
Regards

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 5:46 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Please release the movie "The Kashmir Files". Freedom of expression and Freedom of choice should not be denied. Thanks

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 5:49 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Appeal to lift ban on The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Attention: Classification Office

To Whomsoever It May Concern

The Kashmir Files should be treated as any other film on true events and should be released in New Zealand. People should stop wrongdoings not stop the film to be released based on the wrongdoings.

If national TV can show Russian atrocities on Ukraine on daily basis.
A film based on this real incident which took place 30 years ago should also be released.

As much as Russians can't be the ones calling out shots to ban the release of the film. Currently whoever is trying to ban this film shouldn't be entertained.

Terrorism in all its forms, no matter what its source, should be exposed and opposed. This attempt at selective censorship would amount to one further attack on the freedom of New Zealanders and people worldwide.

Thanking you.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 6:41 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please let the Kashmir files be released. Oppression causes issues not expressions
Categories: Non-form

Hi,
Hope you are well.
I grew up in India in a place with equal Hindu and Muslim population. I consider us to be brothers and sisters from same countries. Some of the political elements in the country often turn both religions against each other but end out the day it is the common people who suffer. Hence we need to learn from our past, so that mistakes are not repeated. Not neglect it. In my opinion, stopping a viewpoint to be shown causes oppression which is not good for harmony.
There are movies on holocaust, world war, hate crimes, racial injustice to African Americans. The news channels are covering the war. Does that cause crimes against Russians?
It is R16. You could make it R18 if needed but please do no stop release of the movie in the theaters. Let freedom of expression prevail.
Many thanks
- s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 7:38 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Requesting to allow release of The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Respected Sir/Madam,

I have observed that you have blocked the release of the recent movie The Kashmir Files. May I know under what circumstances you have done that? If you show yourself as an independent organization, then reflect independence.

It is our right to demand justice in this case.

For your information, this movie has already been released in Australia. Why have you stopped it? Are you under the influence of the Government?

The movie has disturbed certain elements in New Zealand society, but that does not mean you stop the truth and disregard other members of the society. The movie represents every true story, and it is not fictional. If you want, I can prove it to you, but it's your responsibility, not mine.

If you believe the Jewish holocaust has happened, you must also open your eyes to this exodus and genocide of the Kashmiri Hindus.

As a Hindu, I would request you to remove the barriers in the release of the movie.

I hope you consider my request and take the necessary actions.

Kind regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 8:11 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

To whom it may concern

I support the request to allow the subject film to be screened in NZ theatres

It's based on true events and it must be shown to the general public.

s 9(2)(a)

P s 9(2)(a)

E s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 8:30 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please Release " The Kashmir Files"

Categories: Non-form

Dear Sir / Madam,

i am writing this in support of releasing the movie "The Kashmir Files" in NZ cinemas. I am a proud NZ citizen and originally come from the state of Jammu and kashmir in India. This movie is based on real facts and events that took place in the 1990's. Even though it was very unfortunate, it is a very important piece of our history and this movie has provided world wide recognition and closure to the communities who suffered this mass genocide. As you may know this movie has been released and watched world wide in USA, UK , Australia and India. Also it has been very well received by communities including muslim communities across the world.

I would kindly request you to allow the film to be released in NZ so that this important piece of history can be recognised.

Thank you for your support

Regards,
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 8:53 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please release The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear Sir,

I would like to request you to please release the movie The Kashmir Files.

This is based on a true story and a part of history.

My humble request is to please allow us to watch this movie with our families so we can show the share and feel the pain of the victims of that unfortunate incident that happened 32 years before.

Looking forward to getting a fair and wise decision from you.

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)
M: s 9(2)(a)
E: s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 10:04 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Respected Officers

With a great pain and disappointment I am compelled to write this email to appeal against your decision of blocking the release of the movie The Kashmir files in New Zealand. I truly believe that blocking this movie in our country would be suppressing right to Truth and would set a dangerous trend of dictating terms by certain people. As a diverse and multi cultural nation would it be fair and just to block a film which is based on the true events of terrorism and gruesome and horrific genocide of the innocent kashmiri pandits? It would be really appreciated to consider the sentiments of wider communities and I have faith that the Censor board would not surrender and stand strongly against unkind people and grant permission to release movie The Kashmir Files in New Zealand.

Thankyou

s 9(2)(a)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: s 9(2)(a) | □□ | □□
< s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 11:38 pm
To: Information Unit; j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz; j.tinetti@ministers.govt.nz
Subject: Classifying The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Dear Prime Minister Ardern, Minister Tinetti and the Officers at the Clasification Dept,
I am a practicing Internist in India, and I have read the news about the censorship of the new Indian movie, The Kashmir Files, in New Zealand. I am writing this in appreciatioon of that decision of censorship.

The film is a complete distortion of the actual tragic events in Kashmir in the late 80s and early 90s, and is being used as a rabble rouser for the ruling party in India, being actively promoted by its affiliates. Considering all these, the decision to censor due to the fears expressed by the minorities and others is justified.

I am particularly writing this to convey the observation that some of the Indians now living in NZ and complaining on their social media posts about the censorship are the ones who have been nursing Islamophobia for long and this film only feeds them further. Therefore, the decision to censor it is all the more justified.

Withg regards,
Sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 11:59 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Good Morning Sir / Madam,

I am sending this email to let you guys know that "The Kashmir Files" is not making threates to any community out there.

Recently I have found Muslim community spreading their concern about movie, they reckon The Kashmir files is spreading hate against their community.

We live in a country where all religions, culture and practices are allowed so why are they making hard for other community all we asking for release date so we can watch with our families. It is important to us and to our people and culture to see what our grandparents suffered in these days.

We are not and that movie is not spreading hate. Mark my word we and that movie is not going to create any trouble in this world.

After Christchurch attack whole world came to support muslim community even I was with them too.

Please look into this matter.

Thanks

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 3:24 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Regarding the release of Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

The movie Kashmir files throws light on ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pundits who became a refugee in their own country.
Ever since its release constant attempts have been made the extremists to stop the people from knowing the truth and keep them in dark..
I request the govt of New Zealand to allow the screening of Kashmir files.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 3:51 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear officer ,

The kashmir files Movie is about real life events and there are victims still living in the world. If you put yourself in a victim position, you may understand the importance of this film. It is not against any community. It shows just what happened.

By controlling the release of the film , you indirectly support these kinds of cruelty done by one person to others.

We the people from the globe , kindly request you to release the film without any restriction as it is completely based on the truth.

Praying best for the People of New Zealand.

Thank you and have a pleasant day.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 9:08 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

"We have been told that you are reviewing your own decision about releasing this film
Can you please let me know the reasons for the same?
I expect a very quick response to this request.
We are gathering support to challenge the outcome if found illogical"

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 11:00 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

This is regarding some sections of society trying to stop screening of this movie, which is actually 100% true count of events what happened in Kashmir 32 years back. Director and producer has stated publicly that for every event showed in this movie, they can produce 100 living witnesses that it actually happened to them.

Truth can't be denied. It should be banned if it falsely trying to implicate any community in wrongdoings.

All over world all governments who done wrongdoing in World War II to other nations has apologised publicly and declaring that it was all wrong. There are so many movies on this and screened all over world.

If we don't want to accept the true events involving wrongdoings by a community or country how we can analyse them and do the right things in future.

Had not Jews holocaust been filmed in past. If there was no objection to show those mis-happenings of history then why this.

I think This film is getting screened in USA and many other such nations. New Zealand censor board and other democratic institutions of New Zealand can't be held ransom to undue demands of a section of society to hide the heinous crimes done by the people believing in same faith on the pretext of keeping peace & harmony.



s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 11:13 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files move

Categories: Non-form

Kia ora

It is my humble request to release the movie 'The Kashmir Files' so that we can watch the movie like we do any other.

Thank you

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 11:18 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a submission/exemption/reconsideration?:

Hi there,

I am a member of the Indian community, and a supporter of free speech.

Please unban this film so that I can watch it.

Best regards,

John

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 11:24 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please release Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hello,

This is a humble request to release “The Kashmir Files” movie as there are many people who want to watch this movie in NZ.

Thanks,

s 9(2)(a)

--

Thanks & Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 12:11 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: RELEASE THE KASHMIR FILES

Categories: Non-form

Hi,

I being a resident of New Zealand of Indian origin, would like to request you, on behalf of every Indian person living here in New Zealand, to release this most awaited film kindly. This movie means a lot to us, and it needs to be out and there. People need to watch it to know what happened with our Kashmiri Pandit friends. It doesn't matter if it was 30 years ago. They have been living like refugees in their own country just because they were thrown out of their own land.

They deserve to be heard and known. I have Kashmiri friends, both pandits and Muslims. There was a time when I got the opportunity to live with both Kashmiri Pandit and a Kashmiri Muslim under one roof and despite their history of genocide. There was no divide. There were zero grudges against each other. We used to live as one big family. They were treating each other's parents as theirs.

I urge you to please let this out. It's our right to know what happened. All the other countries have Muslims too. They are not banning the movie. Moreover, this movie is all about Kashmir and radical minds. It has nothing to do with Muslims living here.

If, in any case, this movie doesn't release here in New Zealand. This will hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community living here, which may cause distress and Which nobody wants, including us.

The Indian community is one of the most inclusive countries. We have no intention to cause any divide.

Rest is in your hands. I hope you understand our sentiments and let the truth come out.

Thank you

Your's Sincerely
s 9(2)(a)

--
Regards,
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 12:30 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir File movie release

Categories: Non-form

Hello NZ movie classification team,
Hope you are doing well.

This is s 9(2)(a), a proud NZ citizen.

I would like to make my individual request to the release of "The Kashmir Files" movie in NZ theaters. I don't know the content of the movie yet, however I am pro freedom of expression in all forms. We shouldn't promote the mindset of curtailing FoE by stupid reasons e.g. hurting my sentiments.

I don't want to write more on it but I am looking forward to watch this movie and expect a neutral decision without handing over our FoE to those emboldened fringe groups.

THx,
s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 12:54 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please allow screening of The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear ClassificationOffice Team,

I understand the movie is under review, and I would like to request to consider the interest of thousands of Indians who are waiting to watch this movie in theatres.

This is about knowing the history and learning from it. It is based on real stories of 700 Indian families forced to migrate out of Kashmir.

This is widely praised for bringing the truth out after more than 30 years and the world deserves to know that and watch it through the big screen.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)
[Redacted]

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 12:57 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Urgent Appeal to withdraw blocking of Hindi movie The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Hi

It has come to notice of my as well as many Indians living in NZ that you have decided to block the movie Kashmir Files from releasing in NZ.

This has shocked many Indians living in NZ who are eagerly waiting for the release of this movie here. The movie is based on true facts and incidents which has happened in India 30 years back. Kashmiri Pandits who are inhabitants of Kashmir were killed, raped, abused just because of their religion and were forced to convert to other religion. The Indian government at that time failed to protect these people and the whole community were forced to flee away their state and become refugees in their own country. The movie is not against any religion or faith. It is about how the Kashmir Pandits were treated in their own country and irrespective if all the atrocities they migrated to different parts of the world based on their knowledge and skills and succeeded in life.

This movie shows lack of political willingness to provide justice to these people and more importantly this was hidden away from all Indians and the world. We just knew these people were forced to leave but not what atrocities they had to face.

We all Indians want to watch this movie so we know the history of our country which was hidden from all of us and support the people and their families who have suffered loss and never healed from this.

The families of the victims have relocated all over the world mainly US, UK, Canada, Australia and even NZ.

Depriving us of our choice to watch this movie is against our democratic rights as these victims deserve their story to be told to the world.

When Christchurch attack happened we appreciate how NZ govt and the kiwis handled the situation. We want our mother country India to learn from this and expect them to not allow the same incident to repeat.

Hence I request you to consider our appeal to stop the ban of this film in NZ.

FYI this movie is not banned in any country and is not against any religion/community. In fact in India many states have declared it tax free to encourage people to watch it. In Australia there is a show every hour for this movie in the theatres. People and critics have praised the movie and you can check imdb rating as well which is 8.3/10.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)



From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 1:02 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release the film - The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hi there,

NZ is a progressive nation that believes in freedom of speech and expression. This film has been allowed all across the world and NZ should be no different if we are a true democracy.

The film showcases the truth and it shouldn't be hidden due to a small faction of the society that seem to mislead your department under the guise of Islamophobia. The highest office (PMO) of a billion diverse people in India has also endorsed the film.

I expect your department and Mr. David Shanks would exercise good judgement and not come in the way of freedom of expression and take a wise stand and release the film without further adieu.

Thanks,

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 1:12 pm
To: MPLee@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files - 20.03.2022

Categories: Non-form

Afternoon MP Lee,

I want to take a minute to thank you for voicing your opinion on the censorship of The Kashmir Files in New Zealand.

More than 43,000 people in the last 48 hours and counting have signed a petition to urge the NZ Classifications Office to not only listen to one section of the community and without bias release the movie. [Petition](#)

I and most of us in the Indian community have heard that NZ Chief Senor David Shanks is going to have a meeting with Fianz and other organisations that have continued to portray that the movie is anti-muslim and Islamophobic even without watching the movie where these claims have been refuted by the [Hight Court in India](#). I Sincerely urge that other sections of the Indian Community here in New Zealand should also get a meeting with him where they put their points forward.

I recommend having an event set up where everyone is allowed to come and voice their opinion. When Steven Spielberg made Schindler's List, the shock that audiences felt was not that of an unfamiliar historical happening. People knew about the Jew holocaust, not just through history books but through many brilliant films before Schindler's List. But where was the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits mentioned? It was hushed up. This movie gives all the Pandits of my community finally a voice after almost 3 decades and that is one reason this movie is such a topic of discussion.

I would like to end by saying, An act of terror is just that, has no race no religion. If NZ wants to stand on the other side of history where they want to stop a Movie that shows sufferings of one community, people will remember.

Thanks,

Regards,
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 1:22 pm
To: Information Unit; duncan.webb@labour.org.nz; chchcentral@parliament.govt.nz;
erica.stanford@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Request to release movie The Kashmir Files in NZ
Attachments: FB_IMG_1647734458349.jpg
Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora,

I am s 9(2)(a). I am writing to you on behalf of Hindus living in New Zealand. All of us have been waiting for a long time for the release of the movie The Kashmir Files.

This movie shows the truth about the atrocities suffered by Kashmiri Pandits in year 1990. The agenda of this movie is not to encourage Islamophobia. This movie is to make the world familiar about the sufferings of Kashmiri Pandits that have been suppressed for decades. More than 400,000 Kashmiri Pandits still live in exile after losing their loved ones and livelihoods. Some of those live in New Zealand as well, one of them is my Partner s 9(2)(a). She has been waiting restlessly to watch this movie, her family members are the first hand victims of those atrocities. Under the freedom to access information act, She along with all New Zealanders has the right to watch this movie, which might bring her some closure. This movie is not available on any digital platforms, thus her only hope to watch this movie is in New Zealand Cinemas. We do not mind which classification this movie is released under, but it must be released otherwise it will become an example to suppress the information for any future events.

Over 43,000 people have already signed the petition to request the release of this movie in New Zealand.

<https://chnng.it/SZtmRVLx>

Over 1.1 Billion people in world have already watched this movie. This movie has been released in countries like Australia, USA, UK, Canada and many more. There is almost one show every hour in Hyots Australia (snapshot attached), while Indian New Zealanders eagerly wait for this movie to be released.

I request you to please consider our plea to release the movie 'The Kashmiri Files' in New Zealand.

Ngā Mihi,
s 9(2)(a)

10:58



HOYTS



RECOMMENDED

MOVIES

FOOD & DRINKS

CINEMAS

REWARDS

TODAY

TOMORROW

MON 21 MAR

TUE 22 MAR

Chadstone

12:30PM

XTREMESCREEN

1:10PM

STANDARD

1:50PM

STANDARD

3:30PM

STANDARD

4:40PM

STANDARD

5:20PM

STANDARD

8:10PM

STANDARD

9:00PM

STANDARD

9:40PM

XTREMESCREEN

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 1:25 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please release The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear office

Please release The Kashmir Files as it based on facts

Thanks

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 1:46 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release #TheKashmirFiles

Categories: Non-form

Hi

I would like to protest in favor of releasing the movie #TheKashmirFiles in NZ.

The plight of innocent Hindus genocide and Exodus must be brought forward to the current generation. Just as the extermination of Jews was brought forward to the world, the same for Kashmiris and sensible human beings are important.

I hope that the justice will prevail and the movie be released.

Thank you for your understanding

Kind regards

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 2:23 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

The Kashmir Files movie is based on the true events. It is not a fictional story. If screening of this movie is not allowed it will tantamount to deprive citizens the freedom of press and right to know about historical events when handful perpetrators of genocide displaced thousands of innocent families.

The NZ government is urged to treat this movie just another movie based on historical events. Government must not pay extra attention to handful of radicals out to make a noise to disturb peaceful atmosphere.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 2:33 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora!

I got to know a few Islamic organisations want The Kashmir Files film to be banned here in New Zealand and the film has been put on hold from its release.

I feel such a demand for a ban shows the intolerant nature of some people. There were films like Argo, Zero Dark Thirty, Schindler's List and more. Should we have banned them because those films showed an uncomfortable truth?

It's upsetting to see New Zealand which is seen as an example of a free society where everyone is free to express themselves. Demand for a ban for this film is against democracy and a threat to freedom of expression.

Here is a Interview of a terrorist who was invloved in genocide of Kahmir's non-muslim minority.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsDhlCBCD7Q>

and an old video about the genocode of Kashmir's non-muslim minority.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tXX7caN2tU&t=85s>

I request you to use your conscience when you make the decision.

Thanks and Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) IAMNZ <s 9(2)(a)@inzone.org.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 3:30 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Fwd: Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@inzone.org.nz>
Date: Sun, 20 Mar 2022 at 1:26 PM
Subject: Kashmir Files
To: <info@classificationoffice.hovt.nz>

Hi

IAMNZ is the association of Kiwi Indians of diverse religious, linguistic and regional backgrounds. This organisation of nearly 50 years is proud to cater to the largest Kiwi Indian population based primarily in Auckland. Our view below about the classification of this movie may please be given due consideration:

- This movie is not against any religion. It shows the historic fact of indoctrinated terrorists chasing away the aboriginals from the valley of Kashmir.
- Unfortunately there seems to be some individuals who seem to be tarnishing it
- Civilised world has released it and people are freely watching it with zero occurrence of any untoward incident.
- We believe religions promote peace and such movies can only bring out the negatives and help community bonding

We look forward to an early release with appropriate rating as deemed fit by the labelling body

The above follows a wider consensus arrived after an online meeting of wider forum of community leaders and general public, yesterday. I shall be happy to engage further please

Regards

s 9(2)(a)
s 9(2)(a) IAMNZ
s 9(2)(a)

Sent from [Ultima](#)

--

s 9(2)(a)
Indian Association Manukau New Zealand
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 6:42 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: "The Kashmir Files" - Please DO NO FURTHER INJUSTICE by censoring movie
Categories: Non-form

Dear Madam/Sir,

It will be a gross injustice to Hindus if you decide to ban the movie "The Kashmir Files" which shows the truth of what horror, brutality of the Kashmiri Hindu Genocide.

On behalf of Hindus who have suffered slaughter of 548 million Hindus in last 1400 yrs,
I being a Hindu, request you to kindly & promptly release the movie "As Is" without any censorship.
<https://hindugenocide.com/>
<https://hindugenocide.com/timeline/>

Request you to read through these excellent articles before you make a decision.

‘Ralive, Tsalive, Galive’ convert, run or die’: The Kashmir Files should shake our collective conscience and make our politicians, media who quietly let Kashmiri Hindus die accountable
<https://www.opindia.com/2022/03/the-kashmir-files-vivek-agnihotri-film-kashmiri-hindu-exodus-genocide/>

Why Vivek Agnihotri's film is so historic
<https://talageri.blogspot.com/2022/03/a-review-of-film-kashmir-files-by-vivek.html?m=1>

The Kashmir Files has left the genocide deniers nowhere to run & hide
<https://t.co/gLct3aI4JE>

The Kashmir Files: The real stories of brutality presented in the movie
<https://www.opindia.com/2022/03/the-kashmir-the-real-incidents-presented-in-the-movie>

#TheKashmirFiles. Why Bollywood And The Liberal Jamaat Hate The Truth
<https://swarajyamag.com/ideas/thekashmirfiles-why-bollywood-and-the-liberal-jamaat-hate-the-truth>

'The Kashmir Files': What It Means To A Hindu Living In Kanyakumari
<https://swarajyamag.com/culture/the-kashmir-files-what-it-means-to-a-hindu-living-in-kanyakumari>

Supreme Court advocate J Sai Deepak pens a heartfelt note about Vivek Agnihotri's newly released movie 'The Kashmir Files'
<https://www.opindia.com/2022/03/supreme-court-advocate-j-sai-deepak-pens-a-heartfelt-note-about-vivek-agnihotri-movie-the-kashmir-files/>

Kashmir Files, Godhra Files, Bengal Files... Why We Must Not Stop Telling The Stories
<https://swarajyamag.com/politics/kashmir-files-godhra-files-bengal-files-why-we-must-not-stop-telling-the-stories>

The Kashmir Files: A Stellar Film That Takes Away Nothing From The Truth
<https://swarajyamag.com/movies/the-kashmir-files-a-stellar-film-that-takes-away-nothing-from-the-truth>

‘Leaves me in shivers, tears, and nausea’: Girija Tickoo’s niece speaks about the unspeakable atrocities her aunt faced, urges everyone to watch #KashmirFiles

<https://www.opindia.com/2022/03/girija-tickoo-niece-speaks-about-the-unspeakable-atrocities-her-aunt-faced-urges-everyone-to-watch-kashmirfiles/>

Thank you very much. Your help in helping Hindus tell their story of mass slaughter to the world is deeply and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: Coalition Hindus nz <cohonz2021@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 3:50 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: Jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz; j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz;
christopher.luxon@parliament.govt.nz; david.seymour@parliament.govt.nz;
priyancaMP@parliament.govt.nz; Gaurav.sharma@parliament.govt.nz;
president@nzfirstparty.org.nz
Subject: Censorship of 'THE KASHMIR FILES'
Attachments: COHONZ - NZ Censor Board.pdf

Categories: Non-form

Dear David,

Our submission for your consideration in regards to the above matter is attached.

We look forward for a favourable consideration

Kindly acknowledge receipt

Regards

From the Team at: **COHONZ**



Coalition of Hindus of New Zealand

<https://www.cohonz.org/>

Email: cohonz2021@gmail.com



20th March 2022

Mr David Shanks - The Chief Censor
Classification Office
info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

Censorship of **'THE KASHMIR FILES'**

Before the Censor Board makes its final decision, we would like you to consider some of the following information/viewpoints.

1. It is a fact that this happened in Kashmir in 1989-90. A large number of people, majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits were killed during that time. You are welcome to check some independent sources to confirm this. Furthermore, some of the eyewitnesses to these events are actually residing in India & New Zealand till date.
2. A large number of people, again a majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits had to leave Kashmir region. There are official census figures which prove this. One can have arguments whether they left of their own accord or whether they were forced to leave, or such conditions were created in Kashmir that they were left with no choice but to flee but this did happen and some of them are living here in Aotearoa who could help you understand their suffering then.
3. This film is based on the Director's viewpoint on how he perceived that this happened and based on his interviews with the victims and his thorough research.
4. To best of our knowledge, no one in India had denied the fact that it happened. the argument there is about which political party or political leader was responsible for it. The fact is that massacre did happen, and some militant groups of Muslims were responsible for it who were implanted by neighbouring Pakistan as per govt records – not all Muslims and we have never claimed this to be the case.
5. There is nothing to stop other film makers to put their viewpoints forward through movies, documentaries or other means in future years based on the facts same as this movie.
6. Is it your opinion that by banning the film here in Aotearoa will change the facts? Or you are denying that it's not fact based?
7. To give an analogy, 9/11 attacks took place in USA by Muslim terrorists. NZ Government stood in solidarity with rest of the world and even as recently as 10th Sept 21, it expressed unity and solidarity with victims and families of the ones who were affected. None of the movies made on 9/11 were banned here.
8. To give a local analogy, if someone wants to make a movie of the Christchurch Mosque attack in 20 years later, would the Censor Board ban such movie on the basis that it could inflame hatred against a particular community? The Christchurch event is a true incident which needs to be recorded and should be allowed under the freedom of expression principle in New Zealand. This movie is no different.
9. The Kashmir Files movie has been released and screened apart from India, in Australia, USA and other countries and no violence of any kind has been reported to date. It has generated some serious and some heated discussions which is natural for any healthy society, but it has been managed well; especially we are attempting to address some of the wrongs being done on our own NZ soil.

10. The current government's move to teach Aotearoa history in schools is a brave one and sets a good example that Truth and historical facts cannot be suppressed for long.
11. We are not aware of any cases of violence by Hindu/Indian/Sikh communities here in Aotearoa. We are sincerely assuming that you are seeking/consult balanced advice on this issue rather than considering views of one particular community. Our biggest fear is that your possible decision to ban this film will set a dangerous precedent of setting one community's concerns over the other. How does one really decide who's concerns have more weight than the other!
12. Our last point is that it DID happen, it is a FACT. It should not have happened. Some victims of this crime are residing here, but we are not aware of any perpetrator living here. Thus, screening of this movie will enlighten us all and remind us NOT to let it happen here or anywhere else. Depriving the wider community, Indians, and even Muslim community, who have hitherto been unaware that such genocide occurred will miss out on getting a viewpoint of this sad history. We hold no animosity towards our Muslim brothers and sisters here as we know those living here were not responsible for these gruesome events and are convinced that they will be just horrified of the past.

Our hope is that your decision does not alienate a particular community by sending a message that their pain does not matter, their history has no value in Aotearoa and their financial, professional, social, and cultural contribution is not valued by this nation!

We hope that the right to information and freedom to choose what we should see is preserved through your decision.

Best Regards

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From the Team at: **COHONZ**

Coalition of Hindus of New Zealand

<https://www.cohonz.org/>

Email: cohonz2021@gmail.com

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 4:09 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Movie screening of The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Sent from my iPhone. I am very concerned at the current ban on the movie The Kashmir Files. If the movie Schindler's List was not banned then why is this movie that shows the truth about the genocide and mass exodus from the Kashmir Valley being banned. We have a right to see this movie. It's our truth and in NZ democracy is paramount. Please urge the PM to not ban this movie. It is for the sake of humanity. All countries including Australia , UK , USA are currently showing

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 4:14 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: A critical view on The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

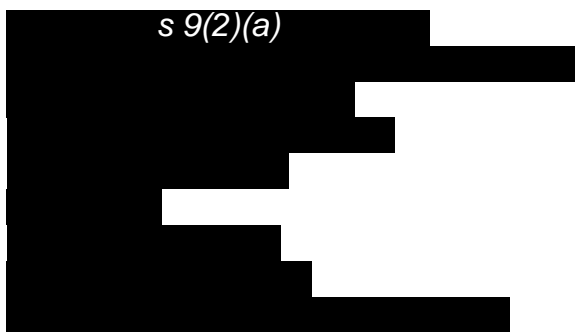
Dear Chief Censor,

I believe a lot of misinformation is being spread in favour of 'The Kashmir Files', presenting it as 'historical truth'! I have not seen the film, but I would like to forward to you the following link of a review of the film which strongly argues that it is distorted history to foment anti-Muslim hysteria in India. I trust the portal, and hence am forwarding the link which may help you to take an informed decision.

<https://thewire.in/film/the-kashmir-files-manipulative-propaganda-vehicle-rouse-emotions-vivek-agnihotri-bjp>

With warm regards,

s 9(2)(a)



From: s 9(2)(a) Hindu Council of New Zealand <hinducouncilnz s 9(2)(a)@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 4:29 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Hindu Community Submission on The Kashmir Files
Attachments: Hindu Community Submission to Chief Censor.pdf

Categories: Non-form

The Chief Censor
David Shanks
Classifications Office
New Zealand

Please find attached to this email a submission from the Hindu Community on the Screening of the film "The Kashmir Files".

Please feel free to get in touch with me for any further queries.

Kind regards

s 9(2)(a)

Hindu Council of New Zealand

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 4:48 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Question about Censorship

Categories: Non-form

Hi There,

We have been told that you are reviewing your own decision about releasing the film Kashmir Files.

Can you please let us know the reasons for the same?

We are gathering support to challenge the outcome if found illogical

Regards

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 5:04 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hi there,

Hope you are well! But disappointed to see that freedom is being put on stake here for us New Zealanders.

I would like to request you to release the movie The Kashmir Files. It is based on true events and it is such a shame that we are here writing thsi to you to release a movie which holds significant information and is bringing out the genocide of Kashmiri paneits in their own land.

Could you please relook at your decision to ban this movie in New Zealand.

Cheers

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 5:13 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

To,
David Shanks
Chief Consor
New Zealand

Dear Sir

As a responsible NZ citizen of Indian heritage, who has been in the profession of journalism, I have tried to summarise basic facts which have been covered in the film "Kashmir Files". All the facts which I have given in my summary below can be verified by historical documents. This summary is presented here to enable you to understand why some New Zealanders are opposing showing this film while others are supportive of its showing in NZ in name of freedom of speech and personal choice.

A film called "The Kashmir Files" which has been released in cinemas throughout India. It is been distributed for global viewing and Event Cinemas is the distributor of this film in New Zealand. It is a well-made film for its artistry and the storyline theme is to show horrendous exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir in late 1980's. However, this film has NOT been made with the simple intent of telling a powerful story. It is a politically driven film, made with the intent to scratch the wounds of the past, furthering a divide at present while alienating/promoting discrimination against one community across India.

Here are a few FACTS to keep in mind while BJP tries to extract political mileage from this unfortunate episode in independent India's history:

1. When the exodus occurred, the Janta Dal government was in power in centre which was supported by BJP, NOT the Congress party (Yet the film blames the Congress).
2. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was the Prime minister of the Janta Dal was in power but NOT Congress yet (the film manages to blame congress) supported govt.
3. BJP leader Jaganmohan was the governor of J&K at the time when insurgency was at the peak resulting in the exodus of Pandits.
4. Consider how the film does not even mention the above 3 factors while blaming the entire Kashmiri Pandits tragedy on everyone else, such as student groups, activists, journalists, liberals, secularists, leftists, and ironically all groups that are critical of Hindutva/BJP ideology. Clearly the film is a political propaganda to further divide Indians and demonise a particular party and a community.
5. During that period the seeds of Hindu-Muslim divide was being planted in the country by BJP. Ram Mandir issue was also heating up. They were lighting the fire, some disgruntled Muslim fanatics spread the fire, and since then the exodus of some Kashmiri Pandits have been used as a rallying point to strengthen vote bank for BJP (Film obviously ignores this.).
6. The BJP formed govt at the centre 4 times since 1990, yet they haven't done anything to rehabilitate the Kashmiri Pandits. Why? To add insult to injury, the BJP formed a govt with PDP, a Kashmir based political party that has support from separatist elements, a party whose official stance was denial of Kashmiri Pandits rehabilitation. (Film obviously ignores this.).
7. How do you decide which lives matter the most and which massacre is the worst? Google the 1947 Jammu Massacres. 100,000 Muslims were killed by extremist Sikhs and Hindus..... Meanwhile the number

of Kashmiri Pandits killed during the exodus is 399. Over 15,000 Kashmiri Muslims were also killed by Islamic terrorists in that same period. Sikhs were also minorities in Kashmir, and they were also targeted in the valley by the Islamic terrorists, same as Kashmiri Pandits (google Chattisinghpura massacre), yet the Sikhs did not flee from the valley like Kashmiri Pandits. Why don't these stories matter? Films have been made on Kashmiri Pandits; books have been written on the Kashmiri Pandits exodus. Therefore, this may sound harsh, but at this time it is pure privilege for the Kashmiri Pandits to claim neglect when literally nobody talks of the other communities that have been killed. (of course, Kashmir Files ONLY talks of the Kashmiri Pandits and conveniently ignores killing of other community whose numbers were manyfold higher).

8. In response to a recent RTI question, District Police headquarters of Srinagar has informed that Kashmiri militants had killed 1,724 people in Jammu and Kashmir since inception of militancy in 1990, of which, 89 were Kashmiri Pandits, and 1,635 of other faiths! If this is true, why do we only hear of the Kashmiri Pandits?

9. The film maligns phrases like "intellectuals" and demonises "leftists", making it even more obvious that the film has a clear-cut political agenda for a particular party. It reeks of anti-intellectualism and the film attacks a particular university (JNU). Only one political party benefits from such smearing tactics.

10. Vivek Agnihotri, the director, is often on television debates defending BJP and spinning narratives for BJP. Actor Anupam Kher is also very vocal and his wife is in BJP. Actor Mithun Chakraborty is a BJP politician himself. They are NOT going to make a balanced film. They are all modern versions of Goebbels. Google "Goebbels."

11. Many politicians of the ruling govt, including the PM, congratulated the makers of the film. That barely ever happens. This film has been widely supported by BJP and RSS.

In short, the purpose is to ignite fire. Keep it burning while spinning narratives for the current folks in power(The usual "Hindus are in danger" nonsense and "All liberals/leftists and Muslims are enemies").

Thank You

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 5:31 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: s 9(2)(a) IAMNZ
Subject: Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

We strongly feel that this movie should be released for screening asap.

There is lot of misinformation and incorrect interpretations and imaginary phobia that the movie will create divisions in communities.

This is completely wrong.

Instead of simply listening to views of few select minority, consider views of wider public.

All New Zwalanders have freedom of expression and right to see this movie.

Appreciate clearing this movie for screening.

Thanks and Regards

s 9(2)(a)
Mob s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 6:44 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

I am resident of nz. And as a resident of nz can i please ask why you guys are not letting release the kashmir files in nz cinemas. You guys did let release anti hindu movies like pk , shikara and haider. The kashmir files is not even anti muslim or anything. These are the facts that shown by mr vivek agnihotri. These are the facts and reality that kashmiri pandita faced in their own state. This is really one sided decision as whole world letting this movie release where nz censor board doesn't.

So i please request you to watch this movie first and do some research about the facts and the stuff happened to the pandits of kashmir.

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 7:49 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: info@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; United Voice

Categories: Non-form

20 March 2022

Mr. David Shanks
The chief sensor
The classification office

Subject: Release of the movie “The Kashmir Files” for screening in New Zealand

Good afternoon

New Zealand is a country which prides itself at being a truly multi -cultural and multi ethnic society. Various communities live in harmony over here. Included in these is the Kashmiri community which, though small , is very well established . It mostly comprises of professionals. I myself am a Kashmiri and consider New Zealand my home for last 27 years.

I , along with the Kashmiri community in particular and the wider Indian community in general, am very disturbed by the fact that a movie “ The Kashmir Files” directed by Mr. Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri and running in hundreds of theatres worldwide has not been cleared to be screened in our country.

More disturbing is the fact that this movie was screened for clearance, cleared and then stopped . This happened due to some concerns voiced by few people.

The movie is based on facts. I and other Kashmiri people here can vouch for the authenticity of the incidents shown in the movie. My own house was burnt down.
We have among us a young man whose grand father was the first victim of terrorism in Kashmir.

Secondly there have been no incidents of violence in India or anywhere in the world since the release of this movie on 11th March

This movie is screening in 55 theatres in Australia

We have seen movies of Holocaust, 9/11 terror attacks, Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

We are allowed to watch the Ukrainian disaster daily

Lastly I want to say that we are mature adults who know how to act responsibly and its our right to freedom which is being trampled upon in order to appease a section of the society.

I appeal to you on behalf of the Indian community in general and the Kashmiri community in particular to allow the screening of this movie.

In today's world this movie will soon be available on OTT platforms

Moreover banning movies only increases the curiosity of the people leading to more demand. We should treat this movie as a movie and rate it appropriately for viewing in our country.

There are other agencies that can monitor any presumed untoward incidences.

Lastly let me close this letter with few words from you

"Addressing misinformation doesn't mean telling people what to think, or stifling debate with more censorship. We must look at better ways to come together to prevent harm."

David Shanks, Chief Censor

I hope that the sentiments of the community are taken into consideration and this movie is cleared for screening soon

With warm regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 8:16 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release of the movie "Kashmir Files"
Attachments: Kashmir Files.pdf

Categories: Non-form

Dear Mr. Shanks,
I would like to communicate my support for the release of the above movie. Please find attached.

Look forward for your reply.

Regards,
s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

20 March 2022

David Shanks

Chief Sensor

Office of Film and Censor Classification

Subject: Release of the movie "Kashmir Files"

Dear Mr Shanks,

I am writing to you as I am extremely concerned about recent reports that the movie "Kashmir Files" may not be released in New Zealand. As I understand that a minority group of our society are spreading lies regarding this movie.

Please note that this movie is one of the most successful Bollywood movies in India. The reason for this is, the movie depicts the facts that happened in Kashmir. This is not fiction but the truth. I am also saddened with certain reports where the word exodus has been used while describing this episode of our history. It wasn't an exodus, it was a genocide that displaced more than 5, 00,000 people from their ancestral homes.

The movie has released around the world (India/Australia/ America/ Canada) to name a few. This movie has only got praise and appreciation. Even the Prime Minister of India has validated the truth shown in this movie. (Please double check with the Indian High Commission if required)

India (biggest democracy) has the largest Muslim population in the world. The movie is not only being screened all over India, but is also becoming the most successful movie in recent times.

I am convinced that some minority people in New Zealand are trying to hinder our freedom of expression and freedom to information. We cannot allow such people to win.

As a responsible New Zealander and human being I am convinced that we need to take steps against Islamophobia, but at the same time I also believe that it's our duty to ensure that steps that we take, do not mistakenly deprive us of our basic human rights of "Freedom of Expression and Information.

Selective censorship in the name of Islamophobia cannot and should not be encouraged.

Therefore I urge you to release this movie at the earliest so that we can watch part of our history no matter how uncomfortable it might be and learn from it for a better future.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 8:25 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Censorship of 'THE KASHMIR FILES'

Categories: Non-form

20th March 2022

Mr David Shanks - The Chief Censor
Classification Office
info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

Censorship of 'THE KASHMIR FILES'

Before the Censor Board makes its final decision, we would like you to consider some of the following information/viewpoints.

1. It is a fact that this happened in Kashmir in 1989-90. A large number of people, majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pandits were killed during that time. You are welcome to check some independent sources to confirm this. Furthermore, some of the eyewitnesses to these events are actually residing in India & New Zealand till date.
2. A large number of people, again a majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pandits, had to leave the Kashmir region. There are official census figures which prove this. One can have arguments whether they left of their own accord or whether they were forced to leave, or such conditions were created in Kashmir that they were left with no choice but to flee but this did happen and some of them are living here in Aotearoa who could help you understand their suffering then.
3. This film is based on the Director's viewpoint on how he perceived that this happened and based on his interviews with the victims and his thorough research.
4. To the best of our knowledge, no one in India had denied the fact that it happened. The argument there is about which political party or political leader was responsible for it. The fact is that massacre did happen, and some militant groups of Muslims were responsible for it who were implanted by neighbouring Pakistan as per govt records – not all Muslims and we have never claimed this to be the case.
5. There is nothing to stop other filmmakers from putting their viewpoints forward through movies, documentaries or other means in future years based on the facts same as this movie.
6. Is it your opinion that by banning the film here in Aotearoa will change the facts? Or are you denying that it's not fact based?
7. To give an analogy, 9/11 attacks took place in USA by Muslim terrorists. The NZ Government stood in solidarity with the rest of the world and even as recently as 10th Sept 21, it expressed unity and solidarity with victims and families of the ones who were affected. None of the movies made on 9/11 were banned here.
8. To give a local analogy, if someone wants to make a movie of the Christchurch Mosque attack in 20 years, would the Censor Board ban such a movie on the basis that it could inflame hatred against a particular community? The Christchurch event is a true incident which needs to be recorded and should be allowed under the freedom of expression principle in New Zealand. This movie is no different.
9. The Kashmir Files movie has been released and screened apart from India, in Australia, USA and other countries and no violence of any kind has been reported to date. It has generated some serious and some heated discussions which is natural for any healthy society, but it has been managed well; especially we are attempting to address some of the wrongs being done on our own NZ soil.
10. The current government's move to teach Aotearoa history in schools is a brave one and sets a good example that Truth and historical facts cannot be suppressed for long.
11. We are not aware of any cases of violence by Hindu/Indian/Sikh communities here in Aotearoa. We sincerely assume that you are seeking/consulting balanced advice on this issue rather than considering views of one particular community. Our biggest fear is that your possible decision to ban this film will set a

dangerous precedent of setting one community's concerns over the other. How does one really decide who's concerns have more weight than the other!

12. Our last point is that it DID happen, it is a FACT. It should not have happened. Some victims of this crime are residing here, but we are not aware of any perpetrator living here. Thus, screening of this movie will enlighten us all and remind us NOT to let it happen here or anywhere else. Depriving the wider community, Indians, and even Muslim community, who have hitherto been unaware that such genocide occurred will miss out on getting a viewpoint of this sad history. We hold no animosity towards our Muslim brothers and sisters here as we know those living here were not responsible for these gruesome events and are convinced that they will be just horrified of the past.

Our hope is that your decision does not alienate a particular community by sending a message that their pain does not matter, their history has no value in Aotearoa and their financial, professional, social, and cultural contribution is not valued by this nation!

We hope that the right to information and freedom to choose what we should see is preserved through your decision.

Best Regards

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 9:31 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora,

Being a proud Indian Kiwi I believe in the freedom of speech and expression in this free country. Freedom of expression shouldn't be limited to just some people.

The Kashmir Files is a film about genocide that happened in 1990s. This is not a fictitious or average bollywood movie. This movie is a must watch for people wanting to know the pain and suffering of the people who actually faced this. If certain people are not wanting to share this pain, they have an option to not go to see the movie.

There are a list of jewish holucast movies or movies about other atrocities committed by humankind but people still go an see them, does this bother any community? No, because it was part of history and the movies were based on factual events and so is Kashmir Files.

I request you to release this movie as scheduled and let the general public make a decision to watch it or give it a pass.

Regards,
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 9:34 pm
To: Information Unit; David Shanks
Subject: Kashmir Files Film - screening decision by Chief censor

Categories: Non-form

Dear Mr Shanks,

I am writing to express my concerns as it has come to my attention that there is a petition to you to stop the screening of the movie Kashmir Files in cinemas in New Zealand.

My question to you Sir, is why or on what basis is this Film being stopped from being screened?

This film as the article on Stuff mentioned is not a work of Fiction. It is based on true events that have actually happened. The filmmaker, Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri, has undertaken extensive research to capture the story and experiences of the victims authentically. This includes interviewing more than 700 Kashmiri Hindus over 3 years. Regardless of how uncomfortable history may be, it is the truth. Attempts to defame and censor genuine, research-based work, is not what by my understanding the purpose or the charter of the Classification Office.

By my understanding one of the reasons the petition is being put in front of you:

A Facebook post at Muslims of New Zealand requested members to contact the NZ Police with a template declaring the film "Islamophobic" because it is "violent and graphic", "supported by Hindutva elements" and alleges the purpose is "to raise anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments." The letter addressed to the NZ Police alleges that the film will lead to a "rise in Islamophobia in New Zealand and hate toward Muslims in Aotearoa."

So where is the evidence for this?

How many Hindus have caused violent or terrorist acts against Muslims or for that matter any other community in New Zealand?

The argument that the film is violent and graphic and therefore should not be shown, supposes that violent, graphic depictions of true events should be banned. This would set a precedent of silencing the victims of terrorism and other hate crimes.

If that is their argument then it raises equally valid questions about other similar films that have been screened.

- Would the NZ censor board consider banning Schindler's list?
- Hotel Rwanda a film on Rwanda genocide had violence and was not banned

Why were these films not banned or even anyone from the Classifications office choosing to "take stock and pause"?

Whilst we are sympathetic to the Muslim community since the Christchurch attack, there is no evidence that this film has or will lead to attacks on Muslims by Hindus in New Zealand.

The film has been released in several countries including Australia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, India and is to be released in France on 23 March. There have been no reports of what the Muslim community is claiming in New Zealand as the potential outcome of showing the film.

I urge you to consider the facts (and not emotions or “popular appeal”), consider the truth, and then make your decision so that we continue to have the faith in the decision making process, good judgement, independence as well as integrity of the Classification office.

I look forward to hearing the outcome and your decision.

Nga Mihi.

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 9:35 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir flies

Categories: Non-form

To whom it may concern

I ask that this film be removed from viewing in any form through New Zealand.

This film inaccurately portrays a part of Indian history. The viewing of this film in India has lead to further unrest in India and unless the information is corrected it should not be shown in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

s 9(2)(a)
New Zealand citizen by birth s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 9:37 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: Banning Indian Movie
Attachments: FB_IMG_1647764203937.jpg
Categories: Non-form

Hi there

This is s 9(2)(a), I would like humbly request you to keep the ban on Kashmir Files movie. This movie only shows one sided story and instigates hatred among two communities. I dont belong to any of these communities. Director of this made this movie to please current government of India. I have seen some videos on Facebook about people's reactions after watching this, some people are openly saying to his fellows to rape other communities women. I am so concerned about this. There are some people in NZ who blindly support these types of movies because it's against one community. Please check out attached photo to this email as you will see director of this movie is trying to pressure on NZ government. Thank you



Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri 
@vivekagnihotri

IMPORTANT & URGENT:

Some communal groups are trying to put pressure on New Zealand Censor to ban [#TheKashmirFiles](#). I request all Indians to be united and oppose this undemocratic tactic by radicals with utmost humility and release this film about HUMANITY and HUMAN RIGHTS. [#FOE](#)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 10:12 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: Kashmir Files censorship

Categories: Non-form

Dear Classification officer

Re: The Kashmir Files movie censoring details

I belong to Indian community who wishes that the movie should not be censored in NZ. I respect the law of this land and trust the decision should be made within ambit of a law applicable in this matter.

I understand you operate the classification and censorship based on authority given by the FVPC act 1993. The film has attracted some sensations, and your department may have received complaints against the movie by a certain section of communities, but regardless of that your decision should be based on the operation of law.

I am not doubting your integrity, but I am aware of the pressure you may be under. However, I wish that the decision taken in this matter require a serious reassessment by you and your department.

The act has given powers to complaint against the movie, but I also am sure that I do have rights to question on reasonable grounds to explain how the decision was reached to censor the movie?

I request you point me out to the specific elements that are objectionable under the law? So far I have researched after watching (a copy I have) the movie, and compared with the Section 3 of FVPC 1993, I have a serious doubts if there is anything in the movie that require your department's undue interference.

I trust you will consider this matter seriously, and I look forward to you pointed reply and explanations as how and the basis of your decision.

Yours sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

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From: s 9(2)(a) AIAI <s 9(2)(a)@aiai.org.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 10:26 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files
Attachments: The Kashmir Files Letter.doc

Categories: Non-form

Mr David Shanks,
Please see attached our letter of concern in regards to the movie The Kashmir Files.

Hoping that you will consider our requests as mentioned in the attached letter.
Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Auckland Indian Association Inc.

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)
E: s 9(2)(a)
145 New North Road,
Eden Terrace
Auckland 1021
P O Box 8110 Symonds Street,
Auckland .



The Auckland Indian Association Inc.



The Mahatma Gandhi Centre, 145 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1021, PO Box 8110 Symonds Street, Auckland 1150, New Zealand www.AIAI.ORG.NZ; Phone: (09) 377 2424; Mob: +64 21 025 56210 / +64 21 525 865

PRESIDENT: Dhansukhbhai Lal; E-Mail: president@aiai.org.nz

GENERAL SECRETARY: Champa Patel; E-Mail: secretary@aiai.org.nz

Mr David Shanks - The Chief Censor
Classification Office
info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

Subject: Censorship of **'THE KASHMIR FILES'**

Auckland Indian Association is the Largest and Oldest Indian Association in New Zealand and we have been serving the Wider Indian community for more 100 years.

The Association was formed to preserve and protect our Language, Religion, Music, Arts and Culture.

We have a Temple (Radha Krishna Mandir) on site and we have religious classes every week and we celebrate all our Hindu Festivals such as Lord Krishna's Birthday, Lord Rama's Birthdays, Navratri, Holi and International Yoga Day. Every year we have thousands of devotees visit our temple and take part in various events organised by the Association.

We are concerned the release of the movie The Kashmir Files has been stopped because some groups have raised their concerns about this film. We believe that this movie should be released in New Zealand theatres as soon as possible.

New Zealand is a country committed to freedom of expression and this film is widely regarded as being based on facts.

Before the Censor Board makes its final decision, we would like you to consider some of the following information/viewpoints.

1. It is a fact that this happened in Kashmir in 1989-90. A large number of people, majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits were killed during that time. You are welcome to check some independent sources to confirm this. Furthermore, some of the eyewitnesses to these events are actually residing in India & New Zealand till date.
2. A large number of people, again a majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits had to leave Kashmir region. There are official census figures which prove this. One can have arguments whether they left of their own accord or whether they were forced to leave, or such conditions were created in Kashmir that they were left with no choice but to flee but this did happen and some of them are living here in Aotearoa who could help you understand their suffering then.
3. This film is based on the Director's viewpoint on how he perceived that this happened and based on his interviews with the victims and his thorough research.
4. To best of our knowledge, no one in India had denied the fact that it happened. the argument there is about which political party or political leader was responsible for it. The fact is that massacre did happen, and some militant groups of Muslims were responsible for it who were implanted by neighbouring Pakistan as per govt records – not all Muslims and we have never claimed this to be the case.

5. There is nothing to stop other film makers to put their viewpoints forward through movies, documentaries or other means in future years based on the facts same as this movie.
6. Is it your opinion that by banning the film here in Aotearoa will change the facts? Or you are denying that it's not fact based?
7. To give an analogy, 9/11 attacks took place in USA by Muslim terrorists. NZ Government stood in solidarity with rest of the world and even as recently as 10th Sept 21, it expressed unity and solidarity with victims and families of the ones who were affected. None of the movies made on 9/11 were banned here.
8. To give a local analogy, if someone wants to make a movie of the Christchurch Mosque attack in 20 years later, would the Censor Board ban such movie on the basis that it could inflame hatred against a particular community? The Christchurch event is a true incident which needs to be recorded and should be allowed under the freedom of expression principle in New Zealand. This movie is no different.
9. The Kashmir Files movie has been released and screened apart from India, in Australia, USA and other countries and no violence of any kind has been reported to date. It has generated some serious and some heated discussions which is natural for any healthy society, but it has been managed well; especially we are attempting to address some of the wrongs being done on our own NZ soil.
10. The current government's move to teach Aotearoa history in schools is a brave one and sets a good example that Truth and historical facts cannot be suppressed for long.
11. We are not aware of any cases of violence by Hindu/Indian/Sikh communities here in Aotearoa. We are sincerely assuming that you are seeking/consult balanced advice on this issue rather than considering views of one particular community. Our biggest fear is that your possible decision to ban this film will set a dangerous precedent of setting one community's concerns over the other. How does one really decide who's concerns have more weight than the other!
12. Our last point is that it DID happen, it is a FACT. It should not have happened. Some victims of this crime are residing here, but we are not aware of any perpetrator living here. Thus, screening of this movie will enlighten us all and remind us NOT to let it happen here or anywhere else. Depriving the wider community, Indians, and even Muslim community, who have hitherto been unaware that such genocide occurred will miss out on getting a viewpoint of this sad history. We hold no animosity towards our Muslim brothers and sisters here as we know those living here were not responsible for these gruesome events and are convinced that they will be just horrified of the past.

Our hope is that your decision does not alienate a particular community by sending a message that their pain does not matter, their history has no value in Aotearoa and their financial, professional, social, and cultural contribution is not valued by this nation!

We hope that the right to information and freedom to choose what we should see is preserved through your decision.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Auckland Indian Association Inc.

Mobile: **s 9(2)(a)**

E : **s 9(2)(a)**

145 New North Road,

Eden Terrace

Auckland 1021

P O Box 8110 Symonds Street,

Auckland .

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 11:21 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Hello,

Please let the kashmir files release as a movie to the public. The public needs to know about the kashmiri pandits and their struggle. I hope nz supports and does what is right and does not take any decisions based on pressure from communal groups.

Regards,
s 9(2)(a)

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Sunday, 20 March 2022 11:58 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release of the film The Kashmir Files in New Zealand

Categories: Non-form

To
The Honourable Chief Censor,

This is with regard to the release of the film The Kashmir Files in New Zealand.

As a Hindu New Zealander, a ban or a severe restriction on this film makes me feel discriminated and ignored. If sensitive films are to be banned, then there will be huge number of films which portray genocide, will need to be banned. Genocide of any type should be exposed and not be suppressed. There will not be any untoward incident in New Zealand because of the film as the New Zealand public is mature and wise enough.

It is my humble request that this film be released in New Zealand and the voiceless, and helpless Kashmiri Hindu Community will at least get some closure after so many decades. I condemn any form of violence against any community as I believe in the principles of Mahatma Gandhi which are non violence and peace.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 1:13 am
To: David Shanks
Cc: Information Unit; Kiri.Allan@parliament.govt.nz;
Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz; Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz;
Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz;
Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz; shane.reti@parliament.govt.nz;
David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz; Nicola.Willis@parliament.govt.nz;
hoc.wellington@mea.gov.in; office@consulateofindia.in
Subject: In support of the release of The Kashmir Files in theatres across NZ
Categories: Non-form

Hello David,

As responsible members of the Kashmiri Hindu community, and as a citizen and permanent resident of Australia, my husband s 9(2)(a) and I, write this email from Sydney to extend our full support for the release of the Indian movie, The Kashmir Files, in New Zealand.

It was very surprising and disappointing to see a progressive state like NZ refuse the release of this important movie that relays the poignant story of our community and of our unfortunate exodus from Kashmir. The movie ably handles the delicate issue of the exodus through very moving and evocative performances. This film has already been released in all mainstream theatres across the world including in the United States, United Kingdom, Europe and Australia—where it has garnered immense support and appreciation.

We understand that you are currently reviewing the decision about the release of this film and strongly urge you to consider permitting the immediate release of the film. This measure is also critical to ensure that people do not indulge in pirated versions of the movie, which unfortunately are already in circulation.

We are confident that you will be open and understanding on this issue, and look forward to the immediate release of this movie across NZ.

We thank you for your time and consideration,

With kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:59 am
To: Information Unit
Cc: Qiuyi Tan; Laura Walters
Subject: Concerns regarding the movie 'The Kashmir Files'
Attachments: Concerns regarding 'The Kashmir Files'.pdf

Categories: Non-form

Hi Team,

I would like to bring to your attention some of the concerns I have regarding the movie 'The Kashmir Files'. Since the material contains pictures (screenshots) I have placed all of this in a PDF document and have attached it to the email.

Please keep the information confidential (especially the pictures) as some of the pictures have been sourced with some level of difficulty and danger.

Let me know if you have any questions regarding the matter.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 3:11 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Request: Release screening of The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear Chief Censor David Shanks,

I'm a proud New Zealand Citizen who values New Zealanders right to freedom of expression and freedom of speech. I'm a resident of the Botany Downs electorate. I'm a Doctor, I completed my Masters in Public Policy at Harvard University and I'm a Kashmiri Pandit. I'd like to **request the New Zealand Govt release the showing of The Kashmir Files for the general public ASAP.**

The Kashmir Files is the first time my community's stories are being shared widely. But it's also the first time we are sharing them among ourselves.

Whenever I asked my grandparents or parents what happened then? Why were we forced out of our home? Why did we become refugees? They would brush me away. The questions remained unanswered with very short sound bites that were hard to piece together. The pain and the fear of potential retaliation was too great for them to break their silence, until now, 32 years later. Do you know what happens to families with this much trauma that don't talk about it for generations? The mental health issues show up in subtle ways, from your ability to trust or sudden outbursts of anger. And I want us to talk about it. I want us to heal. And I want us to hold those accountable that were responsible for either the atrocities or with the mandate to protect us, but didn't.

My great grandfather was stoned to his head by his (radicalized) neighbor and died from bleeding. The killer's daughter was close friend's with my aunt. I didn't even know within my own family we had another aunty gang raped and cut in half with a carpenter's saw while she was alive (this scene is portrayed in the movie). These are just stories within my family. Within our larger relative's group there are stories of people's family members being cut to pieces and tossed in a bag in front of their house or their body being thrown in a vat of acid such that nothing remains. Almost every Kashmiri Pandit family has a story like this that no one knows about because we ourselves wouldn't talk about it.

My community is one of a long lineage of scholars. We were priests, doctors, engineers, scientists, writers, and poets. We were never warriors. Even in the midst of genocide we never took up arms because quite frankly we don't know how and have no interest to. This is our seventh exodus. Scholars from all over India and the world would come to Kashmir to find knowledge. It was decorated by Alexandra the Great as heaven on earth for its natural beauty. Shankaracharya, one of the greatest scholars India has ever produced, walked from Kerala to Kashmir to explore the ultimate knowledge.

We have suffered on multiple levels. First we suffered from the genocide and second we continue to suffer because it is not acknowledged. For some our lived experiences are an inconvenient truth. It makes them too uncomfortable.

Not all Germans are Nazis. We don't deny that Nazis existed. That there was a holocaust. Schindler's list took 45 years to make. The Kashmir Files took 32 years. The truth must be acknowledged! The world owes us that. My chosen home country of New Zealand owes me that.

In the Kashmiri Pandit genocide the problem is that the identity of those that committed the atrocities is mixed with moderates. And because of this the ecosystem worked hard to deny us the truth. We were made to remain silent as it makes others uncomfortable.

So let's give those criminals a new name rather than deny the victims and their family their voice. They are radicalized terrorists with no actual faith. Because no faith I know of actually enables these heinous acts. This is not a conflict between people of faith.

And 19th January should be a remembrance day for all. Lest we never forget. This can never happen again to any other community of any faith.

I'm proud of who I am. I'm proud of how well our community has dealt with this trauma and how we've not only survived but thrived. I've waited my whole life thinking this moment will never come when we will talk about what happened to us. But it finally has. I want us to use this moment to tell our story. I want to be able to share my story, my family's story, and my community's story with my New Zealand friends.

I've always been proud of New Zealand for being advocates of Human Rights. For acknowledging past wrongs, including with the Treaty of Waitangi and our Tangata Whenua. It is time we do the same for the Kashmiri Pandits. We want acknowledgement of what happened, our genocide, and forced exodus. And most of all, we want to be able to finally be able to share our stories. Please give us our voices.

Warm regards,

s 9(2)(a)



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 5:24 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release of Indian Movie "The Kashmir Files"

Categories: Non-form

Dear Mr. Shanks,

I was looking forward to watching the movie on 24 March and had added it to my watchlist on the Event Cinemas App to book tickets online. On Friday, 18 March, I got a rude shock to see this movie missing from the list of upcoming movies in Event Cinemas. Yesterday, it became clear why this movie was dropped from the list after I read Josephine Frank's story in stuff.co.nz.

Unfortunately, Josephine's article is in some ways not factually correct and I only wish that she had acted as a responsible journalist and had independently researched the issue instead of getting carried away by what she had probably read or heard from some unreliable source or watched some distorted and biased reports.

Mr. Shanks, I do hope that you are reasonably aware of the international affairs and would have read of militancy in the state of Jammu & Kashmir of India since late 1980s. During the peak of militancy activities, perpetuated by Islamic terrorists in Kashmir with active support from terror organisations based in Pakistan, 100s of Kashmiri Hindus were mercilessly killed. The rest were threatened to either get converted to Islam or flee their homeland or be prepared to die. Audio systems of mosques across the valley of Kashmir were used throughout the night of 19 Jan 1990 and Kashmiri Hindus witnessed hysteric, macabre night in the form of blaring threats and slogans. This resulted in ethnic cleansing of nearly 400,000 Kashmiri Hindus from Kashmir, India in 1990.

The Kashmir Files is based on these true events. It is irresponsible on part of stuff.co.nz to support and spread a fake narrative of the sufferings of Kashmiri Hindus by stating that the movie is based on fiction.

The article also suggests that the members of the Muslim community have raised concerns that this movie may stoke anti-Muslim sentiments. This fear of our Muslim community is baseless. On the contrary, this movie will provide an opportunity for everyone to understand human sufferings at the hands of misguided terrorists, no matter which faith they come from. Pain and suffering experienced by Kashmiri Hindus was equal to if not more than the pain and sufferings of the Christchurch terror attack survivors, families and friends of the victims, and the rest of our country. Understanding worthlessness of terrorism through a film like 'The Kashmir Files' could potentially see decline in these horrific acts and save many innocent lives in future.

Mr. Shanks, I urge you to please use your fair, unbiased judgment without any prejudice to approve screening of this movie in our cinemas from Thursday this week.

Kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 7:00 am
To: Information Unit; David Shanks
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files - release delay and proposed ban

Categories: Non-form

Kia ora, Namaste Mr Shanks

I am writing to express my deep disappointment that the NZ Censor board are contemplating banning The Kashmir Files in NZ.

The film received an R16 rating from the NZ Censor board and was due to be released on 24th March. I subsequently found out that the board is going to review the decision based on some concerns about violence from members of the Muslim community.

Please note, that this movie is actually a documentary of all the atrocities perpetrated against the Kashmiri Hindus and is based on **facts** from first hand evidence given by the victims or their relatives. The film's directors have undertaken extensive research over a period of three years interviewing more than 700 Kashmiri Hindus all over the world. This not some "run of the mill" fictional movie.

Unfortunately history is not always pleasant but regardless of this it is a fact and must be portrayed accordingly. Preventing and denying the acknowledgement of a civilisation's genocide leaves open the possibility of repetition in the future.

Also please note that there has been absolutely no violence by Hindus following the screening of this movie in India in over 1200 venues.

This movie has been screened and watched by over 1.1 Billion people so far in Australia, UK, US and other parts of the world without any violence there either. So the false notion put forward by the NZ Muslim groups that they fear violence and Islamophobia is baseless and without evidence.

NZ Muslims want the world to know of the terrorist attack on them. NZ Hindus wholeheartedly expressed shock and horror at such an attack on us as New Zealanders.

Why then do some people want to prevent the telling of the story of the terrorist attack on Kashmiri Pandits in India? It was a mass terrorist attack of immense proportions. Terrorist attacks on Hindus in Kashmir continue to this day.

The violence in Kashmir was not perpetuated by New Zealand Muslims, why do they identify themselves with it? If they do not like the movie, they just do not have to go to see it.

It will be a shame if this movie was banned in this country as you would be denying the right of as the Kashmiri Hindus to have their story told, so that we learn from history and never let such a thing happen again. Hopefully you are aware, that victims and descendants of victims of that genocide are currently resident in NZ some as NZ citizens and deserve to be supported.

The NZ Government has finally shown courage to introduce Maori history into schools.

I sincerely hope and humbly request that this film, which tells the story of a more recent genocide, will be permitted for release by the Classification Office as planned on the 24th of March.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 7:29 am
Cc: s 9(2)(a) IAMNZ
Subject: "The Kashmir Files" - Don't Censor India's History

Categories: Non-form

Good morning,

We are writing to express our grief around the delay of launching the Indian movie, "The Kashmir Files", which was scheduled to be running in NZ Cinemas from 24th March 2022. This movie depicts our story. It is a documentary of terrorist events that unfolded in India in 1990, and impacted thousands of Indians living in Kashmir at the time. It is a movie showcasing a grim reality, one which was lived by many (now) NZ Citizens, and over 400,000 victims globally. This movie is a testimony to our pain and suffering, and our way to express and share our past with the rest of the world.

We are told the groups opposing the launch of this movie here are concerned about the aftermath of the movie, but to us, this is a one-sided, unevidenced and unvalidated stance.

The movie depicts the brutal, although factually accurate, atrocities that Kashmiri Hindus and others faced at the hands of terrorists, leading up to the exodus night of 19th January 1990. The movie premiered in Canada, UK, USA, and Australia two weeks ago and there have been no instances of any criminal behaviour or unsightly practices. Instead, the demand for the movie has grown significantly.

The movie has been watched by over 1 billion viewers worldwide, receiving rave reviews across the globe, and hasn't created any negative sentiments, nor has it instigated any violence or misbehaviour against any communities around the world. Moreover, revenue from the ticket sales of this movie is helping support the refugee camps where many victims of this event continue to live.

There are countless documentaries and movies on the Holocaust, or the events of 9/11, as there should be. It is a part of our history. In NZ specifically, we continue to hear about the tragic events of March 15th, 2019 - but in a positive light, with those having been through it healing and thriving and sharing their stories. This movie is no different. It shares a glimpse of a terrible tragedy, and the treatment of this movie should be no different to the other content being allowed to publish in NZ. We, the victims of this tragedy, deserve our peace, and our chance to heal and thrive.

In the news last week, we heard about the importance of teaching history in NZ schools to pave the way for the future generations. Yet, this movie being a crucial part of India's history, is being silenced on the basis of unverified hypothetical statements made by opposing groups. This fundamentally violates our freedom of expression, and the freedom to experience an artefact that was once our reality. By denying us access to a chapter of our own history, you are denying us our basic human rights, which is in total disconnect with the ethos of this country.

Terrorism does not have a religion, or a faith, or a face. By supporting the ban of this movie, community groups of NZ are giving it an identity, and a voice. And by further supporting this agenda,

the upholders of authority of NZ are conveying a message that suggests the victims must continue to live in fear, continue to be suppressed by those that downed terror on them, and continue to live without healing or closure.

We plead you to please support the launch of this movie in NZ Cinemas, as scheduled previously.

Kind Regards,
Victims of the genocide

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 7:43 am
To: David Shanks
Subject: Request a Meeting

Categories: Non-form

Hi David

Good morning. Hope you are doing well and had a good weekend.

I would like to introduce myself to you as a Kashmiri Pandit and representing many other Kashmiris Pandit's living in New Zealand and had been the victims of the genocide in 1990 in India on which the movie The Kashmir Files is based on and is in the controversy in NZ for different reasons compared to the rest of the world these days.

As we are already aware the movie release has been delayed because there was a concern raised by a certain groups and I appreciate the authorities are valuing the freedom of speech and listening to their concerns.

But fare judgement can only me made if we listen to the both the parties specially the community who was the victim and whom this movie is based on which is the Kashmiri Hindu Pandit community which are 'US'

Hence I would like to request you if we can have a short meeting in person or zoom whichever seems convenient to you to present our points as well so that decision will be fair and in the best interest of all.

We have complete faith in nz censorship committee and know they will consider the sentiments of everyone before taking any decision.

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a) on behalf of Kashmiri Pandit's living in NZ (victims of the genocide)

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Sent from iphone

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 8:39 am
To: Information Unit; David Shanks
Subject: The Kashmir Files - Release, Delay and Proposed Ban

Categories: Non-form

Hello Mr Shanks,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment that the NZ Censor board are contemplating banning The Kashmir Files in NZ.

The film received an R16 rating from the NZ Censor board and was set to be released on 24th March. I subsequently found out that the board is going to review the decision based on some concerns about violence from members of the Muslim community.

Please note, that this movie is actually a documentary of all the atrocities perpetrated against the Kashmiri Hindus and is based on **facts** from first-hand evidence given by the victims or their relatives. The film's directors have undertaken extensive research over a period of three years interviewing more than 700 Kashmiri Hindus all over the world. This not some "run of the mill" fictional movie.

Unfortunately history is not always pleasant but regardless of this it is a fact and must be portrayed accordingly. Preventing and denying the acknowledgement of a civilisation's genocide leaves open the possibility of repetition in the future.

Also please note that there has been absolutely no violence by Hindus following the screening of this movie in India in over 1200 venues. This movie has been screened and watched by over 1.1 billion people so far in Australia, UK, US and other parts of the world without any violence there either. So the false notion put forward by the NZ Muslim groups that they fear violence and Islamophobia is baseless and without evidence.

NZ Muslims want the world to know of the terrorist attack on them. NZ Hindus wholeheartedly expressed shock and horror at such an attack on us as New Zealanders.

Why then do some people want to prevent the telling of the story of the terrorist attack on Kashmiri Pandits in India? It was a mass terrorist attack of immense proportions. Terrorist attacks on Hindus in Kashmir continue to this day.

The violence in Kashmir was not perpetuated by New Zealand Muslims, why do they identify themselves with it? If they do not like the movie, they just do not have to go to see it.

It will be a shame if this movie was banned in this country as you would be denying the right of as the Kashmiri Hindus to have their story told, so that we learn from history and never let such a thing happen again. Hopefully you are aware, that victims and descendants of victims of that genocide are currently resident in NZ some as NZ citizens and deserve to be supported.

The NZ Government has finally shown courage to introduce Maori history into schools.

I sincerely hope and humbly request that this film, which tells the story of a more recent genocide, will be permitted for release by the Classification Office as planned on the 24th of March.

I look forward to your reply.

Thank you,

9/2

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 8:41 am
To: David Shanks; Information Unit
Subject: STOP CHOKING KASHMIR FILES MOVIE

Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora David,

Namaste,

The Kashmir Files, directed by Viviek Agnihotri is the true story of the Kashmiri Pandit (Hindu) exodus in 1990. The movie depicts the brutal, although factually accurate, atrocities that Kashmiri Hindus and others faced at the hands of militants, leading up to the exodus night of 19th January 1990.

Many died in this ethnic cleansing and it is estimated that 100,000 people more perished in refugee camps following the exodus. It is my story how I became refugee overnight and came on roadside with nowhere to go .

To this day, over 400,000 Kashmiri Pandits (all over the world), remain in exile. This includes many Kashmiris who have found their new home in New Zealand.

The Kashmir Files has been peacefully viewed all around the world including The United States, UK, Australia, India and many other locations. The film has received rave reviews across the globe, crossed the \$1B mark in the box office and most importantly validated the long-subjugated true story of Kashmiri Pandits.

The film portrays a crucial and often forgotten part of India's history, therefore creating an increased interest in audiences worldwide. Extra sessions have been added in many places, like Australia to cope with this extra demand.

The Kashmir Files does not support violence against any group or any community and only depicts the facts about the events that took place in Kashmir in 1990. To date, there have been no accounts of violence or hate rhetoric generated from any of the viewings.

It therefore comes as a disappointing blow to the New Zealand Kashmiri Pandit community to hear that *The Kashmir Files*, which was scheduled for release in New Zealand on the 24th March 2022, has been removed from cinemas across the country.

In the news this week, we are hearing about the importance of teaching history in NZ schools going forward. Global affairs currently unfolding, illustrate the need to understand the significance

of key historical events like the Treaty of Versailles, World War Two and The Cold War, in order to establish a more stable world order. Similarly, The Kashmir Files is an unpleasant yet unshakable, part of India's history.

Silencing this chapter for New Zealand audiences would be a shameful act and would be inconsistent with the NZ government's message of teaching our children, how history has shaped our present day lives. Denying New Zealand audiences the chance to watch The Kashmir Files would be an attack on Freedom of Expression and denying the truth.

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 9:05 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Censorship of Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

To
The Chief Censor in NZ,

Dear Mr. Shanks,

This is in regards to the censorship of the film, The Kashmir Files been shown to the public in NZ which has been put on hold by you.

Don't we need to tell the story of all who suffer?

The Kashmiri Pandits right to everything including their right to live in their homeland and now for the world to see their suffering is questioned?

We have had several films made on the injustice meted out to the Muslims as they should be and one film on the minority Hindus in Kashmir sends them into a frenzy on how it will create hatred?

If anything, such a response is what is going to create more of a divide and hatred.

All lives matter!

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 9:48 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files - The Right to hear a Civilisation's History

Categories: Non-form

To the Chief Censor,

March 11th saw the global release of one of 2022's most highly anticipated feature films – The Kashmir Files. It is an ambitious and honest visual retelling of the genocide of Kashmiri Hindus. For more than 30 years, one of the largest genocides and mass exoduses of the Hindu community has been suppressed by numerous dispensations of the Indian government as well as mainstream media.

The filmmaker, Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri, has undertaken extensive research to capture the ethnic cleansing and experiences of the victims authentically. This includes interviewing more than 700 Kashmiri Hindus and their families and their experiences during that fateful time in the early 90's where Hindus in Kashmir were told to convert, leave the land or perish.

For the first time, the truth about Kashmir and Kashmiri Hindus is becoming available to the masses. Unfortunately for some, the truth does not fit their narratives. Groups have attempted to defame and censor genuine, research based work and are afraid people will learn the truth.

Preventing and denying the acknowledgement of a civilization's genocide is nothing but preparation to abet a future persecution of a community. Those who do not learn their history are condemned to repeat it. The impact of acknowledging the truth about Kashmir is felt in NZ too. The horrific killings, mass rape and violence in Kashmir, drove many Kashmiri Hindus from their home land to various parts of the world, including New Zealand.

New Zealand over the years has played an active role in acknowledging its historical offenses, especially in the context of colonization and attempted destruction of various aspects of the culture, language, and lifestyle of Tangata Whenua. Kashmiri Pandits, the indigenous community of Kashmir, to this day are still waiting for justice and being able to safely return to their homeland.

In schools all over the world, children, regardless of their faith, race, gender or background are taught about the heinous crimes committed against various communities, an example is the Jewish community. In many countries, it is even a crime to deny the Holocaust. Suppressing, the history of Kashmiri Hindus is denying their right to justice.

Learning about the persecution that the Kashmiri Hindus faced, especially by the younger generation, serves as a means for society to be aware of challenges and prepares for proactive prevention of such crimes against all communities. Attempts by individuals, groups to call the film as 'controversial' and 'fictional' are out of sheer desperation to deny Kashmiri Hindus from having their voices heard.

Many in New Zealand hope to see the truth about the Kashmiri Hindu genocide as well as see New Zealand's commitment to freedom of expression. It is time the Kashmiri Hindu community finally have their painful history acknowledged.

I write to urge the Office in my personal capacity to consider the voice that would be suppressed if this movie is banned in New Zealand. The film has been released in several countries including Australia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, India and to be released in France on 23 March. There

have been no reports of what the Muslim community is claiming in New Zealand as the potential outcome of showing the film.

I request the Classification Office to permit the release of the film as planned on 24 March and contribute to having history recognised.

Kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 10:04 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Historic movie Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear Sirs;

I would also like to see this movie for historic & awareness purpose ... nothing to do with current people... it is to do with people of that time who no longer may be alive now.

No blames on anybody.

Please release it in theatres as soon as possible.

We must Not be disrespected for our human rights to be able to see how some errors & decisions could have been better than so much sufferings (similar to how good people suffering in Ukraine now).

Regards;

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 10:15 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Please allow Kashmir Files screening at NZ

Categories: Non-form

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am an avid movie enthusiast and like to watch all sorts of historical movies from all over the world. Recently, it has come to my notice that Kashmir Files is under review. Since this movie is part of our collective history in India, we would appreciate it if the movie is allowed to be screened in NZ.

Nga Mihi,
s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 10:35 am
To: Information Unit; Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz;
Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz; ginny.andersen@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Fwd: The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Dear David,

I read your interview in Stuff dated 18 March 2022 and as a very concerned NZ citizen am compelled to write to you. It would appear that your decision is already made and the 'review' is just a whitewash, in the very least that is what comes across through your words.

The most appalling part of your interview was -

1. the insinuation that there is potential harm / disturbance or violence that will come upon New Zealanders if the movie is screened. Exactly how many incidences of violence as incited by the Hindu community have you read about or seen that have occurred in New Zealand? and
2. The claim that the movie is based on fiction.

You had no hesitancy in releasing the film initially and the Indian community was eagerly looking forward to it. However letters from the Muslim community immediately made you put the brakes on and retract the release. Are you telling me one community known globally for their terrorist activities - and a google search is enough to show just how many Muslim terror attacks have occurred globally - is able to dictate what the rest of the country can see and do?

There appear to be no terrorist attacks globally attributed to Hindus. Why then do you claim that there are valid concerns that NZ Hindus will commit terrorist attacks on NZ Muslims after they watch the Kashmir files?

NZ Hindus were not responsible for the 15 March attacks on Muslims and it is extremely irresponsible and hurtful of you as Chief Censor to allude to a NZ newspaper reporter that NZ Hindus are in any way capable of committing a similar atrocity after watching the Kashmir Files.

This movie was released in Australia without any terrorist attack there. I remind you that the terrorist who attacked the mosque in NZ was an Australian and not a Hindu swayed by hatred for Islam. There have not been any terrorist attacks by Hindus in any of the countries globally, following the release of this movie for you to justify your claim that FIANZ's concerns are valid. Why will releasing this film in NZ be insensitive towards NZ Muslims? They were not involved in the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 over 15,000 KMS away?

This fear mongering by FIANZ in their letter to the PM which is being widely circulated on social media that you no doubt have seen, is similar to the pressure on the French government by Muslim groups to ban Charlie Hebdo after they published their cartoons on Mohamed.

Did the Germans protest and threaten violence when the holocaust movies / documentaries were seen by the world? They accepted the fact that the Holocaust did happen, it wasn't good but it did happen.

After the multitude of interviews of the mosque killings were telecast over and over, did the pakeha people protest or threaten violence because the perpetrator was a White? They accepted the fact and contributed to and continue to contribute to the rehabilitation of the injured etc.

It is time the Muslims accepted the fact that their kind subjected a whole other community to unspeakable atrocities and drove them out of their house and land. The letters from the Muslim community and the FIANZ are driven by Pakistani Muslims and the Kashmir Genocide happened due to the infiltration by and training of terrorists by Pakistan.

There was no issue with regard to the movie till the letters from the Muslim groups started circulating. If you bow down to the demand to ban the Kashmir Files, other such demands **will** follow. How do you think white supremacists will respond if the NZ Classification Office caves in to other such demands by FIANZ?

By halting the release of this movie you have already **encroached on the freedom of expression of Kiwis** as well as the rights of the Kiwis who were resident in Kashmir at that time and were victims of this genocide.

Truth must be heard and seen. Yes truth can hurt and is oftentimes uncomfortable but the survivors of the Kashmir genocide deserve a voice and this movie is the voice they have never had. We owe them that much. Please take the time to invite the Kashmiri Hindus that lived to tell their tale and now reside in New Zealand and listen to their experiences.

I sincerely request you to not fall victim and give in to the demands of one religious community. It sets a bad precedent for the future of social cohesion in this country.

A concerned citizen hoping for justice to prevail.

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 10:39 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir files screening

Categories: Non-form

Respected Classification chief,

I am sending this email to request you to allow the screening of Kashmir files.

If this movie is enjoyed by our neighbors in Australia and other western countries like the US and Canada. Then what is the reason to deny us the freedom to watch this movie?

It is very heartening to see that you are not considering the views of Kashmiri Hindus who go through the same cleansing as Jews.

I request you please approve the screening for this movie in NZ so we can enjoy the freedom which our great nation allows us.

I am in Auckland but let me know if my presence is required in Wellington or anything else I can do to convince you to allow this movie to be screened in NZ.

Below are my contact detail.

Thanks

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 11:01 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Allow screening of The Kashmir Files uncensored

Categories: Non-form

NZ should uphold freedom of expression. It should recognise that Hindu genocide happened in Kashmir India and the Kashmir Files film presents this fact. It should stop pandering to Muslim community for electoral gains and allow uncensored immediate release of the film.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@fsu.nz>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 11:37 am
To: David Shanks
Cc: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Letter from s 9(2)(a)
Attachments: 2203221 Letter to Chief Censor.pdf

Categories: Non-form

Dear Mr Shanks,

Please find attached a letter from Free Speech Union s 9(2)(a).

Warm regards,

s 9(2)(a)
Free Speech Union
Mob s 9(2)(a) | Email s 9(2)(a)@fsu.nz

Free Speech Union (New Zealand) Incorporated | PO Box 10512, The Terrace, Wellington 6143 | www.fsu.nz

The Free Speech Union is a registered trade union under the Employment Relations Act 2000. If you would like to stand with us to protect and promote free speech [click here to receive our updates](#).



21 March 2021

David Shanks
Chief Censor
Classification Office
City

By email: David.shanks@classificationoffice.govt.nz

CENSORSHIP OF KASHMIR FILES

Dear Mr. Shanks,

1. We write in response to reports that you have delayed the screening of a film, 'The Kashmir Files' (the Film), and may prevent it from being screened in New Zealand. Our understanding is that the Film has already been classified as R16 and that it has been shown in cinemas in other liberal democratic countries with a similar classification.
2. The Free Speech Union is a registered trade union with a mission to fight for, protect and expand New Zealanders' rights to freedom of speech, of conscience and of intellectual inquiry. We take a particular interest in free speech as it relates to democratic accountability and have appreciated your engagement and thoughtful responses to our queries regarding censored material in the past.
3. It appears as if your decision to delay (and possibly prevent) the Film being screened in New Zealand has been driven by political activism. We hope this is not the case and so seek to clarify with you the exact reasons for your action and make sure that we have all the facts available.
4. While the Film is clearly controversial for some New Zealanders, we hope censorship is not the primary means of addressing this controversy. The harm of censorship almost always exceeds any short-term gains. Freedom of expression, particularly around uncomfortable and sensitive issues, is the bedrock on which the rest of our freedoms lie.
5. We are deeply concerned that your office is overstepping its mandate and making decisions that are not politically independent, or that you are being coerced into action by implicit or explicit threats of violence.
6. You have recently testified to the Governance and Administration Committee that you do not think your office has a role to be arbiter of misinformation and that you would prefer that social media companies take responsibility for the content they host. Surely the same approach would apply to film distributors and publishers.
7. We note your commitment to engaging with affected stakeholders, and hope that you consider the wide ranging work the Free Speech Union does, and that we will be consulted as a stakeholder in this issue. We look forward to your response on this serious matter.

Yours faithfully,
Free Speech Union (New Zealand) Inc.

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 11:38 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files-HOLD THE SCREENING

Categories: Non-form

Good Morning

I am writing in regards to the decision NZ Classification has taken in order to halt the screening of Indian Movie Kashmir Files.

As, an Indian I truly support your decision. Movie has created a large amount of hate within Indian society. This movie is made truly on a Propoganda to defame Muslim Community. Although we cannot disagree with the atrocities Kasmiri Pandit faced in the early 1990's. However we do not see any point in igniting the hate after 30 plus years.

We have seen terrorist attacks on Muslims in this country. There is already so much hate this community/Religion has seen in the past. If we allow this movie to screen it will only put petrol to the flame.

This movie is used as a tool in India to have political gain by the current Government so that they can polarise the community.

I urge you to hold off screening this movie for the nation's interest and for the peace within the South Asian community.

NZ is a beautiful country where we live in peace and Harmony. please don't let this movie spoil it

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 11:55 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmirfiles movie release date

Categories: Non-form

Dear Sir,

Could you please advise when ballyhoo movie kashmir files released in NZ theaters?
Movies based on really story about genocide/exodus of kashmiri Hindus in 1990.
After more then 30 years truth comes out as a movie and we really want to know what happened in the past
to secure our future.

Please release movie asap.

Thank you

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 11:59 am
To: Information Unit
Cc: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear Mr Shanks

I refer you to a beautiful and powerful quote of the Revered Swami Vivekananda :

“Truth does not pay homage to any society, ancient or modern. Society has to pay homage to Truth or die. Societies should be moulded upon truth and truth has not to adjust itself to society.”

I am writing in response to your announcement that you are reviewing the approval of your censorship of The Kashmir Files in light of the Muslim community voice.

I concur with Winston Peters view as expressed by him in respect of limiting the viewship of this movie or banning it. I support freedom of expression and the facts from history which should see the light of day.

We must look at the truth eye to eye.

The movie is a reflection of the reality of those that were the victims of it. No different from movies about Nazis and the all that befell the Jews in that era or if a movie was made on currently what is happening in Ukanian.

New Zealand is a fair country, one size must fit all. If your censorship does not censor others such kinds of movies then it must not censor this. It has to be on equal footing. You cannot make different rules dependent on the popular voice.

One community group with a voice that the censorship has sympathy given the awful tragedy that happen to that community in New Zealand cannot stop talk of tragedies committed on other communities around the world simply because it raises uncomfortable truths.

It is also insulting to the intelligence of the film watching community of New Zealand. It does not trust New Zealanders from whatever community to make up their own mind about controversial topics.

This link that is attempting to be drawn is tenuous and would be going too far as it is relying on benefiting from the sympathy that currently exists. This is a very far fetched proposition with the aim to influence decision making.

If the pressure voice influences, then 9/11 movies have to be given equal consideration but thus far it has not been, why not one may ask? How does this movie differ, they both are showcasing actually what happened. It is not a reconstructed narrative. One happened in USA and the other in India! So why does the one in India differ in anyway.

The subject of this movie, the Hindu Pandit's remain victims with no voice, no one until now has told it as it was, this movie if it is to be classified as anything can be safely classified as socially responsible, to bring awareness to a truth until now has been hidden from mainstream. These things need to be known so history does not happen again. Light of truth must shine.

If people have done things then it needs to be known so it should not happen again. If you hide from truth then we don't learn from history and then it comes back to repeat. We should not bury the wrongs, deny or hide... the future generation need to know so they don't repeat the mistake.

If it makes a community who did the wrong unhappy then let it be so, they have to accept it. Appeasing is not necessary and not the solution.

These kind of movies may not be palatable (who are on the wrong side of history which is only natural) to everyone just like truth is not.

The online conversation will occur either way simply because the platform is international so that consideration has no weighting in this weighing exercise that you have the difficult task of undertaking.

If you change your decision based on a voice of a particular community and deny all to see the truth of what happened in Kashmir, then that would undermine the fundamental principle quoted above which encourages us always to be on the side of truth no matter how unpleasant.

A personal view from a onlooker.

As a New Zealander I want to see this movie with my family and I don't want any limitations on that.

With regards

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

p. s 9(2)(a) m. s 9(2)(a)

e. s 9(2)(a) w. s 9(2)(a)

a. s 9(2)(a)

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 12:14 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: TheKashmirFiles movie

Categories: Non-form

Dear sir,

I am writing to you to know the release status of the movie 'The Kashmir files.

As we understand there has been pressure on you from certain communities to ban this movie in New Zealand. This goes completely against the ethos of New Zealand's democratic and liberal values and freedom of expression. Do you want to favour one community's sentiments against the other community's right to expression and creative freedom? You will have to make that choice.

If you decide to ban this movie for some reason, it will send out a very wrong message to India and to the world where this movie is running without any troubles. No western country like Australia, Canada, US, UK has taken a stand like New Zealand to re-evaluate this movie which I think is very unfortunate. This has already dented New Zealand's image.

I hope that you have faith in the Indian community here which has never been troublemakers and also equal faith in your law and order machinery in case such groups create any troubles.

Please release this movie as soon as possible to ensure New Zealand's image as the democratic and liberal country remains intact.

Thanks and regards

s 9(2)(a)

Auckland

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 12:19 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files movie release date

Categories: Non-form

Respected Sir,

Could you please advise when the movie the Kashmir files released in New Zealand theatres. Movie based on real story about genocide/ exodus of Kashmiri Hindu in 1990. After more then 30 years truth comes out as a movie and we really want to know what happened in the past to secure our future. Please release the movie asap.

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 12:32 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files release

Categories: Non-form

Hi

Can you please Let public know when Kashmir files will be released in NZ .

This movie is based on Exodus of Kashmiri Pandits during Kashmir insurgency.

Many Kashmiri Hindu's were killed and around 150,000 were compelled to become refugees in their own country.

Hindu Women were rapped. They were given choice either convert to islam or leave Kashmir by militants.

Why one communication has freedom of speech and Other's freedom has been banned in NZ?

Please see the Link below for the organisations spreading hate against Hindus in NZ.

<https://www.facebook.com/CAREMassey/>

Muslims in NZ is another page.

I hope you will respect the freedom of people in NZ and will order to release this movie in NZ.

I have attached few screenshots below as well

Kind Regards,
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 12:59 pm
To: nicola@fvlb.org.nz; Information Unit; MPLee@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: The Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Kio ora,

I Am writing this email to draw everyone's attention towards the release of the movie the kashmir file and propaganda behind it.

The whole objective of this movie is to further increase the hatred towards muslims community, more specifically people from indian origin.

The content of movie is spiced up in order to spread hatred in the community day, it was not only my hindu brothers and sisters who were killed by the terrorist but also a huge number of muslims were also killed.

There are several videos available online where people are calling for genocide of muslims and using muslims girls as a machine to make hindu babies after watching the movie. Already army of trolls is active to label every muslim as terrorists.

The movie itself is funded and influenced by RSS organization, their sole agenda is to convert India from a secular state into a hindu nation. Unfortunately more than half of the India's politicians who sits in the different house of parliament (Loksabha) have criminal records with no educational background, Cases as serious as rape, murder, organized riots are common among them. The Governments and politics thrive on communal hatred. This movie is just fuel for their political agenda.

I would like to refer to the book In the shadow of swastika by Marzia Casolari, an Asian history professor at the University of Torino Italy. These are the people who are in command of India. The movie is just a tool to achieve political gains.

The current ruling BJP (RSS) government is trying every thing to isolate muslim population of Indian.

I would Strongly encourage you to ban this movie in Newzealand on every platform, It will be a slap on the face of organizations who are trying to fracture the society

Thanks

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 1:41 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release of Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear Officer,

I am writing this to urge the release of Kashmir files without further delays. I have been informed that specifically Muslims are trying to stop the movie being released on the ground 'possible' hate towards their community. It is however a miserable attempt to suppress the historical facts like The World War & The Holocaust where every citizen of this country has right to information.

The movie is allowed to screen in countries like Australia, Canada, US & many more and it is evident that there has not been single incident of violence post release of the movie. There may be sparse incidence where the individuals might have protested in anguish against the violence happened in Kashmir for specifically being Non-Muslim but no victims chose the path of violence to counter such horrible crime against humanity.

Also it is in-fact the violation of the freedom of speech to ban and/or silence the voice just because some community feels their faith is targeted on the basis of documented unequivocal evidences and feel insecure providing irrelevant and made up stories of threat to their community.

I hope this will be taken seriously and assure the release of Kashmir Files at the earliest. Thank you.

Sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 1:45 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Fwd: Request to not ban the movie - The Kashmir Files in NewZealand

Categories: Non-form

Honorable Lille,

After holocaust the world had given voice to genocide victims. It is beyond comprehension that Kashmiri Hindus who are victims of genocide have to fight to get their true story told.

Thank you for getting back to me and hope you assist in expediting the release.

With kind regards,
s 9(2)(a)

To : Classification office,

Please release the movie in New Zealand as it is about truth. The events shown in the movie have been moderated for viewership. Please ask the family of Girija Tickoo what really happened. And and she is just one victim.

Will you further victimise the genocide victims?

You will not block Shindlers list, 'Would you'?

With regards,
s 9(2)(a)

Forgive but never forget

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lillie Le Dorre** <Lillie.LeDorre@parliament.govt.nz>

Date: Sun, Mar 20, 2022, 5:30 PM

Subject: RE: Request to not ban the movie - The Kashmir Files in NewZealand

To: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>

Tēnā koe

On behalf of Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Internal Affairs, thank you for your correspondence, which has been transferred to the Minister as the matters you raise fall within the Internal Affairs portfolio responsibilities.

You correspondence will be provided to the Minister for her consideration and response.

The Chief Censor has published a statement on this matter, which can be read here:

<https://www.classificationoffice.govt.nz/news/news-items/chief-censor-reviewing-classification-for-the-kashmir-files-film/>

Ngā mihi

Lillie

Lillie Le Dorré | Private Secretary (Internal Affairs)

Phone: 04 817 8318 | Email: Lillie.LeDorre@parliament.govt.nz

Executive Wing, Private Bag 18041, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Office of Hon Jan Tinetti MP, Minister of Internal Affairs; Associate Minister of Education; Minister for Women

From: s 9(2)(a) [mailto:s 9(2)(a)]

Sent: Saturday, 19 March 2022 5:44 AM

To: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern <Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: Request to not ban the movie - The Kashmir Files in NewZealand

Honorable Prime Minister,

Kashmiri Hindu minority have lived in Kashmir for 5000 plus years. They were a non-violent, secular, unarmed minority of less than 2% of the population in Kashmir. In 1990 they were subjected to unspeakable and inhuman atrocities by the terrorists and local sympathizers in Kashmir.

The hindu minority hardly had any representation in business, or local police force, and had pretty much zero representation in the local elected assembly. The majority society enabled and created an ecosystem where all arms of government were compromised and there was no one for this minority to turn to for help.

After the minority was ethnically cleansed, many narratives were created by perpetrators to justify this barbarism, including a narrative that this minority somehow deserved this. This is not atypical as the same thing was done by Hitler. The perpetrators thought they had committed a perfect genocide and ethnic cleansing and this minority will never be able to stand up to tell the truth. The majority participated or were complicit to various degrees in killing of minorities even when the hindu minority did not kill a single majority community member (not even one).

It may have taken 32 years but the truth cannot be suppressed forever.

Are you going to stand with truth by standing against genocide and ethnic cleanisng of Kashmiri hindu minority?

1. Please do not ban the movie
2. Support setting up a gencoide tribunal to identity and hold accountable those who enabled and created the ecosystem of murders/rapes/threats of Kashmiri Hindus in the valley.
3. Support their return to Kashmir with basic security of right of life

With Kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 1:55 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Release of The movie " The Kashmir Files" in NZ
Attachments: petition_signatures.csv

Categories: Non-form

21st March 2022

Mr David Shanks

The Chief Sensor

The Classification Office

Subject- Release of the Movie "The Kashmir Files" in New Zealand

Good Afternoon

We, as peace-loving proud Kiwi Indians & Kashmiri Pandits, are deeply concerned about the delay in the release of the Indian Movie," The Kashmir Files ", Which was originally scheduled for release on 24th March 2022 across NZ Screens. This movie depicts the Heart- Wrenching narrative of the Pain, Suffering, Struggle and Trauma of Kashmiri Pandits/Hindus and questions the eye-opening facts about humanity. The film is a true story and has been made based on documented footage and video interviews of the first-generation victims of the genocide of Kashmiri Pandit community, which lead to the mass exodus of the community from the state.

The large-scale atrocities and crimes committed against the Kashmiri Pandits are enough to put entire humanity to shame. Small Kids, Women & men no one was spared, A mass genocide was committed but unfortunately, we live in a liberal world where genocide committed by Hitler is condemned but genocide committed against Kashmiri Pandits isn't openly spoken about. What happened in 1991 can't be reverted, but at least acknowledging what happened, will give some relief to our sufferings.

I understand there have been some concerns from communal group NZ regarding the release of this movie, but it seems unreasonable & diabolical. I wonder what NZ has come to? It's sad that any country that calls itself a DEMOCRACY, would wish to shy away from Telling the TRUTH.

For How many years more do we struggle to get our voice heard???? The world is watching NZ closely – Ban a Movie, curbing freedom of speech would label NZ as another undemocratic country! My question to that communal group – If you have any issues they can come in public and debate, we will respect their freedom of expression unlike them being sneakily & asking for the ban of #KASHMIRFILES.

As we all know that Freedom of Expression is highly important in New Zealand & The world has watched Aotearoa New Zealand's remarkable response to many challenges at tough times. This movie has gained the attention of billions of people worldwide, specifically in heavily democratic countries like India, America, Australia and so on. This film is getting the overwhelming support, love, and appreciation of people worldwide. So, our Humble Request to you is why Reality should not be told to people? Why Ban the truth, isn't it unfair to my community who are in exile from the past 30 years? The world is acknowledging the reality and this needs to be shown to People of New Zealand too. This is not a movie but a true story.

It's our humble request to let democracy prevail and let New Zealand see the reality of what happened in Kashmir! I Have a lot of faith in AOTEAROA!! Please be kind.

Kindly refer to the 500+ E-signatures received in support of Releasing " The Kashmir Files" in New Zealand

Regards

s 9(2)(a) & s 9(2)(a)

Proud Kiwi Indian-Kashmiri Pandit

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

#	Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
1	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
2	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		629	New Zealand	18/03/2022
3	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	18/03/2022
4	s 9(2)(a)	Nelson			New Zealand	18/03/2022
5	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
6	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	18/03/2022
7	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
8	s 9(2)(a)	Dharwad		580004	India	18/03/2022
9	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
10	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
11	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	18/03/2022
12	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122004	India	18/03/2022
13	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	18/03/2022
14	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110027	India	18/03/2022
15	s 9(2)(a)	Faridabad		121002	India	18/03/2022
16	s 9(2)(a)	Chandigarh			India	18/03/2022
17	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	18/03/2022
18	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		2138	New Zealand	18/03/2022
19	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	18/03/2022
20	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	18/03/2022
21	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
22	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	18/03/2022
23	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
24	s 9(2)(a)	auckland		2016	New Zealand	18/03/2022
25	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	18/03/2022
26	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	18/03/2022
27	s 9(2)(a)	Chesterfield	Missouri	63005	US	18/03/2022
28	s 9(2)(a)	Faridabad		121004	India	18/03/2022
29	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai		400070	India	18/03/2022
30	s 9(2)(a)	Cary	North Carolina	27513	US	18/03/2022
31	s 9(2)(a)	Brisbane		4000	Australia	18/03/2022
32	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		2012	New Zealand	18/03/2022
33	s 9(2)(a)	Copenhagen			Denmark	18/03/2022
34	s 9(2)(a)	Coquitlam		V3Z	Canada	18/03/2022
35	s 9(2)(a)	Ahmedabad		380054	India	18/03/2022
36	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	18/03/2022
37	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	18/03/2022
38	s 9(2)(a)	Indianapolis	Indiana	46201	US	18/03/2022
39	s 9(2)(a)	KUWAIT			Kuwait	18/03/2022
40	s 9(2)(a)			110092	India	18/03/2022
41	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122001	India	18/03/2022
42	s 9(2)(a)			201005	India	18/03/2022
43	s 9(2)(a)			Nil	India	18/03/2022
44	s 9(2)(a)	Dallas	Texas	75243	US	18/03/2022
45	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		201304	Denmark	18/03/2022
46	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
47	s 9(2)(a)	Oakville		L6H 7V6	Canada	18/03/2022
48	s 9(2)(a)			110085	India	18/03/2022
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54	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	18/03/2022
55	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
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57	s 9(2)(a)	Tauranga			New Zealand	18/03/2022
58	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
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66	s 9(2)(a)	Youngstown	Ohio	44512	US	18/03/2022
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69	s 9(2)(a)	Sacramento	California	95835	US	18/03/2022
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71	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
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75	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
76	s 9(2)(a)	Pune		411005	India	18/03/2022
77	s 9(2)(a)	Stittsville		K2S	Canada	18/03/2022
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79	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	18/03/2022
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82	s 9(2)(a)	Irvine	California	92618	US	18/03/2022
83	s 9(2)(a)	Fairfax	Virginia	22030	US	18/03/2022
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86	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	18/03/2022
87	s 9(2)(a)	Panipat		132103	India	18/03/2022
88	s 9(2)(a)	Vadodara		390002	India	18/03/2022
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93	s 9(2)(a)	Oakville		L6M	Canada	18/03/2022
94	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	18/03/2022
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108	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
109	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
110	s 9(2)(a)				India	19/03/2022
111	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110059	India	19/03/2022
112	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122001	India	19/03/2022
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114	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
115	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
116	s 9(2)(a)	Sydney		2000	Australia	19/03/2022
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142	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
143	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
144	s 9(2)(a)	Upper Hutt			New Zealand	19/03/2022
145	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122001	India	19/03/2022
146	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
147	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
148	s 9(2)(a)	Palmerston North			New Zealand	19/03/2022
149	s 9(2)(a)			122001	India	19/03/2022

150	s 9(2)(a)	Bangalore		110054	India	19/03/2022
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154	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
155	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110078	India	19/03/2022
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157	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
158	s 9(2)(a)				India	19/03/2022
159	s 9(2)(a)	Wellington		6011	New Zealand	19/03/2022
160	s 9(2)(a)	jammu tawi		180011	India	19/03/2022
161	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu		180002	India	19/03/2022
162	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu		110013	India	19/03/2022
163	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai		400076	India	19/03/2022
164	s 9(2)(a)			400092	India	19/03/2022
165	s 9(2)(a)			560100	India	19/03/2022
166	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		180013	India	19/03/2022
167	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
168	s 9(2)(a)				India	19/03/2022
169	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
170	s 9(2)(a)	Faridabad		121001	India	19/03/2022
171	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
172	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai		400078	India	19/03/2022
173	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110003	India	19/03/2022
174	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
175	s 9(2)(a)	Dehradun		248001	India	19/03/2022
176	s 9(2)(a)			400063	India	19/03/2022
177	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai		400078	India	19/03/2022
178	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
179	s 9(2)(a)	Ludhiana		141007	India	19/03/2022
180	s 9(2)(a)	Greater Noida		201308	India	19/03/2022
181	s 9(2)(a)	Faridabad.		121012.	India	19/03/2022
182	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai		400070	India	19/03/2022
183	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
184	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
185	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai		400019	India	19/03/2022
186	s 9(2)(a)	Durg		490025	India	19/03/2022
187	s 9(2)(a)	Hyderabad		500044	India	19/03/2022
188	s 9(2)(a)	Hyderabad		500044	India	19/03/2022
189	s 9(2)(a)	New Delhi		110044	India	19/03/2022
190	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
191	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
192	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
193	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu		180001	India	19/03/2022
194	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
195	s 9(2)(a)	Faridabad		121007	India	19/03/2022
196	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
197	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
198	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu		180013	India	19/03/2022
199	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022

200	s 9(2)(a)	Ludhiana		141007	India	19/03/2022
201	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
202	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
203	s 9(2)(a)	Mohania		821109	India	19/03/2022
204	s 9(2)(a)	Masterton		5810	New Zealand	19/03/2022
205	s 9(2)(a)	East Tamaki			New Zealand	19/03/2022
206	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
207	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
208	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
209	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
210	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
211	s 9(2)(a)	Belgaum		590010	New Zealand	19/03/2022
212	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
213	s 9(2)(a)	New Plymouth			New Zealand	19/03/2022
214	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	19/03/2022
215	s 9(2)(a)	Valencia	California	91354	US	19/03/2022
216	s 9(2)(a)	Lucknow		226028	India	19/03/2022
217	s 9(2)(a)	Anand Parbat		110005	India	19/03/2022
218	s 9(2)(a)	Navi Mumbai (New Mumbai)		400701	India	19/03/2022
219	s 9(2)(a)			201308	India	19/03/2022
220	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
221	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu		180013	India	19/03/2022
222	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
223	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		201301	India	19/03/2022
224	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
225	s 9(2)(a)			18007	India	19/03/2022
226	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu		181123	India	19/03/2022
227	s 9(2)(a)			110018	India	19/03/2022
228	s 9(2)(a)			110034	India	19/03/2022
229	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai		400078	India	19/03/2022
230	s 9(2)(a)	Mysore		570016	India	19/03/2022
231	s 9(2)(a)	Mysore		570031	India	19/03/2022
232	s 9(2)(a)	Pune		411001	India	19/03/2022
233	s 9(2)(a)	West Lafayette	Indiana	47906	US	19/03/2022
234	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		110054	India	19/03/2022
235	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
236	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
237	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
238	s 9(2)(a)	Tauranga			New Zealand	19/03/2022
239	s 9(2)(a)	Ludhiana		141203	India	19/03/2022
240	s 9(2)(a)	Hamilton			New Zealand	19/03/2022
241	s 9(2)(a)			124022	India	19/03/2022
242	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
243	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai		400703	India	19/03/2022
244	s 9(2)(a)	Jalandhar		144301	India	19/03/2022
245	s 9(2)(a)			201005	India	19/03/2022
246	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	19/03/2022
247	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122101	India	19/03/2022
248	s 9(2)(a)	Perth		6000	Australia	19/03/2022
249	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110087	India	19/03/2022

250	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022	
251	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai	400070	India	19/03/2022	
252	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu	180007	India	19/03/2022	
253	s 9(2)(a)	Christchurch		New Zealand	19/03/2022	
254	s 9(2)(a)	Ahmedabad		New Zealand	19/03/2022	
255	s 9(2)(a)	Christchurch		New Zealand	19/03/2022	
256	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022	
257	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022	
258	s 9(2)(a)			India	19/03/2022	
259	s 9(2)(a)	Whangaparaoa	932	New Zealand	19/03/2022	
260	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022	
261	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022	
262	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022	
263	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022	
264	s 9(2)(a)	Hospet	583201	India	19/03/2022	
265	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	19/03/2022	
266	s 9(2)(a)	Ghaziabad	201009	India	19/03/2022	
267	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu	180013	India	19/03/2022	
268	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	19/03/2022	
269	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu	181205	India	19/03/2022	
270	s 9(2)(a)	Naperville	Illinois	60564	US	19/03/2022
271	s 9(2)(a)	Ocala	Florida	34471	US	19/03/2022
272	s 9(2)(a)			180007	India	19/03/2022
273	s 9(2)(a)	New Delhi	Delaware	110014	US	19/03/2022
274	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
275	s 9(2)(a)			122002	India	19/03/2022
276	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
277	s 9(2)(a)	delhi		110092	India	19/03/2022
278	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		201301	India	19/03/2022
279	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
280	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122001	India	19/03/2022
281	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu		180004	India	19/03/2022
282	s 9(2)(a)	Ahmedabad		380001	India	19/03/2022
283	s 9(2)(a)	Louisville	Colorado	80027	US	19/03/2022
284	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
285	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
286	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
287	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002	India	19/03/2022
288	s 9(2)(a)	New Delhi		122002	India	19/03/2022
289	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110091	India	19/03/2022
290	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
291	s 9(2)(a)	Pune		411005	India	19/03/2022
292	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
293	s 9(2)(a)	Wheeling	Illinois	60090	US	19/03/2022
294	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	19/03/2022
295	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu		181205	India	19/03/2022
296	s 9(2)(a)			110051	Nepal	19/03/2022
297	s 9(2)(a)			560066	India	19/03/2022
298	s 9(2)(a)	Agra		282001	India	19/03/2022
299	s 9(2)(a)			180002	India	19/03/2022

300	s 9(2)(a)	Anand Parbat		110005 India	19/03/2022
301	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002 India	19/03/2022
302	s 9(2)(a)	Calgary	T3P	Canada	19/03/2022
303	s 9(2)(a)	Udhampur		182101 India	19/03/2022
304	s 9(2)(a)	Udhampur (J&K)		110054 India	19/03/2022
305	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		201301 India	19/03/2022
306	s 9(2)(a)	New Delhi		122002 India	19/03/2022
307	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110005 India	19/03/2022
308	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		201301 India	19/03/2022
309	s 9(2)(a)	Jaipur		302001 India	19/03/2022
310	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
311	s 9(2)(a)	Fremont	California	94536 US	19/03/2022
312	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110089 India	19/03/2022
313	s 9(2)(a)			180002 India	19/03/2022
314	s 9(2)(a)	Livermore	California	94551 US	19/03/2022
315	s 9(2)(a)	Jersey City	New Jersey	7304 US	19/03/2022
316	s 9(2)(a)	New Delhi		110062 India	19/03/2022
317	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		201301 India	19/03/2022
318	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122001 India	19/03/2022
319	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
320	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
321	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022
322	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		201304 India	19/03/2022
323	s 9(2)(a)			180015 India	19/03/2022
324	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
325	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
326	s 9(2)(a)	Andover	Massachusetts	1810 US	19/03/2022
327	s 9(2)(a)	jammu		181123 India	19/03/2022
328	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
329	s 9(2)(a)	Noida		110091 India	19/03/2022
330	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
331	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110019 India	19/03/2022
332	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
333	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
334	s 9(2)(a)	Navi Mumbai		400703 India	19/03/2022
335	s 9(2)(a)	Chandigarh		160036 India	19/03/2022
336	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
337	s 9(2)(a)	San Jose	California	95123 US	19/03/2022
338	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru		560002 India	19/03/2022
339	s 9(2)(a)	Oakland	California	94621 US	19/03/2022
340	s 9(2)(a)	Lucknow		226017 India	19/03/2022
341	s 9(2)(a)			201005 India	19/03/2022
342	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110018 India	19/03/2022
343	s 9(2)(a)	Anandpur		263139 India	19/03/2022
344	s 9(2)(a)	Tezpur		787035 India	19/03/2022
345	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122004 India	19/03/2022
346	s 9(2)(a)			India	19/03/2022
347	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054 India	19/03/2022
348	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		India	19/03/2022
349	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon		122003 India	19/03/2022

350	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu	181221	India	19/03/2022
351	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	19/03/2022
352	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon	122017	India	19/03/2022
353	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	19/03/2022
354	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
355	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
356	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022
357	s 9(2)(a)	Christchurch		New Zealand	19/03/2022
358	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022
359	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
360	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022
361	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	19/03/2022
362	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
363	s 9(2)(a)	Lake tekapo		New Zealand	19/03/2022
364	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland	1041	New Zealand	19/03/2022
365	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022
366	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022
367	s 9(2)(a)		800001	India	19/03/2022
368	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
369	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
370	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
371	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
372	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
373	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland	2010	New Zealand	19/03/2022
374	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	19/03/2022
375	s 9(2)(a)	Lower Hutt	5010	New Zealand	19/03/2022
376	s 9(2)(a)	Stratford		New Zealand	19/03/2022
377	s 9(2)(a)	Christchurch		New Zealand	19/03/2022
378	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
379	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland	1010	New Zealand	19/03/2022
380	s 9(2)(a)	London	SW8	UK	19/03/2022
381	s 9(2)(a)	Wellington		New Zealand	19/03/2022
382	s 9(2)(a)	Christchurch		New Zealand	19/03/2022
383	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
384	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	19/03/2022
385	s 9(2)(a)	Wattle Downs		New Zealand	19/03/2022
386	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
387	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
388	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
389	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
390	s 9(2)(a)	New Zealand		New Zealand	20/03/2022
391	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
392	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
393	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	20/03/2022
394	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
395	s 9(2)(a)	Wellington		New Zealand	20/03/2022
396	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110004	India	20/03/2022
397	s 9(2)(a)	Jammu	180016	India	20/03/2022
398	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
399	s 9(2)(a)	JAMMU	180002	India	20/03/2022

400	s 9(2)(a)	Papakura	2113	New Zealand	20/03/2022
401	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
402	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
403	s 9(2)(a)	Nashik	422003	India	20/03/2022
404	s 9(2)(a)	Pune	411014	India	20/03/2022
405	s 9(2)(a)	Wellington	5019	New Zealand	20/03/2022
406	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
407	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
408	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon	122001	India	20/03/2022
409	s 9(2)(a)	Rotorua		New Zealand	20/03/2022
410	s 9(2)(a)	Lucknow	226005	India	20/03/2022
411	s 9(2)(a)	Gurgaon	122004	India	20/03/2022
412	s 9(2)(a)			South Africa	20/03/2022
413	s 9(2)(a)		201301	India	20/03/2022
414	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
415	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
416	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
417	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
418	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
419	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
420	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
421	s 9(2)(a)	Manukau		New Zealand	20/03/2022
422	s 9(2)(a)	Wellington		New Zealand	20/03/2022
423	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
424	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
425	s 9(2)(a)	Chandigarh	160036	India	20/03/2022
426	s 9(2)(a)	Northland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
427	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
428	s 9(2)(a)	Wellington	6023	New Zealand	20/03/2022
429	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
430	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland	1150	New Zealand	20/03/2022
431	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
432	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
433	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	20/03/2022
434	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
435	s 9(2)(a)	Irvine	92617	US	20/03/2022
436	s 9(2)(a)		180013	India	20/03/2022
437	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
438	s 9(2)(a)	Noida	201301	India	20/03/2022
439	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
440	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
441	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai	400078	India	20/03/2022
442	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110006	India	20/03/2022
443	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai	400610	India	20/03/2022
444	s 9(2)(a)		400066	India	20/03/2022
445	s 9(2)(a)		400068	India	20/03/2022
446	s 9(2)(a)	Ghaziabad	201014	India	20/03/2022
447	s 9(2)(a)		380052	India	20/03/2022
448	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai	400070	India	20/03/2022
449	s 9(2)(a)	NOIDA, UP	201301	India	20/03/2022

450	s 9(2)(a)	New Zealand		New Zealand	20/03/2022
451	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
452	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	20/03/2022
453	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
454	s 9(2)(a)	Mumbai	400016	India	20/03/2022
455	s 9(2)(a)	Remuera		New Zealand	20/03/2022
456	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
457	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland	1071	New Zealand	20/03/2022
458	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
459	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
460	s 9(2)(a)	Roxburgh		New Zealand	20/03/2022
461	s 9(2)(a)	Noida	110091	India	20/03/2022
462	s 9(2)(a)	Whangarei		New Zealand	20/03/2022
463	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
464	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland	1010	New Zealand	20/03/2022
465	s 9(2)(a)	Manor	3024	Australia	20/03/2022
466	s 9(2)(a)		180002	India	20/03/2022
467	s 9(2)(a)		110048	India	20/03/2022
468	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110059	India	20/03/2022
469	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
470	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
471	s 9(2)(a)	New Delhi	110019	India	20/03/2022
472	s 9(2)(a)		411014	India	20/03/2022
473	s 9(2)(a)	Wellington		New Zealand	20/03/2022
474	s 9(2)(a)	New Delhi	110008	India	20/03/2022
475	s 9(2)(a)		110001	New Zealand	20/03/2022
476	s 9(2)(a)	Wellington	560076	New Zealand	20/03/2022
477	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	20/03/2022
478	s 9(2)(a)	Karnal	132001	India	20/03/2022
479	s 9(2)(a)		201010	India	20/03/2022
480	s 9(2)(a)	Austin	78732	US	20/03/2022
481	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	20/03/2022
482	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
483	s 9(2)(a)	Hamilton		New Zealand	20/03/2022
484	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru	560002	India	20/03/2022
485	s 9(2)(a)			New Zealand	20/03/2022
486	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110095	India	20/03/2022
487	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110068	India	20/03/2022
488	s 9(2)(a)		201016	India	20/03/2022
489	s 9(2)(a)		181221	India	20/03/2022
490	s 9(2)(a)	Christchurch		New Zealand	20/03/2022
491	s 9(2)(a)		110095	India	20/03/2022
492	s 9(2)(a)	Noida	201301	India	20/03/2022
493	s 9(2)(a)		180001	India	20/03/2022
494	s 9(2)(a)		122001	India	20/03/2022
495	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi	110054	India	20/03/2022
496	s 9(2)(a)	wellington	6305	New Zealand	20/03/2022
497	s 9(2)(a)	Dehradun	248001	India	20/03/2022
498	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		New Zealand	20/03/2022
499	s 9(2)(a)	Bengaluru	560002	India	20/03/2022

500	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland		1051	New Zealand	20/03/2022
501	s 9(2)(a)			122001	India	20/03/2022
502	s 9(2)(a)	Sundar Nagar		175019	India	20/03/2022
503	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	20/03/2022
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525	s 9(2)(a)	Wanganui			New Zealand	20/03/2022
526	s 9(2)(a)	Havelock North			New Zealand	20/03/2022
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531	s 9(2)(a)	Delhi		110054	India	20/03/2022
532	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	20/03/2022
533	s 9(2)(a)	Tauranga			New Zealand	20/03/2022
534	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	20/03/2022
535	s 9(2)(a)	Reading		RG2	UK	20/03/2022
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541	s 9(2)(a)	Tauranga			New Zealand	20/03/2022
542	s 9(2)(a)	Hamilton			New Zealand	20/03/2022
543	s 9(2)(a)	Hamilton			New Zealand	20/03/2022
544	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	20/03/2022
545	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	20/03/2022
546	s 9(2)(a)	Christchurch			New Zealand	20/03/2022
547	s 9(2)(a)				New Zealand	20/03/2022
548	s 9(2)(a)	Kaikohe			New Zealand	20/03/2022
549	s 9(2)(a)	Auckland			New Zealand	20/03/2022

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)> on behalf of s 9(2)(a)
s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 1:56 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: Shri Ram Mandir
Subject: Request to Release The Kashmir Files Movie in New Zealand Theatres Urgently
Attachments: Letter against the Censorship of The Kashmir Files Movie.pdf
Categories: Non-form

We attach our submission for your kind consideration.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)
Shri Ram Mandir Charitable Trust
s 9(2)(a)
Web: www.shrirammandir.org.nz

The content of this email is confidential and intended for the recipient specified in message only. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without a written consent of the sender. If you received this message by mistake, please reply to this message and follow with its deletion, so that we can ensure such a mistake does not occur in the future.



श्री राम मंदिर चैरिटेबल ट्रस्ट Shri Ram Mandir Charitable Trust

Charities Commission No. CC47282, Companies Incorporation No 2553536 , GST 107-699-783

Postal Address : SUITE 3, LEVEL 7, 300 QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND 1010

Site Address : 11 Brick Street, Henderson, Auckland

PHONE (09) 8364647, Fax (09) 3691729 email: info@shrirammandir.org.nz

www.shrirammandir.org.nz

21 March 2022

Mr David Shanks - The Chief Censor

Classification Office

info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

Censorship of 'THE KASHMIR FILES'

Shri Ram Mandir Charitable Trust has been the hub of West Auckland Hindu community since 2015. Many festivals, cultural events and religious practices are carried out through the year.

Our organisation also organises many community events that are patronised by the wider West Auckland community including those of other cultures, religions and faiths. We have conducted many interfaith meetings and prayers and carry out many social initiatives for the benefit of our communities. One such interfaith prayer meeting was after the Christchurch shooting where we also raised funds to help our muslim brothers and sisters who became victims of a terrorist attack.

We always advocate for the rights of individuals and organisations as enshrined in our constitution and the freedom of expression is one of them.

Before the Censor Board makes its final decision, we would like you to consider some of the following information/viewpoints.

1. It is a fact that this happened in Kashmir in 1989-90. A large number of people, majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits were killed during that time. You are welcome to check some independent sources to confirm this. Furthermore, some of the eyewitnesses to these events are actually residing in India & New Zealand till date.
2. A large number of people, again a majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits had to leave Kashmir region. There are official census figures which prove this. One can have arguments whether they left of their own accord or whether they were forced to leave, or such conditions were created in Kashmir that they were left with no choice but to flee but this did happen and some of them are living here in Aotearoa who could help you understand their suffering then.
3. This film is based on the Director's viewpoint on how he perceived that this happened and based on his interviews with the victims and his thorough research.
4. To best of our knowledge, no one in India had denied the fact that it happened. the argument there is about which political party or political leader was responsible for it. The fact is that massacre did happen, and some militant groups of Muslims were responsible for it who were implanted by neighbouring Pakistan as per govt records – not all Muslims and we have never claimed this to be the case.

5. There is nothing to stop other film makers to put their viewpoints forward through movies, documentaries or other means in future years based on the facts same as this movie.
6. Is it your opinion that by banning the film here in Aotearoa will change the facts? Or you are denying that it's not fact based?
7. To give an analogy, 9/11 attacks took place in USA by Muslim terrorists. NZ Government stood in solidarity with rest of the world and even as recently as 10th Sept 21, it expressed unity and solidarity with victims and families of the ones who were affected. None of the movies made on 9/11 were banned here.
8. To give a local analogy, if someone wants to make a movie of the Christchurch Mosque attack in 20 years later, would the Censor Board ban such movie on the basis that it could inflame hatred against a particular community? The Christchurch event is a true incident which needs to be recorded and should be allowed under the freedom of expression principle in New Zealand. This movie is no different.
9. The Kashmir Files movie has been released and screened apart from India, in Australia, USA and other countries and no violence of any kind has been reported to date. It has generated some serious and some heated discussions which is natural for any healthy society, but it has been managed well; especially we are attempting to address some of the wrongs being done on our own NZ soil.
10. The current government's move to teach Aotearoa history in schools is a brave one and sets a good example that Truth and historical facts cannot be suppressed for long.
11. We are not aware of any cases of violence by Hindu/Indian/Sikh communities here in Aotearoa. We are sincerely assuming that you are seeking/consult balanced advice on this issue rather than considering views of one particular community. Our biggest fear is that your possible decision to ban this film will set a dangerous precedent of setting one community's concerns over the other. How does one really decide who's concerns have more weight than the other!
12. Our last point is that it DID happen, it is a FACT. It should not have happened. Some victims of this crime are residing here, but we are not aware of any perpetrator living here. Thus, screening of this movie will enlighten us all and remind us NOT to let it happen here or anywhere else. Depriving the wider community, Indians, and even Muslim community, who have hitherto been unaware that such genocide occurred will miss out on getting a viewpoint of this sad history. We hold no animosity towards our Muslim brothers and sisters here as we know those living here were not responsible for these gruesome events and are convinced that they will be just horrified of the past.

Our hope is that your decision does not alienate a particular community by sending a message that their pain does not matter, their history has no value in Aotearoa and their financial, professional, social, and cultural contribution is not valued by this nation!

We hope that the right to information and freedom to choose what we should see is preserved through your decision.

Yours Faithfully

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:06 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files - Request from The victims

Categories: Non-form

We are about 500 Kashmiris here who bore the direct brunt of the genocide that was orchestrated by the terrorists and our appeal to you is "please hear us as well before making any decision after review"

We believe the movie is being seen all across the world and there is no incidence of violence. Our story needs to be told and we request you to retain R16 rating.

For us terrorists have no religion and it is an opportunity for all to distance themselves from these perpetrators of crime.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

My house photo attached below - this is where I was chased from and it was occupied by the criminals. We are very sad to see some media calling it 'fictional'



Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:07 pm
To: David Shanks
Cc: Information Unit
Subject: Release of the Kashmir Files in Aotearoa

Categories: Non-form

Kia ora David,

It was quite a shock when I read an article by J Franks on [Stuff.co.nz](https://www.stuff.co.nz) which was factually incorrect, misleading and poorly informed suggesting that the film Kashmir Files was somehow antagonising a particular religious affiliation even before it was available in the country. You were also quoted in that article.

I wanted to lay bare a few facts about this film. As I understand, the film is based on a terrible series of incidents that happened in the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India between 1989-91. Of course, the timeline of events stretches back much further. It brings forth the targetted killings, assassinations, mass shootings, torture and rapes of the minority Kashmir Hindu community, often in their own homes, on the streets and in their workplaces. This led to the minority community having to leave their homes and lives of centuries with just the clothes they were wearing overnight, a situation similar to what we are witnessing in Ukraine today. There is well documented evidence of this bloodbath in the Indian media and foreign media outlets and I am happy to point you to these should you need this while you are working towards a decision.

It has been 32 year since and this is the first Hindi language feature film that has captured the unimaginable grief of the community. In doing so, it has brought forth the injustices much like Schindler's List did for the Holocaust. Would anyone in New Zealand ever object to the release of this movie and would any German oppose the movie accusing anyone of Germanphobia? Movies and books documenting the Holocaust are treated as essential to understand the impacts violence and terror. These are made available to the public not because of their shock value but rather because of the lessons they portray.

Closer home, could we imagine anyone opposing a movie (if made) on the Bastion Point incident of being New Zealand phobic? Every single day, we work towards ensuring that the tragedies and injustices of the past are acknowledged. To this end, we encourage the use of Te Reo, promote independent content and encourage dialogues. This is the hallmark of democracies which practice freedom of expression. Countries like the UK, Australia, USA have allowed for screening of this movie without any reports of incidents as alluded to by the Stuff article.

Tragedies at the scale of what happened to the Kashmiri Hindu community are human tragedies and those who are victims of any terror will most definitely empathise with the victims and survivors of any other tragedies. There are members of the Kashmiri Hindu community in Aotearoa who will face a double silencing of their grief and victim blaming if any perceived emotions are given priority over real sufferings. Every nation state and civilisation has their share of uncomfortable truths including colonialism but in democracies, censoring of these is paramount to denying justice or worse glorifying the wrongs.

As the head of a Crown entity, I urge you to take into cognizance the facts and views from all New Zealanders rather than privileging a potential concern based on whataboutery. After all, freedom of expression is a right of all New Zealanders and this instance should not serve as a precedent for this right to be the privilege of a select few.

Sincerely,

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:18 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Banning of the Movie " The Kashmir Files"

Categories: Non-form

Dear David,
This has reference to the ongoing debate about this movie.

From all that I have been reading about this movie, it is a highly exaggerated version of what actually happened and is basically a highly Political movie . Facts are distorted or exaggerated to inflame passions against the Muslim community, basically to consolidate Hindu Votes, an electoral Strategy the Ruling BJP uses to shore its electoral base. The movie has the implicit support and blessings of the Prime Minister himself.

The situation in This India is becoming increasingly polarized and difficult for Minorities especially Muslims. Christians and Churches , Missionaries are increasingly coming attack. The media in India is highly Corporatized and controlled by Indian Oligarchs. Indian Society even in New Zealand is becoming increasingly polarized as it is the Majoritarian view that prevails.

I urge you to check the facts that should prevail while making your decision.

1. " When the Kashmiri Pandits left the valley, Farooq Abdullah was not the chief minister. Jagmohan was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir. VP Singh's government was at the Centre, supported by the BJP," Abdullah said."Why wasn't VP Singh's government and BJP shown in the film. It is not right to play with facts. We condemn the killings of Kashmiri Pandits. But didn't Kashmiri Muslims and Sikhs lose their lives?" the former chief minister said.Later, Abdullah took to Twitter to reiterate his statement. "The pain & suffering of 1990 & after can not be undone. The way Kashmiri Pandits had their sense of security snatched from them & had to leave the valley is a stain on our culture of Kashmiriyat. We have to find ways to heal divides & not add to them."

2." The film's director, Vivek Agnihotri, who is also seen as a BJP supporter, has been accused of inaccuracies in his work. Last week, a court restrained him from including scenes depicting an air force squadron leader and his death after the man's wife filed a suit saying the details were factually incorrect and demeaned him."

3. Mr Agnihotri has defended The Kashmir Files, saying: "It's not about Hindu or Muslim like people would want to believe."

But by Monday night, Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of the fact-checking platform Alt News, had shared several videos from screenings of the film that showed audiences chanting anti- Muslims slogans."

4. Mr Pandita says given the complexity of the issue, there is space "for all kinds of films," but Mr Kak is not so sure. "There is an insistence that this is "the truth". But you can't tell the story of Kashmiri Pandits without also telling the story of Kashmir in these 30 years. And maybe that's why people have not told the story in Bollywood before. Because there's no space to tell the story with the complexity that it deserves."

I sincerely hope that you will review the facts presented by the movie. From all accounts that I have read, it is highly exaggerated, and does not adhere to the truth. The number of official

deaths is only 300 odd as compared to 47,000 people who have died and the constant oppression of the civilian population in Kashmir.

Thanking you .

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/the-anatomy-of-kashmir-militancy-in-numbers/story-UncrzPTGhN22Uf1HHe64JJ.html>

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: info@manukauindianfm.nz
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:28 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: media@dpmc.govt.nz; hq@national.org.nz; info@act.org.nz; greenparty@greens.org.nz; office@consulateofindia.in; cohonz2021@gmail.com
Subject: Please Release The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Ram Ram, Namaste, Hello.

For introduction, I'm s 9(2)(a) from the Manukau Indian FM - which promotes Indian History, Literature, Music, Culture, Hindi, Hindu, Hindutva and Sanatan.

You can find out more about us by going to our Facebook page or our website - <https://manukauindianfm.nz> or <https://www.facebook.com/manukau.indian.fm>

Now to the main issue of the movie - The Kashmir Files.

On behalf of thousands of our listeners and social media supporters, I request the Classification Office for an immediate release of the Kashmir Files as planned for the 24th of March.

Additionally, I am also raising an issue with the use of the word 'controversial' in the statement by the Classification Office.

The Classification Office should focus on its role rather than decide what is controversial and what is not inline with its statement that issues of taste or ideology are not the Classification Office's matters to decide.

As the Classification Office stated, that they would like to hear from representatives of key interested communities, I am requesting that you speak to me and other Indian, Hindu and Sanatan organizations in New Zealand for their input as well.

I am aware that a number of such organizations have already written to you.

The Kashmir Files has been running extremely successfully overseas.

It is based on facts, a list of which you will find below:

Kashmir is named after the great Indian sage, Kashyap Rishi.

Kashmiri Pandit Hindu, Sanatani are the natives of Kashmir.

Between the 14th century and 19th January, 1990, thousands of Kashmiri Pandits have been killed violently by terrorists.

As a result, hundreds of thousands of Kashmiri Pandits have left the valley.

Their properties, mandirs, temples have been taken, desecrated and burnt.

Those lucky enough not to get killed, suffered Rape, Riots, Kidnappings and Torture by the terrorists.

The terrorists identified and attacked Pandit homes specifically.

A noteworthy incident on 19 January, 1990 which led to the mass eviction was that power was cut from the Kashmiri Pandit houses, loudspeaker public announcements were being made for the Kashmiri Pandit males to leave Kashmir (Leave women behind), convert or be killed.

Then their houses were set on fire. The terrorists killed anyone openly supporting India including Military and Police officers. Those fleeing ended up in the refugee camps of Jammu - many died there due to the weather conditions, snake bites and famine.

Those that were not able to leave faced unfair laws, 2500 villages' Kashmiri, Hindi, Sanskrit place names removed, State Based Hate Speech and Religious Discrimination. Things are now slowly moving in the right direction under the current Central Indian Government. All of this is well documented. Below, you will find details on some of the horrific crimes by the terrorists:

On 14 September 1989, Tika Lal Taploo, who was a lawyer and a BJP member, was murdered in his home in Srinagar.

On 4 November 1989, high court judge in Kashmir Neelkanth Ganjoo was killed near the High Court in Srinagar.

On 25 January 1990, Rawalpura shooting incident took place, wherein four Indian Air Force personnel were killed.

On 29 April 1990, Sarwanand Kaul Premi, a veteran Kashmiri poet was gruesomely murdered.

On 2 February 1990, Satish Tikoo, a young Hindu social worker was murdered near his own house in Habba Kadal, Srinagar.

On 13 February 1990, Lassa Kaul, Station Director of Srinagar Doordarshan National TV, was shot dead.

On June 4, 1990, Girija Tickoo, a Kashmiri Hindu teacher was gang raped by terrorists, who ripped her abdomen and chopped her body into two pieces with a saw machine while she was still alive.

In December 1992, Hriday Nath Wanchoo, a trade union leader and human rights activist, was murdered with Kashmir separatist Ashiq Hussain Faktoo being convicted for the murder.

In conclusion, I once again humbly requesting the release of the Kashmir Files movie so that these stories of the victims get told to the world as they have not gotten any justice until now - they want to go home and their story telling via this movie is a crucial start as the movie will take the viewer into the victims shoes and show them exactly what the victims suffered before/while they were killed - this is only possible via a movie and not by any other means.

s 9(2)(a) - Manukau Indian FM

<https://manukauindianfm.nz> | <https://www.facebook.com/manukau.indian.fm>
info@manukauindianfm.nz

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:36 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files.

Categories: Non-form

To respected Team,

I was really shocked with your decision for not allowing screening of The Kashmir Files.

We migrated here in 2002 , we had a choice, and we so happy with our choice but Kashmiri pundit had to leave everything behind to their lives. If anyone telling you it's going to start tension between two communities here , that is a lie. We Hindus are very peace loving community, and it's very important for us to show our younger generation to show truth and open discussion. When CHCH attack happened we came together and stood side by side with our nation and Muslim community. This movie is not against muslims..... this is against Terrorism. I think we all are against that.

If we have choice to watch movies on 9/11, holocaust, and other many other movies where basic humanity was tested because of terrorism , we should definitely get chance to watch movie which is based on our sentiments.

I am really hoping you would treat this movie as just movie and not some political or religious propaganda. If we have no problem watching how certain situations make boys terrorist and they do they what they do in movies, here we all can name few names of movies , why that is glorified and how this movie is any different than those kind of movies.

It's not fair one community gets sympathy because certain reasons and other has to deal and keep quiet because their sentiments will get hurt. What about our sentiments??

I have high hopes , you all will look into this matter and take right decision which will be In everyone's good interest, not just one community. We need to treat this as just a movie. In New Zealand we all know how to do this.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:37 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Put freedom first. If you don't have to censor then don't. Freedom of expression, freedom of speech: these are precious rights.

David Shanks, Chief Censor

I don't agree that this film is under review whether to release or not in New Zealand. We have been looking forward to it and only recently found out that there was a complaint against the release in New Zealand.

These ideas and thoughts are unfounded, propaganda and not real. This movie brings to light what actually happened to a section of a community in Northern India in the early 1990's. This in no way singles out an entire group of community or religion. Hence, we living in the free world do not agree to this censorship.

I am neither a Hindu or a Muslim, I want to watch this movie because I am a human being and real life atrocities were carried out by humans against humans just 30 odd years ago and there has been every attempt by the government in question and media in the relative country to downplay the sufferings and deaths the victims suffered. I can not believe this movie is potentially with Censors to review. This movie does not create hate, harm or target our Muslim community in NZ.

Just because there is a movie made on Jews or we watch a movie on the Holocaust during World War 2, doesn't make us hate Germans. just as we don't hate the Japanese for Pearl Harbour, don't hate the police or authorities for the Dawn Raids closer home, it's ridiculous that the Muslim community will be at risk because this movie will release in NZ. This is a gross injustice to freedom of expression, speech and our rights as citizens of New Zealand and on a larger scale global citizens.

I urge this movie to be released so history is not hidden under a veil, TRUTH MUST BE TOLD.

s 9(2)(a)
Auckland, NZ

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:53 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir files release

Categories: Non-form

Dear Censor board team,

My understanding is that the above film will not be released in NZ.

4 people, their families and the events that unfolded is the crux of the movie. What happened in Kashmir maybe debate focused for some. However, for members of my family and friends what happened in Kashmir on that night of 19 January 1990 is a long hidden truth that was not allowed to be told until now. This was a genocide not an exodus.

Using 'exodus' is not only insensitive and ignorant. It's delegitimising an entire community's reality. The sheer apathy that's being propagated by signalling the film is 'Islamophobic' demonstrates how ignorant NZ society actually is.

To not let the film screen is your choice, but please do not make this another example of 'virtue signalling' that has become a norm for anything that does not fit the in-fashion and woke sudo-socialist narrative widely regurgitated in popular media in NZ today.

It would be interesting to find out the level of transparency and research exercised in getting to know the facts before such a one-sided decision was made.

I'd appreciate a 'non-scripted' response if any.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 2:59 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files release.

Categories: Non-form

Hello,

You might have received concerns over The Kashmir Files from certain communities. However, please consider the fact that this is not a story, the movie is kind of like a documentary that's a re-enactment of the insurgency happened in Kashmir between 1980 -1990 and the issue is on-going. This issue is international with UN, hence it comes to freedom of expression & freedom of truth. This movie depicts first hand account of victims of an exodus that was done by militants in Kashmir.

Hopefully, u will consider letting the movie release on set date.

"An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody sees it. Truth stands, even if there be no public support. It is self sustained"

-Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi

Thank you 🙏 ॐ ☐

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 3:10 pm
To: Information Unit
Categories: Non-form

Dear

I would like to submit that I being a witness to the genocide which happened against our community in Kashmir India in 1990 and so would love to watch a movie called The Kashmir Files

with Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 3:11 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Request to release "The Kashmir Files" Movie in NZ Cinemas

Categories: Non-form

Respected Mr. David Shanks,

Warm Namaste to you and your team.

Amid the recent false claims that the movie "The Kashmir Files" will create hatred against any particular community in NZ, I would like to convey my views on this and would humbly request to release the movie in NZ Cinemas. I would also like to ask you, if your office considers stopping the screening of this movie, will it reflect the true sense of freedom of expression and free democratic values of this country? Will it not reflect the suppression of individual or community's freedom of expression or opinion?

Following are my personal views on your decision of re-evaluating this movie release.

1. This Movie is a massive success not only in India but across the globe wherever it has been released. This movie is completely based on true facts and events that happened during the mass Exodus, Genocide, and Ethnic Cleansing of the innocent Kashmiri Hindus (also known as Kashmiri Pandits). You can verify these facts on various sources on the internet however I would like to suggest you see this particular youtube link which will show you the actual videos of post exodus of innocent Kashmiri Hindus from the valley.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tXX7caN2tU&ab_channel=WildFilmsIndia

2. Your office decided to re-evaluate the film and its release in the country just because you got some requests with a biased opinion about the movie and its after effects. This movie has been successfully running across Australia, UK, USA, Canada, and other countries across the globe. Over a Billion people have already watched it. None of the Classification Boards in Australia, UK, and the USA have shown any concern for the movie. I understand that some communal groups trying to put pressure on your office to stop the release. Let me tell you, this movie has no effect or intention to create any hatred towards any community. It is just a movie made on real events, interviews of the survivors, their families, and true information available in the public domain. One such example is the following link will give you a good indication of real events and speeches shown in the movie.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqPqns-AzAg&ab_channel=DilipKumarPandita

3. Sunanda Vashist (Writer, Political Commentator, and Kashmiri Hindu survivor) testified as a victim of ethnic cleansing on Thursday, November 14th, 2019 at 2200 Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington DC during the Human Rights Commission hearing under the supervision of Tom Lantos. Sunanda unfolded her story of survival during the exodus and genocide of her own family and friends in her own land. Please see her testimony in the link below before your office decides to call this movie fictional or propaganda of any kind.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKS8gYWPhbg&t=889s&ab_channel=ChandramukhiGanju

4. For a fact, there are about 200 Million Muslim brothers and sisters are in India, not a single incident of any kind has been recorded so far in India or abroad after the release of the movie on 11th of March 2022. Along with Hindus and other communities, Muslims have also watched this movie in India and they have also acknowledged the factual representation of atrocities during the horrendous exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from their own land.

When the Christchurch attack took place on 15th March 2019, all Hindus in NZ stood with solidarity in their heart for Muslim brothers and sisters. Hindus did truly condemn what happened.

This movie only shows the facts about the event in history which we all deserve to know. How is this different than other movies such as "**Schindler's List**", "**Hotel Rwanda**" or "**In the land of Blood and Honey**". In fact, Hollywood movies on such subjects have been regarded as masterpieces in cinemas, then why such a biased opinion on a Bollywood movie which is just an honest effort to showcase a similar true event in history which we deserve to know.

It is my humble request to please consider the feelings and sentiments of the entire Indian Hindu Diaspora and allow Hindus to have freedom of expression in this free country.

Kind Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Mob : s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 3:14 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: Letters (CPL) -DMbx; letters@nzherald.co.nz
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Kind Attn: David Shanks
Chief Censor

It is my humble request to all of you to allow screening of above referred movie all over New Zealand.

The Muslim community has raised concern about these movie but one needs to see the other angle. It could be Anti Hindu Campaign as well where no one wants to see the plight of Hindus at the hand of other communities.

It is not first time movies or serial have been released depicting Muslim terrorist and extremist. We know fictional TV serials such as Home Land or Jack Ryan, The Siege and many other have been released in New Zealand and worldwide and no one has objected about it or stopped its release. **The objection here is all about plight of Hindus that no one wants to see and its not about Islamophobia**

Even if the movie is fictional did any one bothered to check facts about the movies and serials? Did someone checked if Schindler's List movie about genocide of Jews? I can provide you number of videos that show terrorist admitting ethnic cleansing on Hindus in Kashmir including some aired by Pakistan TV channels.

Please do not take one sided view. The world recognises genocide of Jews, Muslims in Bosnia, Hutus in Rwanda but fails to recognise genocide of Hindus that has been happening for over 500 years when Indian sub-continent was invaded by Muslims from Persia and Afghanistan. During those 500 years millions were raped, killed and converted, hundreds of temples destroyed.

Anyone can verify these facts

It is time for the world to know about this genocide. It is time to treat Hindus fairly on par with other religions. For some reason the world does not treat Hindus fairly. **For example SWASTIKA is a holy Hindu symbol. Unfortunately it was used by Nazis and some neo Nazi extremists. That's not the fault of Hindus but the world bans this holy symbols or associates this symbol with extremists. This is unfortunate. Will you do the same if some extremists uses the Holy Cross?**

PLEASE DO NOT CAVE IN TO THE PRESSURES FROM SOME GROUPS AND LET THE KIWIS SEE THE MOVIE AND FORM THEIR OWN OPINION. THERE IS PETITION SIGNED BY OVER 4000 ON THE SAME MATTER AT WWW.CHANGE.ORG

Thanks and Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)
Concerned Kiwi
s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: BHARATIYA MANDIR <bharatiyamandirnz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 3:37 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Reg: clearing of the censorship of The Kashmir Files movie
Attachments: COHONZ - NZ Censor Board.pdf

Categories: Non-form

Dear David,

Please find our submission for your consideration in regards to the above matter as per the attachment.
The oldest Hindu temple of New Zealand, Bharatiya Mandir, Auckland, fully supports the democratic values and free speech in a pluralistic society like New Zealand.
We look forward for a favourable consideration from your end at soonest.
Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Best Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Bharatiya Mandir

s 9(2)(a)



20th March 2022

Mr David Shanks - The Chief Censor
Classification Office
info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

Censorship of **'THE KASHMIR FILES'**

Before the Censor Board makes its final decision, we would like you to consider some of the following information/viewpoints.

1. It is a fact that this happened in Kashmir in 1989-90. A large number of people, majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits were killed during that time. You are welcome to check some independent sources to confirm this. Furthermore, some of the eyewitnesses to these events are actually residing in India & New Zealand till date.
2. A large number of people, again a majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits had to leave Kashmir region. There are official census figures which prove this. One can have arguments whether they left of their own accord or whether they were forced to leave, or such conditions were created in Kashmir that they were left with no choice but to flee but this did happen and some of them are living here in Aotearoa who could help you understand their suffering then.
3. This film is based on the Director's viewpoint on how he perceived that this happened and based on his interviews with the victims and his thorough research.
4. To best of our knowledge, no one in India had denied the fact that it happened. the argument there is about which political party or political leader was responsible for it. The fact is that massacre did happen, and some militant groups of Muslims were responsible for it who were implanted by neighbouring Pakistan as per govt records – not all Muslims and we have never claimed this to be the case.
5. There is nothing to stop other film makers to put their viewpoints forward through movies, documentaries or other means in future years based on the facts same as this movie.
6. Is it your opinion that by banning the film here in Aotearoa will change the facts? Or you are denying that it's not fact based?
7. To give an analogy, 9/11 attacks took place in USA by Muslim terrorists. NZ Government stood in solidarity with rest of the world and even as recently as 10th Sept 21, it expressed unity and solidarity with victims and families of the ones who were affected. None of the movies made on 9/11 were banned here.
8. To give a local analogy, if someone wants to make a movie of the Christchurch Mosque attack in 20 years later, would the Censor Board ban such movie on the basis that it could inflame hatred against a particular community? The Christchurch event is a true incident which needs to be recorded and should be allowed under the freedom of expression principle in New Zealand. This movie is no different.
9. The Kashmir Files movie has been released and screened apart from India, in Australia, USA and other countries and no violence of any kind has been reported to date. It has generated some serious and some heated discussions which is natural for any healthy society, but it has been managed well; especially we are attempting to address some of the wrongs being done on our own NZ soil.

10. The current government's move to teach Aotearoa history in schools is a brave one and sets a good example that Truth and historical facts cannot be suppressed for long.
11. We are not aware of any cases of violence by Hindu/Indian/Sikh communities here in Aotearoa. We are sincerely assuming that you are seeking/consult balanced advice on this issue rather than considering views of one particular community. Our biggest fear is that your possible decision to ban this film will set a dangerous precedent of setting one community's concerns over the other. How does one really decide who's concerns have more weight than the other!
12. Our last point is that it DID happen, it is a FACT. It should not have happened. Some victims of this crime are residing here, but we are not aware of any perpetrator living here. Thus, screening of this movie will enlighten us all and remind us NOT to let it happen here or anywhere else. Depriving the wider community, Indians, and even Muslim community, who have hitherto been unaware that such genocide occurred will miss out on getting a viewpoint of this sad history. We hold no animosity towards our Muslim brothers and sisters here as we know those living here were not responsible for these gruesome events and are convinced that they will be just horrified of the past.

Our hope is that your decision does not alienate a particular community by sending a message that their pain does not matter, their history has no value in Aotearoa and their financial, professional, social, and cultural contribution is not valued by this nation!

We hope that the right to information and freedom to choose what we should see is preserved through your decision.

Best Regards

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

From the Team at: **COHONZ**

Coalition of Hindus of New Zealand

<https://www.cohonz.org/>

Email: cohonz2021@gmail.com

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 3:49 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: christopher.luxon@parliament.govt.nz; david.seymour@parliament.govt.nz; Letters (CPL) -DMbx; letters@nzherald.co.nz
Subject: The Kashmir Files
Attachments: VID-20220321-WA0003.mp4
Categories: Non-form

Dear all and more specifically David Shanks,

With reference to the issue about Kashmir Files, I humbly request you to watch attached video that was aired by NOT INDIAN BUT PAKISTAN TV CHANNEL.

In this disturbing video, one Kashmiri Muslim (I admire him) confirms witnessing Hindu genocide in 1997 in Kashmir. Unfortunately it is mostly in Hindi/urdu but I am sure you have the resources to translate the same.

There are similar videos one can find in case you genuinely wants to know the truth.

The recent campaign against this movie is not about islamophobia but it is the other y around where one community does not want the world to see the genocide of Hindus and it is an anti-Hindu drive.

Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Christchurch

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 3:14 PM
To: info@classificationoffice.govt.nz
Cc: Letters (CPL) -DMbx <letters@press.co.nz>; letters@nzherald.co.nz
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Kind Attn: David Shanks
Chief Censor

It is my humble request to all of you to allow screening of above referred movie all over New Zealand.

The Muslim community has raised concern about these movie but one needs to see the other angle. It could be Anti Hindu Campaign as well where no one wants to see the plight of Hindus at the hand of other communities.

It is not first time movies or serial have been released depicting Muslim terrorist and extremist. We know fictional TV serials such as Home Land or Jack Ryan, The Siege and many other have been released in New Zealand and worldwide and no one has objected about it or stopped its release. **The objection here is all about plight of Hindus that no one wants to see and its not about Islamophobia**

Even if the movie is fictional did any one bothered to check facts about the movies and serials? Did someone checked if Schindler's List movie about genocide of Jews? I can provide you number of videos that show terrorist admitting ethnic cleansing on Hindus in Kashmir including some aired by Pakistan TV channels.

Please do not take one sided view. The world recognises genocide of Jews, Muslims in Bosnia, Hutus in Rwanda but fails to recognise genocide of Hindus that has been happening for over 500 years when Indian sub-continent was invaded by Muslims from Persia and Afghanistan. During those 500 years millions were raped, killed and converted, hundreds of temples destroyed.

Anyone can verify these facts

It is time for the world to know about this genocide. It is time to treat Hindus fairly on par with other religions. For some reason the world does not treat Hindus fairly. For example SWASTIKA is a holy Hindu symbol. Unfortunately it was used by Nazis and some neo Nazi extremists. That's not the fault of Hindus but the world bans this holy symbols or associates this symbol with extremists. This is unfortunate. Will you do the same if some extremists uses the Holy Cross?

PLEASE DO NOT CAVE IN TO THE PRESSURES FROM SOME GROUPS AND LET THE KIWIS SEE THE MOVIE AND FORM THEIR OWN OPINION. THERE IS PETITION SIGNED BY OVER 4000 ON THE SAME MATTER AT WWW.CHANGE.ORG

Thanks and Kind Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Concerned Kiwi

s 9(2)(a)

Christchurch

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@hinduhumanrights.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 3:50 pm
To: Information Unit; classificationreview@dia.govt.nz; office@consulateofindia.in
Cc: enquiries@mfat.govt.nz; j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz;
jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz; hello@firstnz.org; kiri.allan@parliament.govt.nz;
chris.bishop@parliament.govt.nz; Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz;
PriyankaMP@parliament.govt.nz; kris.faafoi@parliament.govt.nz;
hauraki.waikato@parliament.govt.nz; carmel.sepuloni@parliament.govt.nz;
carmel.sepuloni@parliament.govt.nz; david.clark@parliament.govt.nz;
tetaihauauru@parliament.govt.nz; tangi.utikere@parliament.govt.nz;
david.seymour@parliament.govt.nz; nicola.willis@parliament.govt.nz;
hoc.wellington@mea.gov.in; office@consulateofindia.in;
melissa.lee@parliament.govt.nz; j.tinetti@ministers.govt.nz; info@act.org.nz;
aord@mea.gov.in
Subject: RE: The Kashmir Files. Australasian Hindu Coalition submission to NZ Classification Office, relevant authorities and dignitaries.
Attachments: Australasia Hindu Coalition Submission to NZ Censor Board.docx; The Kashmir Files Letter with Signatories.zipx
Categories: Non-form

Dear NZ Classification Office, Members of Parliament and Dignitaries of New Zealand and India,

We attach herewith our Australasian Hindu Coalition submission to the Censor Board and relevant authorities along with a public letter signed by 2000+ to assist with decision making on the release of The Kashmir Files.

We seek inclusion, particularly from a Kashmir Pandit and Hindu Human Rights perspective.

The letter is written with Australian Kashmir Pandit, Ashutosh Raina, head of Global Kashmir Pandit Diaspora in Australia.

We are aware that the Classification Board may seek inclusion of Kashmir Pandit perspectives and advise you that we can assist your access to the community for your consultation requirements since they are presently scattered around the world in exile.

We are also aware that the absence of reliable information on the ethnic cleansing of Kashmir Pandits may complicate your decision making. We are willing to assist with sourcing reliable information and to answer any questions you may have.

We have sent this letter to our Australian and New Zealand Hindu colleagues and await their endorsements overnight however could not delay bringing this to your kind attention. TBA

Our highest regards and thanks,

Global Kashmir Pandit Diaspora
Kashmir Pandits Australia
Hindu Human Rights Australia
Australian Hindu Association

Dear Censor Board and relevant authorities,

The blockbuster film, The Kashmir Files, due for release on New Zealand screens 24th March 2022 was withdrawn last week by the NZ Censor Board for further classification and review after complaints from Muslim groups.

In over 1 billion screenings there has not been a single hate crime committed by Hindus against Muslims as alleged in the complaints.

Neither an explanation was offered by the Censor Board, nor even a notice. The film was withdrawn ad hoc without community consultation. It did not request views of: Kashmir Pandits diaspora (who are the victims shown in this movie), Hindu community, the wider community, or Kashmiri Muslim dissidents who support the film and are brave enough to stand up to the terrorism inside Kashmir and are witness to Kashmir Pandit massacres -- see (Beigh, 2022).

Instead, [the Censor Board took opinions of people who have taken ownership without consultation](#), of how Hindu stories are told, and how Islamist terrorism is portrayed to New Zealand citizens and how Muslims should think about the film despite none of their community having watched it.

Danger of not screening the film

The arguments against the film tacitly condone terrorism in Kashmir by negating responsibility of separatist terror groups, attempting to shut down and silence minorities targeted by terrorists and to rewrite the history of Kashmir sanitised of the violent impact of terrorism on the valley, this time since 1931.

The complainants further endorse views of separatist terrorists depicted in the film by their Hinduphobic stereotypes that repeat talking points of Kashmiri separatist terrorists.

Last December terrorists targeted and killed Hindus, a Sikh and a Muslim over allegations they had connections to 'Hindutva' causing 3000 government workers to leave the valley in fear.

The complaints are unsubstantiated. We submit our response point by point.

Complaints

1. 'Muslims in NZ' Facebook group

This group called members to send emails from their template¹.

Allegations raised in the post (numbered) and our response (lettered):

¹ Annexure A

1. **Claim:** The movie is 'Islamophobic', violent and graphic.
 - a. Graphic violence is covered by appropriate classification and R16 was approved.
 - b. A definition of Islamophobia cannot be accepted that bans recognition or portrayal of graphic violence and terrorism for fear of harming 'Muslim' sentiments. (UN, 2022)
2. **Claim:** The movie is 'supported by Hindutva elements'.
 - a. Terrorists in Kashmir continue to attack civilians on the basis of alleged loyalty to either 'Hindutva or the Indian State'.
 - b. The argument repeats terrorist propaganda.
 - c. Hindus of NZ have been vilified by scholars and activists in New Zealand as 'terrorists' using the terms Hindutva and VHP suggesting they are a security risk to NZ and Australia which is by definition Hinduphobia. (OUP, 2021)
3. **Claim:** It is 'to raise anti-Muslims and anti-Kashmiri sentiments'.
 - a. Hindus of Kashmir ARE the aboriginal culture and community of Kashmir for 5000+ years. The film documents 'anti-Kashmiri' and 'anti-Hindu' sentiment.
 - b. We reject that portrayal of anti-Hindu violence equates to raising 'anti-Muslim violence'.
 - c. Both Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmir Hindus are the victims of Islamist terrorism in the valley and whilst this film portrays scenes leading to Hindu ethnic cleansing, it should not be accepted that a failure to tell the story of Muslim victims is automatically anti-Muslim. Muslims of Kashmir are depicted in every news article on Kashmir while Hindu voices have not been heard to date and they have a right to justice.
 - d. The film tells the true story of victims on behalf of survivors who are still today in exile and approve of the film by consensus. Their story, however hurtful, must be told. We do not restrict historic accounts of British colonialism to protect the feelings of people who might look like them. That would negate and silence the victims.
4. **Claim:** The movie is controversial.
 - a. This is not true and is not even a sufficient reason to ban the movie. The movie is based on documented real events the research for which was done for 2.5 to 3 years.
5. **Claim:** As a 'concerned citizen and Muslim I am worried that there [a] could be a rise in Islamophobia and hate toward Muslims in Aotearoa [b] by the NZ Hindutva groups which is [c] already seen in India'. (Letter template)
 - a. No evidence is provided as to why Muslims should veto a film about Hindu victims of Islamist terrorism, nor how this film would cause hatred toward a community that are not part of or responsible for the events.
 - b. It stereotypes and accuses New Zealand Hindus of hatred toward Muslims. The complaint demonstrates Hinduphobia:

- i. It muzzles Hindu freedom of expression and FOE in general.
- ii. Anti Hindu violence is silenced.
- iii. Members of the victim class are accused of 'pre-crime' attacks against Muslims who 'fear' them – irrationally aka 'phobia'.
- iv. It is the Muslim groups conflating Kashmiri terrorists with Muslims, arguing that depiction of terrorism is Islamophobic – not Hindus.

2. The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand

A letter from The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand dated 18 March 2022 makes similar accusations²:

1. **Claim:** The Kashmir Files has resulted in serious and widespread anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmir sentiments in India.
 - a. No evidence is provided for this claim. Over 1 billion people have watched this movie across different continents USA, Europe, India and Australia and there has not been any, NOT EVEN ONE, incident of this nature.
2. **Claim:** The film is 'promoted globally by Hindu Right Wing groups such as RSS and VHP both overseas and in Aotearoa.
 - a. The film is distributed by Zee Films and I Am Buddha, neither of whom are political organisations. They are not 'RSS' or 'VHP' either.
 - b. AFICNZ do not state why it is problematic for NZ VHP or other Hindus to promote a film.
3. **Claim:** 'The film is promoting widespread hate and social discord in India'.
 - a. This claim is not substantiated.
4. **Claim:** Gregory Stanton of Genocide Watch has issued a 'genocide alert for Kashmir'³.
 - a. The Genocide Watch alert accepts the basis of claims made in the movie (Genocide-Watch, 2019):
 - i. "In 1984, Kashmiri Muslim youth began demonstrations for Kashmiri indigenous self-determination that were crushed by Indian armed forces. Riots destroyed Hindu properties in 1986; **armed Muslim insurgents targeted Hindus in 1989; and in 1990, over 100,000 Hindu pandits fled from Kashmir.**"
 - b. The 'alert' refers to a 1947 UN document and evades the more recent UN Simla agreement, failing to address the decades long invasion of India by Pakistan and that the

² Annexure B

³ Annexure C

condition of any plebiscite was the withdrawal of Pakistan troops from Indian International territory. (Gandhi & Bhutto, 1972)

- c. The film is about Kashmir Pandit ethnic cleansing not about Muslims and has nothing to do with the claims made of Gregory Stanton, a lobbyist who appears on pro-Kashmiri separatist panels regularly and whose impartiality to the terrorist agenda is dubious.
5. **Claim:** 'A fictitious genocide of Kashmir Pandits is to make genocide of Muslims in the future acceptable and necessary'.
 - a. The source referred to by AFICNZ of Stanton supports the fictionalised events based on true stories.
 - b. In 700 years a fully indigenous Hindu state has been reduced to 1% of the population and the attacks have not stopped. This is, by definition, a genocide – even applying Stanton's 10 stages. Hindus are in the final stage.
 - c. It is highly offensive to claim Hindu victims of ethnic cleansing in 1990 and over 700 years, by the destruction of their genes, should stand accused, a trial by Censor Board, of making up their experience so that they can render genocide acceptable against Muslims. This is Hinduphobia.
 - d. The movie is based on documented real events, the research for which has been done for 2.5 to 3 years.
6. **Claim:** Evidence of 'CJ Werlemen'.
 - a. CJ Werleman is a hostile anti-Hindu and anti Semitic lobbyist in the USA with no academic credibility who [still profits from Islamophobic books](#).
7. **Claim:** A video of a man after a film screening 'calls for Hindu men to abduct, marry and impregnate Muslim women so that Hindu babies can be harvested from Muslim wombs.'⁴
 - a. This is not what the video says.
 - b. Nobody in the audience aside from the person, filming from the moment he stands up, knows who he is.
 - c. Hindus of NZ should not pay by censorship for the actions of 1/1.1billion people. There is more chance of being eaten by a shark and still the beaches are open.
8. **Claim:** This is 'one example of an alarming trend'.
 - a. No other examples are given from 1.1 billion viewers.

⁴ Annexure D with verbatim translation By Ash Raina of Global Kashmir Pandit Diaspora

9. **Claim:** [Therefore] 'the film will cause further social discord in Aotearoa...fuel Islamophobic hate...disrupt all our efforts to create a cohesive society'.

- a. On what basis does any of this have to do with New Zealand citizens attacking New Zealand Muslims?

10. **Claim:** March 15 a man killed 52 Muslims [Christchurch Mosque attacks].

- a. This has nothing to do with the film.

11. **Claim:** Screening the film shows insensitivity to the feelings of Muslims in New Zealand.

- a. If Muslims in New Zealand do not want Islamist terrorism on their screens because it hurts their feelings and want to prevent the entire country viewing it to protect them from white supremacists, there should be evidence from Australia, Germany, the UK, America and other western countries demonstrating a Christchurch like scenario.
- b. The only argument is that one unknown Indian yelled after a screening.
- c. Showing Islamist terrorism cannot be rightfully accepted as Islamophobia because, as we are all very well aware, Muslims and Islam are not to be associated with Islamist extremists.

We submit herewith a letter with 2000 signatures.

Sincerely,

Global Kashmir Pandit Diaspora Australia (GKPD)

Kashmir Pandits Australia (KPA)

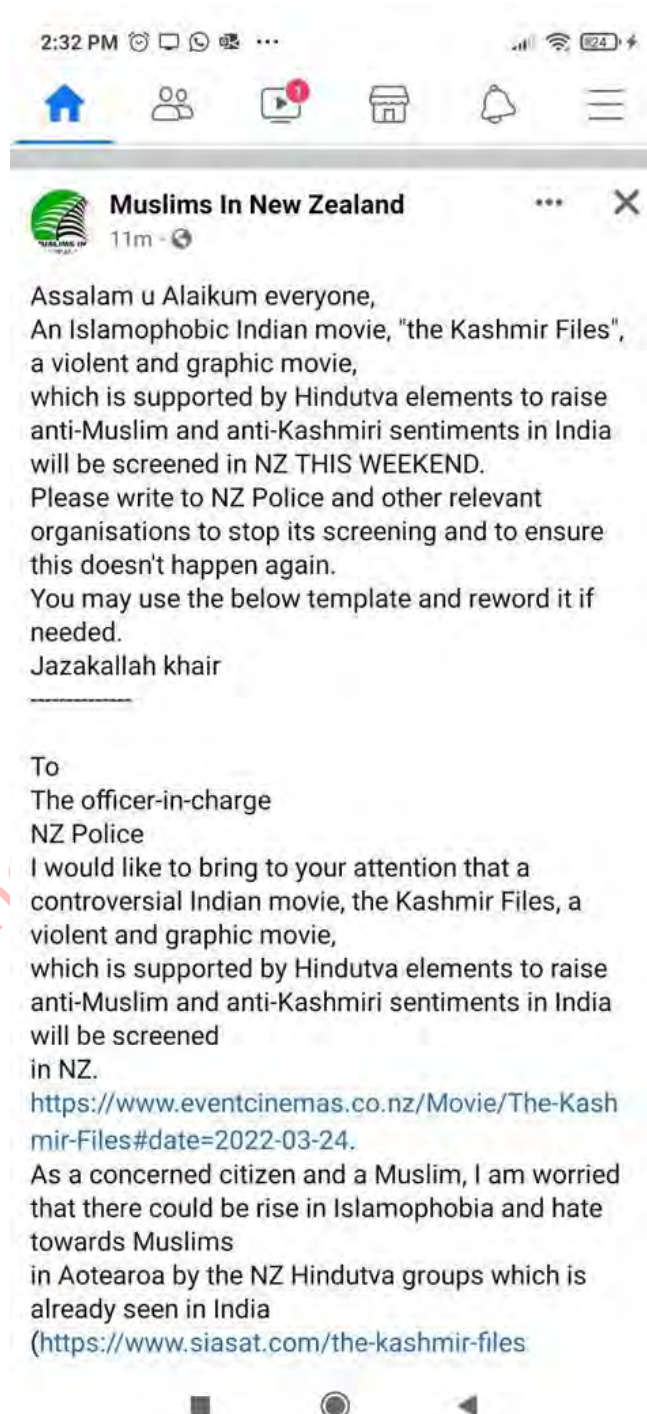
Hindu Human Rights Australia (HHR)

Australian Hindu Association (AHA)

Contacts: s 9(2)(a) (GKPD) Brisbane || s 9(2)(a) || s 9(2)(a) ||

s 9(2)(a) (HHR) || s 9(2)(a) || s 9(2)(a) @hinduhumanrights.com.au ||

Annexure A



Annexure B p.1



18 March 2022

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Prime Minister

Kia Ora and Assalaamu Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You)

I am writing to you on behalf of FIANZ, the umbrella Muslim organisation in New Zealand, to raise our concerns regarding the Indian movie "The Kashmir Files", which I note is scheduled to be screened in cinemas in Aotearoa New Zealand. This film has already resulted in serious and widespread anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments in India.

It is relevant to note that "The Kashmir Files" is being promoted globally by Hindu Right Wing groups such as RSS and VHP both overseas and here in Aotearoa New Zealand. The purpose of this movie is to undermine Kashmiri and Indian Muslims in general, as well as inciting hatred against Muslims in India and globally, including here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Currently, the movie is promoting widespread hate and social discord in India, identified by the President of Genocide Watch, Gregory Stanton, as an at-risk country for genocide targeting Muslims. Genocide Watch has already issued a Genocide Alert for Kashmir. The Kashmir Files is a movie which promotes a false narrative around a fictitious genocide against the Hindu population of Kashmir, most probably to make any impending genocide of Kashmiri Muslims acceptable and necessary. You can learn more about the movie in this 10 min video from the Australian journalist C J Werlemann at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAiqKJ9_0PU

The Islamophobic hate triggered by The Kashmir Files can be exemplified by emerging social media threads including a video which shows a young man rising from his seat as the credits of the film roll onscreen and who then makes a short, passionate speech. In this speech he exhorts Hindu men to abduct, marry and impregnate Muslim women so that Hindu babies may be harvested from Muslim wombs. This is just one example of an alarming trend.

We are concerned that this film will cause further social discord in Aotearoa New Zealand as well as fuel Islamophobic hate, seriously disrupting all our efforts to create a cohesive society.





Three years ago, on March 15, our community paid a terrible price when a man filled with hatred murdered 51 Muslims while they were praying at two Mosques in Christchurch. The continued screening of this movie shows an incredible insensitivity to the feelings of the local Muslim community and will also actively promote hatred amongst communities in New Zealand. We urge you to take positive action and stop the screening of The Kashmir Files throughout New Zealand.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

982

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Annexure C

Allegations of Genocide of majority Muslims in Kashmir are not founded on population growth or demographic data and should not be used to stifle discourse on ethnic cleansing of Hindus.

A - 2 DECADAL VARIATION IN POPULATION SINCE 1901

State Code	District Code	State/District	Census Year	Persons	Variation since the preceding census		Males	Females
					Absolute	Percentage		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01	000	JAMMU & KASHMIR	1901	21,39,362	—	—	11,36,766	10,02,596
			1911	22,92,535	+1,53,173	+7.16	12,22,305	10,70,230
			1921	24,24,359	+1,31,824	+5.75	12,96,205	11,28,154
			1931	26,70,208	+2,45,849	+10.14	14,31,801	12,38,407
			1941	29,46,728	+2,76,520	+10.36	15,77,021	13,69,707
			1951	32,53,852	+3,07,124	+10.42	17,36,827	15,17,025
			1961	35,60,976	+3,07,124	+9.44	18,96,633	16,64,343
			1971	46,16,632	+10,55,656	+29.65	24,58,315	21,58,317
			1981	59,87,389	+13,70,757	+29.69	31,64,660	28,22,729
			1991 *	78,37,051	+18,49,662	+30.89	41,42,082	36,94,969
			2001	1,01,43,700	+23,06,649	+29.43	53,60,926	47,82,774
			2011	1,25,41,302	+23,97,602	+23.64	66,40,662	59,00,640

https://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/PCA/A-2_Data_Tables/01%20A-2%20J%20&%20K.pdf

Useful charts are found here: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/share-of-muslims-and-hindus-in-jk-population-same-in-1961-2011-censuses/>

South Asia Terror Portal civilian deaths are due to ongoing terrorism, not 'Hindus' or the Governments (SATP, 2022)

Yearly Fatalities

Advance Search

Data View		Graph View		Chart View		Map view	
Year	Incidents of Killing	Civilians	Security Forces	Terrorists/Insurgents/Extremists	Not Specified	Total	
2000*	1385	841	441	1708	9	2798	
2001	2084	1024	628	2345	14	4011	
2002	1642	837	447	1758	56	3690	
2003	1427	503	319	1564	121	2507	
2004	1067	437	318	891	72	1788	
2005	1004	454	220	987	56	1717	
2006	694	296	172	697	90	1129	
2007	427	127	119	498	0	744	
2008	261	71	85	382	0	538	
2009	208	53	73	247	0	373	
2010	189	34	69	258	0	361	
2011	119	33	31	117	0	181	
2012	70	19	10	84	0	121	
2013	84	19	53	100	0	172	
2014	91	28	47	114	0	189	
2015	36	19	41	115	0	175	
2016	112	14	88	166	0	267	
2017	163	54	83	220	0	357	
2018	208	86	95	271	0	452	
2019	135	42	78	163	0	283	
2020	140	33	56	232	0	321	
2021	153	36	45	193	0	274	
2022	31	7	16	36	0	49	
Total**	11772	4087	3532	13065	418	21962	

*Data since March 6, 2000, ** Data till , March 15, 2022

Source: Compiled from news reports and are provisional.

Fatalities Between 1988 - 2000

Annexure D

Twitter video circulated on social media made by unknown persons unrelated to crowd. This **gets no support from the audience, and they are clearly embarrassed by the outpouring.**

Link to video uploaded privately to YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/OWrMYyyyJXQ>

Claim of AFICNZ:

"Calls for Hindu men to abduct, marry and impregnate Muslim women so that Hindu babies can be harvested from Muslim wombs."

Literal translation:

"If our young boys, aged 20 or 25 start marrying Muslim girls, then in three generations their population will be less. **Marry** their girls and **bear less kids**. We are watching here, and they are busy in their homes putting more of them into the world."

References

- Beigh, J. (2022, March 18). <https://twitter.com/Javedbeigh>. Retrieved from <https://twitter.com/Javedbeigh/status/1504732785675702273?s=20&t=NS6rqxQnYmGTiXNCvnXsLw>
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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 4:03 pm
To: melissa.lee@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files: Please help to ensure its release in NZ
Attachments: Ltr to Melissa Lee-MP NZ.docx

Categories: Non-form

Dear MP Melissa Lee,
Dear David Shanks, Chief Censor, OFLC

Please find attached my earnest request to you to release the film "The Kashmir Files". I am reproducing the text below for easy access.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

=====

Honorable MP Lee,

Thanks for supporting the release of the film The Kashmir Files. Thanks for being the voice of countless who were murdered, women who were raped and killed, and innocent children who were shot or those survivors who even now suffer traumatic experience of having seen their parents shot in front of them.

I worked in Kashmir for three years in the late seventies. Subsequently, as a senior staff at the World Bank, and the United Nations, I have worked in conflict zones in Southeast Europe (Balkans) and Southeast Asia. Suppressing the voice of victims of genocide is not only being complicit in the crime but also being the perpetrator of the future cruelties. Listening to the pain of the victims and acknowledging their suffering is catharsis for them and confessional unburdening for us who did not act in time to save them.

I am personally aware of some of the incidents shown in the film. The film makers have done a huge amount of primary research to ensure the factual accuracy of the story. It shows what happened. A lot worse happened, but the filmmakers have been extremely sensitive in portrayal of human tragedy and understated in presenting unspeakable cruelties. Nowhere does this film point accusing fingers to a religion. We need to have the courage to face the truth.

Censorship of the film is not an issue of Hindu or Muslim citizens of New Zealand. At stake are the values of New Zealand, its courage to stand by its moral foundation, its ability to uphold the truth, and its character to alleviate the pain and suffering of the victims of genocide anywhere in the World. Moments commit mistakes, Centuries pay its price.

I thank you for your courage and leadership in supporting the freedom of speech and being the voice of the voiceless victims who cannot rise from their funeral pyres to protest but are waiting to know they have been heard and can finally rest in peace.

I cannot thank you enough.

Yours Sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 4:08 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: The current consideration of The Kashmir Files as R16 is preposterous.

This is a very good film, a very educational film on all the atrocities and genocide perpetrated by Islamic Terrorists on the Hindu Pundits in Kashmir. Children need to see the movie, understand the context and form their own opinions. So, stop playing GOD, NewZealand govtgot., am the dad od two 16 yr olds. Whether the movie can be seen by a kid under 16 is the parent's choice (my choice). It cannot be the NewZealand govt's choice. I really don't want NewZealand government to be my kid's parents. I have it covered.

Stop stamping on my rights to be a parent to my kid and stop stamping on my kid's right to get educated.

Regards,

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone:

Email: s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 4:14 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

To whom it may concern.
No censorship of this movie Kashmiri files.
The event did happen. It's 101% true.

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my Galaxy

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 4:25 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: We want to watch Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

BRING BACK KASHMIR FILES

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: David Shanks
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 5:01 pm
To: Rupert Ablett-Hampson; Maggie Tait; s 9(2)(a); s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Message from Indian High Commissioner on the film 'The Kashmir File'
Attachments: Indian High Commission The Kashmir File.pdf

Categories: Non-form

[Related correspondence.](#)

DS

From: High Commissioner of India, Wellington <hc.wellington@mea.gov.in>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 4:53 pm
To: David Shanks <David.Shanks@classificationoffice.govt.nz>; dshanks@censorship.govt.nz
Cc: paul.james@dia.govt.nz; chris.seed@mfat.govt.nz; mervin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; msingham@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; nicole.roberton@mfat.govt.nz; 'MANOJ KUMAR SAHU' <pol.wellington@mea.gov.in>; 'HCOFFICE' <hcoffice.wellington@mea.gov.in>; info@classificationoffice.govt.nz
Subject: Message from Indian High Commissioner on the film 'The Kashmir File'

To Office of
Mr. David Shanks
Chief Censor
Office of Film and Literature Classification
Level 1/88, The Terrace
Wellington 6011
(david@censorship.govt.nz, dshanks@censorship.govt.nz)

Copy to:

1. H.E. Mr. Paul James, Secretary & Chief Executive for Department of Internal Affairs, Government of New Zealand, 45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 805 (paul.james@dia.govt.nz)
2. H.E. Mr. Chris Seed, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of New Zealand 195, Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160, New Zealand (chris.seed@mfat.govt.nz)
3. H.E. Mr. Mervin Singham, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Government of New Zealand, PO Box 805, 45 Pipitea Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011 (mervin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; msingham@ethniccommunities.govt.nz)
4. H.E. Ms. Nicole Robertson, Divisional Manager, South and South-East Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, 195, Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160, New Zealand (nicole.roberton@mfat.govt.nz)

Good afternoon,

Kindly see the attached message from H.E. Mr. Muktesh K. Pardeshi, High Commissioner of India on the film 'The Kashmir File'.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Muktesh K. Pardeshi
High Commissioner of India

Ranchhod Tower, Level 2
102-112 Lambton Quay
Wellington 6011 New Zealand
Tel: +64 4-473-6330 | Email: hc.wellington@mea.gov.in



Released under the Official Information Act 1982



भारतीय उच्चायुक्त
High Commissioner of India



No. WEL/312/01/2022

21 March 2022

Mr. David Shanks

Chief Censor
Office of Film and Literature Classification
Level 1/88, The Terrace
Wellington 6011
(david@censorship.govt.nz, dshanks@censorship.govt.nz)

Dear Mr. David Shanks,

I am writing to you in response to a media release by the Classification Office dated Sunday, 20 March 2022 stating that the decision to grant an R16 certificate to an Indian film **The Kashmir Files** (2022) is under review. Your media statement notes: *"The Kashmir Files film has not been banned in New Zealand. However, after we completed our initial classification process, concerns were raised with me about potential risk of harm to the Muslim community in relation to the release of this film. These concerns appeared to us to be genuine, and sufficiently serious to cause us to pause and review our classification for this film." The statement further clarifies: "To be clear this review is not a ban or a commitment in any way to change the original decision. It may end up being the same."*

2. In this connection, I would like to state that an unnecessary controversy has been created in New Zealand during the weekend regarding the film and its planned release. As it is understood, the film was to be released by the Event Cinema across New Zealand beginning 24 March 2022 for which an R16 certification (Restricted to persons 16 years and over) has been granted by your organization. The Kashmir Files was released in India on 11 March 2022, and is being screened in several countries abroad including in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia in the Oceanic region.

3. It is gathered that some organizations led by the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) have approached the New Zealand Government, including the Hon. Prime Minister urging to stop the release of the film. There are concerning reports that the Office of the Chief Censor is under tremendous political pressure.

4. During the last few days, I have received countless calls and e-mails, expressing deep concerns from Kiwi cine-watchers and the members of the Indian diaspora who have been looking forward to watch this movie in New Zealand theatres. As New Zealand procedures allow for anyone to approach the Chief Censor with his/her views, please allow me to convey our views in the matter:

- i) The film 'The Kashmir Files' is made by an independent and well-known film maker, Mr. Vivek Agnihotri;
- ii) The film is about the exodus of Kashmiri Hindu Pandits and gruesome atrocities perpetrated by the extremists on them in the 1990s;
- iii) The film intends to educate future generations about the menace of extremism and terrorism which can create havoc for safe and peaceful co-existence of communities all over the world;
- iv) In India, the film has received critical reviews and overwhelming popularity;

Contd...P/2.

- v) The film has been watched by political leadership, including Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi who said that “it is not an issue about a Film, but that of ‘bringing out the truth’ and ‘presenting history’ in its correct perspective”;
- vi) During the weekend, we have seen expression of support being extended by political leaders in NZ such as Hon. Winston Peters, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Melissa Lee, Member of Parliament & Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group on South/ South-East Asia; and the ACT leader and MP Hon. David Seymour. We have also seen reports and editorials appearing in Indian ethnic media such as the *Indian Weekender* and *Indian Newslink*;
- vii) The film has been released in several countries abroad particularly in the United States, the UK and Australia where it has been received well by the audience;
- viii) An erroneous, biased and politically- motivated impression is being created in the minds of New Zealand audience that the film is likely to create a sense of disharmony and Islamophobia. The fact of the matter is that the film is about a tragic episode which occurred more than 3 decades ago and the present generation deserves to know historical events in a correct and truthful perspective. There has been no cases of disharmony and any breach of peace in India or elsewhere in the world where the film is currently being shown;
- ix) We all believe in the fundamental principle of freedom of expression. If there were no freedom of expression, the human kind would have not seen films and books on wars, holocaust, political conflicts and other tragic historical events; and
- x) Over the last two-three decades, India-New Zealand cooperation has progressed well including in the field of film making. Many Indian films have been shot in New Zealand, and above all, there exists a faithful, discerning and mature audience of Indian Cinema in New Zealand.

5. In view of the above, may I kindly request you to take a holistic, balanced and fair view of the matter within the remit of the Films, Videos, and Publication Classification Act 1993, and not as a result of disinformation and political activism led by some sections of vested interests? If any additional information is required, the High Commission of India would be very pleased to engage with you and your team with a view to promote Indian Cinema in New Zealand.

With best regards,

s 9(2)(a)

(Muktesh K. Pardeshi)

Copy to:

1. H.E. Mr. Paul James, Secretary & Chief Executive for Department of Internal Affairs, Government of New Zealand, 45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 805 (paul.james@dia.govt.nz)
2. H.E. Mr. Chris Seed, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of New Zealand 195, Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160, New Zealand (chris.seed@mfat.govt.nz)
3. H.E. Mr. Mervin Singham, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Government of New Zealand, PO Box 805, 45 Pipitea Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011 (mervin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; msingham@ethniccommunities.govt.nz)
4. H.E. Ms. Nicole Roberton, Divisional Manager, South and South-East Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, 195, Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160, New Zealand (nicole.roberton@mfat.govt.nz)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 5:45 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Hi,

This movie is extremely biased showing a particular community in a bad light. It focusses only on one side of the truth and It doesn't show the years of torture committed towards this particular community.

It's quite concerning that people from the other communities want this movie to be released in an independent country like New Zealand. For communal peace which is a rarity in india this movie should not be released in New Zealand.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 5:46 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir file.

Categories: Non-form

Islamist jihadi mercilessly killed innocent people is not objectionable but making film on it revealing truth with fact's and figure's is objectionable and offensive.

A country who has freedom of speech and giving right to everyone to express their feeling, opinion through art are now concerned with feeling of muslim but not concerned about the injustice and feeling of kashmiri hindus.

Why do not you declared New Zealand an islamic state where everything is decided by people of jihadi mindset.

For the God sake please stand with truth and release this movie in every cinema house to promote humanity and justice. 🙏

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) | □□ | □□
< s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 5:50 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Thank you very much for your quick response. I am confident, as also expressed by the United Communities for Peace, that attempts to foment hatred will not be allowed.

Regards,

On Mon, Mar 21, 2022, 10:01 AM Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

The Kashmir Files has not been banned in New Zealand.

After we completed our initial classification process, concerns were raised with Chief Censor David Shanks about potential risk of harm to the Muslim community in relation to the release of this film. These concerns appeared to be genuinely held, and sufficiently serious to cause us to pause and review our classification for this film.

The distributor agreed not to screen the film in the interim.

In reviewing our classification, we have not made any commitment to ban *The Kashmir Files* or change our original decision in any way. The film may end up with the same classification it currently has (R16). The legal threshold in New Zealand for a film to be banned – classified as objectionable – is very high.

The Classification Office is an independent Crown entity. This means we make our own decisions under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 following set criteria, without direction from elected government officials or public service departments. The need to balance freedom of access to

information while taking reasonable steps to prevent harm to the public are the key considerations for us, not matters of taste or ideology.

We are now working through our review process, and will be aiming to complete this as soon as practicable, taking into account the likely need to hear from representatives of key communities.

The United Communities for Peace have issued a balanced [statement](#) about this film that we encourage you to read.

We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views. Please be assured that we will take your feedback into account during our review process.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

The information contained in this email message is intended only for the addressee and does not necessarily represent the official view of the Chief Censor or the Classification Office.

If you are not the intended recipient, please return this communication, destroy any copies of it, and do not use, disclose, copy or distribute any of the information contained within it.

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 6:34 pm
To: Information Unit; Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear Team,
Thank you very much for your quick response.

The need to balance freedom of access to information while taking reasonable steps to prevent harm to the public are the key considerations for us, not matters of taste or ideology.
My concern is based on the same principle that you are seeking to preserve. I do not belong to either group but am against divisive and hate politics being played out in India today.

I do not believe that you should be guided by majoritarian views or political considerations. The 2 Key factors should be

1. Are the facts portrayed in the movie true?
2. If the producer and the director both admit that the whole truth has not been presented to the audience, what exactly is its impact ? What is the hate factor that a movie like this can generate.

While we are impressed by the agenda of the peace committee to preserve peace and unity among communities, we urge you to accept the fact that all members of the panel are not neutral and work in the best interests of peace and Harmony. Mr. Venkat Raman has been actively canvassing signatures to get the movie released.

I would once again urge you to ascertain the facts relating to the events that occurred in Kashmir and weigh the impact of misrepresentation of the truth or an exaggeration of events that actually occurred, and the impact it can have on generations of Migrant Indians in New Zealand and the way we treat our Muslim brethren. This cannot and must not be treated as a work of art, that gives it the license to mistate the truth or omit important facts, because of the hate element the movie can arouse.

Thanking you and I hope that you will be able to take the right decision based solely on the facts and the stated principles of your august office.

With best regards
s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

On 21/03/2022, at 5:31 PM, Information Unit
<Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

The need to balance freedom of access to information while taking reasonable steps to prevent harm to the public are the key considerations for us, not matters of taste or ideology.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 6:41 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The release of Kashmir file

Categories: Non-form

Dear

I have come to understand that some muslim groups have asked for banning the release of The Kashmir file because it may provoke attacks on them.

I as a kashmiri pandit living as a NewZealander who has been a witness to this tragedy can assure you that our community on whose exploits this picture has been made have never harmed a fly not to speak of a human being but we are sentimentally attached to our homeland so would be more than happy to watch thus film. I do fail to understand these some communities are opposing the release . Does this mean these groups were a part of genocide perpetrating gang responsible for this tragedy against Hindus of Kashmir. What these gangs are afraid of that their terrorist masters different countries all over the world have asked them to do so

Finally it is my request to please allow me and my fellow New Zealanders to watch my factual history on screen by getting it released as early as possible

With Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 6:47 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir files- Support to ban release in NZ

Importance: High

Categories: Non-form

To Chief censor: David Shanks,

Kia ora David,

First of all I'd like to thank you for deciding to hold of the release of Kashmir files film. I cannot express in words how grateful I am and our little Muslim Community are for that decision.

Just to give you a quick background about myself, I am an Indian born Muslim who faced many and continue to face extreme discrimination based on my faith. This started in India where the extremist Hindus would abuse and physically assault me for simply wearing a religious hat at a young age leaving me with trauma and PTSD. This continued for a very long time until I was fortunate enough to migrate to Aotearoa New Zealand and call this beautiful place a home.

As a NZ citizen I feel proud to call myself a Kiwi Muslim but I regret to inform you that ever since Indian Political Party Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Narendra Modi won the election in 2014 I have seen significant amount of hatred and division towards the Muslim community from the Hindu extremist nationals. There was also a recent article where the New Zealand Police and Intelligence admitted they were aware and monitoring the Hindu far right extremist groups in New Zealand. Please see the link for your reference : <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/police-aware-of-concerns-about-far-right-indian-nationalist-groups-in-nz/WDEKKAENYNDZGMMNWOVIE37UY/>

I have also unfortunately lost a member of my family and many innocent community members due to the mosque attack in Christchurch and I know the pain of what extremist views can do to a community.

I just want to beg and request you from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our Muslim Community to please ban the release of that movie in New Zealand. We strongly fear that this movie would further incite and provoke further Islamophobia which occurs on a daily basis. Similar reactions have been happening in India and across the world where public are reacting angrily after the movie by yelling anti Islamic chants. Please see below video for your reference:

With all due respect, It is no longer physical harm but rather emotional by people in Power such as Nurses, doctors, immigration officers etc. Many of our Muslim Community members have raised concerns that they feel targeted and discriminated by certain Hindu nationals where they make it extremely difficult for them to achieve a simple outcome. This has recently increased in Heath sector where the nurses and doctors clearly discriminate and make derogatory remarks towards Muslim patients.

We fear this may result in a similar incident as the one in Christchurch and we beg you to please ban the release of the movie.

I'd also like to reiterate we have wonder Hindu community in New Zealand which are hard working and peaceful community who make positive contribution In NZ. We are only referring to the extremist Hindus who have grown drastically in the past 8 years and they continue to grow and be brainwashed by the extremist anti Islamic content that is being surfaced online such as this movie.

We thank you for your consideration and understanding and trust you will make the right ethical decision.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Muslim Community

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 7:24 pm
To: s 9(2)(a); Information Unit; David Shanks
Cc: 'J Ardern (MIN)'; john.luxton@parliament.govt.nz; melissa.lee@parliament.co.nz; David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz; Kiri.Allan@parliament.govt.nz; bhav.dhillon@consulateofindia.in; 'Indian High Commission'; Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz; venkat@indiannewslink.nz; bhav@indianweekender.co.nz; s 9(2)(a) IAMNZ'
Subject: RE: Media Releas
Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora David

As s 9(2)(a) Hindu Council of New Zealand and representing more than 50 Hindu organisations and Temples, we endorse what s 9(2)(a) has written below and request for official reply.

Kindest regards

s 9(2)(a)
s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 4:51 pm
To: info@classificationoffice.govt.nz; david@censorship.govt.nz
Cc: J Ardern (MIN) <j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz>; john.luxton@parliament.govt.nz; melissa.lee@parliament.co.nz; David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz; Kiri.Allan@parliament.govt.nz; bhav.dhillon@consulateofindia.in; Indian High Commission <hoc@hicomind.org.nz>; Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz; venkat@indiannewslink.nz; bhav@indianweekender.co.nz; s 9(2)(a) IAMNZ <s 9(2)(a)@inzone.org.nz>
Subject: Media Releas

Hi there

I am contacting you with regards to the film *The Kashmir Files* and your recent media release about it.

In your recent media release regarding the film, you state the following:

However, after we completed our initial classification process, concerns were raised with me about potential risk and harm to the Muslim community in relation to this film.

I presume that the Classification Office is aware of the following:

1. This film has been released in Australia, UK and USA without any harm to their resident Muslim communities resulting from its release.
2. This film is based on the genocide/ethnic cleansing that actually occurred in India in the recent past.
3. It includes events that took place.

4. Some survivors of that genocide are resident in NZ.

Please provide me under the Official Information Act:

1. Details of the specific concerns that were raised about this movie. I am not asking for private information to be released.
2. A copy of the Classification Office's assessment of harm the Muslim community would face after this film was released.
3. A copy of the Classification Office's assessment as to why any one in New Zealand would harm the NZ Muslim community after this film was released.
4. A copy of the Classification Office's assessment on who would harm the NZ Muslim community after they watched this film.

As the film will primarily be watched by NZ Indians, who are predominantly Hindu, it appears that the Classification Office is of the view that the NZ Hindu community would harm the NZ Muslim community after watching this film.

As the NZ Hindu community does not have a record of violence against the NZ Muslim community, unlike, for example, the Pākehā community, this is a very harmful presumption.

Additionally, have you considered the impact your actions will have on the New Zealanders who are the survivors of that genocide?

You risk alienating a peaceful community based on unfounded assumptions of potential future actions, rather than any actual evidence of a threat to the Muslim community.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 7:45 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora,

Thank you for the reply. After reading, I found you are putting one community's concerns over the others.

I do not see The United Communities of Peace has anything to do with this. They are elected by group of similar people. I do not fund them, so I don't care what they say. If you are an independent organisation, why are you recommending me such things. There are many other organisations who are supporting the movie. Would you consider them as well?

I pay taxes to IRD. I believe in the Crown and New Zealand Constitution and not what you or your recommendations say. This clearly shows you bias towards the situation. You are dividing people here now.

For your kind information nothing has happened in UK, Australia, Canada or USA. There are more Muslims in those countries than in New Zealand.

My questions are from you.

- 1) Why you are making it more intense?
- 2) Are you trying to protect the image of Muslims here who are known as peace loving people? **Everyone is peace loving in this country.**
- 3) Are you worried if you allow the release, you will uncover the misdoings by Muslim faith people that happened in 1990?

The fact is the Christchurch mosque shootings happened 3 years ago. Everyone including me condemned it. The Kashmir exodus and genocide started from the announcements of mosques and continued for 17 years.

If you ignore the rights of people (Hindus here), a ban would not stop us. We will fight a legal battle if we have to. **The people of Mauritius** have won the legal battle in this case, I hope we don't have to go that far her. Should'nt we?

What ever I say here is supported by the evidence, and it not fictional and neither is the movie.

I hope we will the see the movie in NZ cinemas soon.

Kind regards

s 9(2)(a)

On Monday, 21 March 2022, 05:30:33 pm NZDT, Information Unit <information.unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

The Kashmir Files has not been banned in New Zealand.

After we completed our initial classification process, concerns were raised with Chief Censor David Shanks about potential risk of harm to the Muslim community in relation to the release of this film. These concerns appeared to be genuinely held, and sufficiently serious to cause us to pause and review our classification for this film.

The distributor agreed not to screen the film in the interim.

In reviewing our classification, we have not made any commitment to ban *The Kashmir Files* or change our original decision in any way. The film may end up with the same classification it currently has (R16). The legal threshold in New Zealand for a film to be banned – classified as objectionable – is very high.

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We are now working through our review process, and will be aiming to complete this as soon as practicable, taking into account the likely need to hear from representatives of key communities.

The United Communities for Peace have issued a balanced [statement](#) about this film that we encourage you to read.

We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views. Please be assured that we will take your feedback into account during our review process.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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*If you are not the intended recipient, please return this communication,
destroy any copies of it, and do not use, disclose, copy or distribute
any of the information contained within it.*

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 8:07 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Tena kor,

Thank you for your response, really appreciate, we are one of the peaceful communities in world, we don't like violence, we are follower of Mahatma Gandhi, but we want to know our history that's the only thing.

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

On 21/03/2022, at 5:31 PM, Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

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From: s 9(2)(a) KPA NSW < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 8:11 pm
To: s 9(2)(a) ; s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Request for the release of the movie 'The Kashmir Files' in New Zealand
Attachments: KPA Request Regarding Kashmir Files.pdf

Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora,

We, the Kashmiri Pandits Association of New South Wales, are writing to you in disappointment about the delay in releasing the film "The Kashmir Files" directed by Vivek Agnihotri in New Zealand. It is our understanding that this movie is undergoing an additional review by the censorship board due to some concerns raised by groups that this may cause an increase in divisiveness and potential hatred in the community.

Here in Australia and around the rest of the world, we released this film almost two weeks ago, on the official date of March 11th, and have successfully held cinema screenings without incident, violent or otherwise. People have instead shown so much interest in this film, that screenings have had to be continuously increased. It is additionally vital to note that "The Kashmir Files" is based on historical facts, as has been acknowledged by Sh. Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India, with the content focusing on a genocide which took place in 1990. 400,000 Kashmiri Hindus, alongside other minorities, were victim to terrorism, witnessing horrific atrocities until they were forced to leave their homes and become refugees.

These people are now living globally, including as Australian and New Zealand citizens. To deny the victims of these horrors the opportunity to watch this film, and receive cathartic justice is irresponsible and immoral. There have been many films in the past, documenting terrorism events including, but not limited to, 9/11, World War II and the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which have successfully been able to release, uncensored, without resulting in separatist or anti-community sentiments.

Our brethren in New Zealand have expressed their unhappiness for being the lone community in the world which has been left out and hasn't been able to watch the movie till now. The delay in its release is preventing the youth and other community members who want to learn about their history and to educate themselves on the events that happened in Kashmir thirty-two years back. We therefore ask that you release this film for viewing as was initially scheduled and allow New Zealanders to witness an important part of our history.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a) KPA NSW

Date: 21st of March 2022

Kia Ora,

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Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a) KPA NSW

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)@hinducouncil.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 8:15 pm
To: Jacinda.Ardern@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: David Shanks; Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz;
David.Seymour@parliament.govt.nz; Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz;
shane.reti@parliament.govt.nz; Information Unit; Nicola.Wills@parliament.govt.nz;
Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz; Kiri.Allan@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Screening of the film "The Kashmir Files"
Categories: Non-form

To
The Hon Prime Minister
New Zealand

Dear Hon Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

The Hindu community in Australia and New Zealand is deeply pained that the above film, based on the real story of Hindu genocide, that took place in the early 1990s and led to the mass exodus of the Hindu minority in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J &K - now Union Territory)(Ref 1), has not yet been released by the Censor Authority of New Zealand.

The film is not fiction but based on 700 video-recorded interviews of the victims and their near relatives (Ref 2). I have seen the film and it does not contain gory details of the actual violence that took place but rather a toned-down version. Many Hollywood films on the Jewish holocaust provide more gory details.

The film has been released in India, Australia, UK, USA ten days back and is getting a massive response. There are no reports of any violence in any country triggered by the film. We understand the Censor Authority of NZ is delaying the release under pressure from vested interest groups.

We recognize that New Zealand is a free democratic country that supports liberty, equality, and fair-go and upholds the right of all New Zealanders to freedom of speech and expression. Under the circumstances, it is a matter of great surprise that the screening has been withheld.

The Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi in his intervention in the Indian Parliament on the film has hailed the film as providing a true account of the atrocities on Kashmiri Hindus which have been hidden for over 30 years. (Ref 3)

We believe that New Zealanders have a right to know the truth that has been hidden for generations.

Could we hope that good sense will prevail on Censor Authorities in NZ and the film will be released to the public without any further delay?

Thanks in advance

Kind regards

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Hindu Council Of Australia

s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)@hinducouncil.com.au

Web: www.hinducouncil.com.au

Ref 1 - 350,000 Hindus fled Kashmir valley and only about 2,800 are left as per this BBC Report

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-36525694>

Ref 2 <https://www.opindia.com/2022/03/the-kashmir-the-real-incidents-presented-in-the-movie/>

Ref 3: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/entertainment/hindi/2022/mar/15/pm-modi-voices-support-for-the-kashmir-files-2430390.html>

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 8:16 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

This film is my history and this united communities is not related to it. They may have political compulsions to appease their political masters but in this democratic country they have no right to oppress my sentiments as I need to watch it because it is related to the killings of my near ones
with Regards

s 9(2)(a)

On Mon, 21 Mar 2022, 17:31 Information Unit, <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

The Kashmir Files has not been banned in New Zealand.

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We are now working through our review process, and will be aiming to complete this as soon as practicable, taking into account the likely need to hear from representatives of key communities.

The United Communities for Peace have issued a balanced [statement](#) about this film that we encourage you to read.

We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views. Please be assured that we will take your feedback into account during our review process.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 8:53 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kahsmir files - please allow the screening
Attachments: Please allow the screening of Kashmir files for all kiwis to watch.docx

Categories: Non-form

Kia ora

Please find the letter attached from the Fiji Girmit Foundation NZ

Many thanks

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

21/03/2022

To the classification office

Kia ora, Bula and namaste

The Fiji Girit Foundation NZ is a non-religious and non-political organisation, we are a very tolerant and inclusive community organisation and as such we are proud of having members of the Muslim community as our volunteers, executive management team members and trustees. We do not favour any religious or political groups. We speak up for all groups when it matters.

The Girit Foundation has always condemned terrorism and hatred against a particular community. The descendent of giritiyas were Muslims, Hindus, Christians, and Sikhs. Last year the foundation condemned the knife attack in New Lynn as well as the terrorist attack on our muslim brothers few years ago in Christchurch.

In this regard, the foundation is asking for an opportunity for all New Zealanders to watch the Kashmir files. History must be told whether we like it or not. There are people of Indian origin in NZ, some born in NZ and a movie such as the Kashmir files will provide the much-needed understanding of their own history, be it painful and uncomfortable. All Kiwis have a right to watch the movie and form their own thoughts, opinions, and reflections of it and even do further research on it.

Why did we as a country acknowledge the dawn raids? Was it to bring hatred against a particular community? No!

Why is the government allowing history to be taught in schools? Why are we learning about the treaty of Waitangi? Because history matters, sweeping it under the carpet is not the right approach. We also want our children to grow up as critical thinkers and be exposed to different views and aspects of global history. Unfortunately, the Fijian Indian Girit history has always been suppressed in Fiji- our ancestors were very poorly treated in Fiji during British colonial rule. We grew up as a generation unaware of our own history.

NZ is a country which believes in diversity, inclusiveness, tolerance, and freedom of speech. We hope common sense will prevail and NZ public at large will get to watch the movie very shortly. Banning the movie will set up a very dangerous precedent and one that could be very damaging to NZ's international reputation.

Your sincerely
Girit Foundation

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 9:13 pm
To: Information Unit
Categories: Non-form

Mr David Shanks - The Chief Censor
Classification Office
info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

Censorship of **'THE KASHMIR FILES'**

Before the Censor Board makes its final decision, we would like you to consider some of the following information/viewpoints.

1. It is a fact that this happened in Kashmir in 1989-90. A large number of people, majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits were killed during that time. You are welcome to check some independent sources to confirm this. Furthermore, some of the eyewitnesses to these events are actually residing in India & New Zealand till date.
2. A large number of people, again a majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits had to leave Kashmir region. There are official census figures which prove this. One can have arguments whether they left of their own accord or whether they were forced to leave, or such conditions were created in Kashmir that they were left with no choice but to flee but this did happen and some of them are living here in Aotearoa who could help you understand their suffering then.
3. This film is based on the Director's viewpoint on how he perceived that this happened and based on his interviews with the victims and his thorough research.
4. To best of our knowledge, no one in India had denied the fact that it happened. the argument there is about which political party or political leader was responsible for it. The fact is that massacre did happen, and some militant groups of Muslims were responsible for it who were implanted by neighbouring Pakistan as per govt records – not all Muslims and we have never claimed this to be the case.
5. There is nothing to stop other film makers to put their viewpoints forward through movies, documentaries or other means in future years based on the facts same as this movie.
6. Is it your opinion that by banning the film here in Aotearoa will change the facts? Or you are denying that it's not fact based?
7. To give an analogy, 9/11 attacks took place in USA by Muslim terrorists. NZ Government stood in solidarity with rest of the world and even as recently as 10th Sept 21, it expressed unity and solidarity with victims and families of the ones who were affected. None of the movies made on 9/11 were banned here.
8. To give a local analogy, if someone wants to make a movie of the Christchurch Mosque attack in 20 years later, would the Censor Board ban such movie on the basis that it could inflame hatred against a particular community? The Christchurch event is a true incident which needs to be recorded and should be allowed under the freedom of expression principle in New Zealand. This movie is no different.
9. The Kashmir Files movie has been released and screened apart from India, in Australia, USA and other countries and no violence of any kind has been reported to date. It has generated some serious and some heated discussions which is natural for any healthy society, but it has been managed well; especially we are attempting to address some of the wrongs being done on our own NZ soil.
10. The current government's move to teach Aotearoa history in schools is a brave one and sets a good example that Truth and historical facts cannot be suppressed for long.
11. We are not aware of any cases of violence by Hindu/Indian/Sikh communities here in Aotearoa. We are sincerely assuming that you are seeking/consult balanced advice on this issue rather than considering views of one particular community. Our biggest fear is that your possible decision to ban

this film will set a dangerous precedent of setting one community's concerns over the other. How does one really decide who's concerns have more weight than the other!

12. Our last point is that it DID happen, it is a FACT. It should not have happened. Some victims of this crime are residing here, but we are not aware of any perpetrator living here. Thus, screening of this movie will enlighten us all and remind us NOT to let it happen here or anywhere else. Depriving the wider community, Indians, and even Muslim community, who have hitherto been unaware that such genocide occurred will miss out on getting a viewpoint of this sad history. We hold no animosity towards our Muslim brothers and sisters here as we know those living here were not responsible for these gruesome events and are convinced that they will be just horrified of the past.

Our hope is that your decision does not alienate a particular community by sending a message that their pain does not matter, their history has no value in Aotearoa and their financial, professional, social, and cultural contribution is not valued by this nation!

We hope that the right to information and freedom to choose what we should see is preserved through your decision.

Best Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my Galaxy

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 9:21 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Thank you for your automated reply.

This is unbelievable, so you are saying only Muslim sentiments are important. You guys are creating this rift. Why you seeing this movie any different than movies based on 9/11 , holocausts, revolution in Africa.. I think wrong is wrong in every country. So terrorism is terrorism when happens in only in our countries, like we experienced when ChCh attack happened. But if it happens in India , it's different. We are not concerned to it??

We left India in 2002 , we are New Zealanders now. Whenever some big issue happened here , we stood together. We love our peace-loving country and all my friends think alike. I would request you , please don't listen to people who say , Muslim sentiment will hurt etc etc. don't divide us. We know we just watching movie , not bringing any religious fight in our country.

Thank you

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 5:30:27 PM
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

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The United Communities for Peace have issued a balanced [statement](#) about this film that we encourage you to read.

We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views. Please be assured that we will take your feedback into account during our review process.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 9:29 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hello Classification office,

Its regrettable that you are taking a very long time on this matter and getting pressurised from Muslim community in New Zealand.

Please note that people are taking a notice in India and around the world of your cowardice. This decision of you to re-review and bow down to pressure is oppression of Free Speech and A deliberate attempt to turn a blind eye to History.

Justice DELAYED is Justice DENIED.

It seems that a piece of History that does not affect New Zealand is not History at all.

s 9(2)(a)

From: Hindus for Human Rights - Australia & New Zealand < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022 9:50 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Kashmir Files consultation process

Categories: Non-form

Kia Ora

I write as part of the Aus-NZ chapter of Hindu For Human Rights, an organisation based in the U.S.A. I am live in Tamaki Makaurau and am interested in participating in the consultation process regarding The Kashmir Files.

How can I contribute to the process?

I don't know the urgency to complete your consultation but I am a GP and work all day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and on Thursday mornings. I can talk on Friday between 9am to 2pm if we need to korero on the phone or by zoom.

Alternatively I can send in my concerns and points via email.

Do let me know.

Nga mihi nui

s 9(2)(a)

<https://www.hindusforhumanrights.org/>

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 2:44 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Honorable Te,

I read the statement and it is commendable to take all parties on board.

Did you know that minority Kashmiri Hindus were forced to wear a cloak that had a fold so that they could be easily identified on the road?

A mature democratic society is able to have mature conversations not push them under the rug especially as sensitive as genocide.

Democratic societies like Australia, UK and USA have already released the movie

I urge you not to prolong the agony of the genocide victims and release the movie. It educates society about what happens when humanity dies in a society. Such education is the key to prevent such barbarism in future and no one should ever have to face genocide in future.

With regards,
s 9(2)(a)

On Sun, Mar 20, 2022, 9:31 PM Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

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We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views. Please be assured that we will take your feedback into account during our review process.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 5:12 am
To: Information Unit; jacinda.ardern@parliament.govt.nz; j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz; messengers@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Screening of The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Hello,

I write to you as a Hindu residing in the USA. I am disappointed that the release of the Kashmir Files has been delayed. Mahatma Gandhi's favorite song, called Vaishnav Jan starts with the lyrics "Only he is a man of God who understands the pain of others". I wish you would understand our pain. Those who do not want to understand our pain are successfully lobbying you as a way to not acknowledge this event happened. I leave it up to you and God.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)
San Jose CA USA

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 8:47 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Thank you so much for your email

I am replying in regards to bringing this to your notice that the petition that is being circulated on social media for the release of thi Movie is also politically motivated and getting support from people who are not even in New Zealand.

Movie director himself Tweeting and asking people to sign the petition and **calling people (Muslim Community in NZ) who are trying to stop the release of "RADICAL"** itself shows how much hatred they are spreading.

Please see below 2 screenshots in which Director of Movie is advising to sign the Petition and Calling People 'RADICAL & COMMUNAL' who are trying to bring it to NZ Classifications notice about the affects of release of this movie

← Tweet



Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri ✓
@vivekagnihotri

20439 signatures are still needed to make a petition to NZ government to release [#TheKashmirFiles](#) in NZ and not surrender to radical groups.
Can you add your signature? 📝



change.org
Make a Change. Sign this Petition.
Release of the film - Kashmir Files in NZ

3:33 pm · 21 Mar 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



It's not only about the movie itself, it's about the kind of ideology it comes up with to defame 'Muslim Community'. These tweets are on an open platform and Muslims can also view them. Release of this movie will definitely make them feel uncomfortable.

Rest I leave it to your high sense of responsibility

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

On Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 5:31 PM Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

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The distributor agreed not to screen the film in the interim.

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The United Communities for Peace have issued a balanced [statement](#) about this film that we encourage you to read.

We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views. Please be assured that we will take your feedback into account during our review process.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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any of the information contained within it.*

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 11:08 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Thank you team. Have a look at the petition and note the number of people who support freedom of expression.
(Almost 135,000 and counting)

<https://www.change.org/p/release-of-the-film-kashmir-files-in-nz?redirect=false>

Very few countries such as Saudi Arabia and Yemen have banned this movie which are already known for censoring anything inconvenient. Let's not let NZ get added to such a list.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 11:35 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: In support of the Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Dear sir/ madam

I am new Zealand citizen would like to request you for release of the film the Kashmir files. It's based on true events 30 years ago in Kashmir India.

New Zealand always been advocate for human rights...so i have right to know the truth

Please release the film for public viewing..we are eager to see it... which is grand success world wide.

Thank you

s 9(2)(a)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 11:54 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Review of "Kashmir Files" Classification - Please do not ban the film.

Categories: Non-form

Hello,

Long email! Please read the rest if you have the time/inclination. Or else my opinion is in the subject line.

My fundamental position is that facts should not be suppressed. Or else there is no chance for society or communities to improve. If we dig a little I am sure we will find that there are problems with every society. All religions have issues and all religions need to adapt. Saying that misrepresentation in any form of should be brutally called out.

My family is a non-practising hindu family. My wife is brahmin while I am not. Her ancestors migrated a hundred or more years ago from Kashmir for reasons that we do not know of. I realise that you have no way of verifying this but nevertheless, I need to say it - Both my wife and I have had Muslim friends and family friends. We have very few friends in NZ (none are Muslim) and that is more a result of fate than out of choice.

I think this debate (IMHO) basically rests on the placement of a line that separates Liberalism and Socialism. I am glad that I am not in your position!!

I do not think we will ever watch the film. Simply because its too damn depressing and not because it is fiction that is stirring up Hindu-Muslim discord. While the film is not a documentary, it is supposedly steeped in factual events. I have seen discussions - with the director and lead proponents - on Indian TV (freely available on YouTube) and they do assert there isn't one fake incidence. Clearly, the visual impact the producers wanted was not possible due to the absence of video footage and hence they have had to bring artistic license to the forefront.

Based on my reading of the article on [Stuff.co.nz](https://stuff.co.nz), I understand that banning the film is a very unlikely outcome of this review. I strongly support that it NOT be banned.

I have also read that in Indian cinemas there were anti Muslim slogans shouted while the movie was being projected. This kind of reporting is unfortunate because the prevalence of this nasty anti-muslim side-effect has not been quantified and it may very well be restricted to one or some cinemas. I have a big issue with shoddy reporting but I will not pursue this here!

I am sure you have compared this film with Holocaust films and they follow a similar direction with different magnitudes of horror. However, the Pundits that bore the brunt of this will not feel any difference. I hear that has been a fair bit of opposition - in India! - to distributing the film and showing it in cinemas. The producers claim realpolitik of the time and the influence of politics on Bollywood. I trust your decision will be free of realpolitik.

I am certain you will face some flak with any decision. So Best Wishes.

Regards
s 9(2)(a)

From: info@manukauindianfm.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 12:39 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: RE: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hi

Thanks for your response.

By when do you expect to make a decision about the release of The Kashmir Files?

I'm not sure about any potential risk of harm to any community but by having this delay of release, you are definitely causing harm to the feelings of a quarter million Indian New Zealanders by denying their history from being shown in our cinemas.

A Billion Indians are currently also expressing their disbelief in India as well.

Prevention of harm is a complex topic which I am not sure that banning a film will achieve.

I am a representative of a key community - the Fiji Indian Hindu, Sanatan community.

Will you be speaking to me?

Till date I have had no response to my text message.

I am not sure why you are championing this news article released by The United Communities for Peace - an organization which has members who are part of another organization which is complaining about the film.

There is clear conflict of interest here.

They are an organization which has zero followers on FaceBook nor is a registered charity.

None the less, I have read that statement and it does not state anything extra ordinary, I am sure you have received numerous requests to release the film on the 24th as planned from the numerous Indian organizations.

Social Media is full of complaints against the Classification Office due to its decision to review its original decision!

I humbly urge you to release the film immediately.

s 9(2)(a)

Manukau Indian FM
<https://manukauindianfm.nz/>

24/7 Indian Cultural Radio
Indian History, Literature, Music, Culture, Hindi, Hindu, Hindutva, Sanatan!

----- Original Message -----

From: Information Unit [mailto:Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz]
To:
Sent: Mon, 21 Mar 2022 04:30:27 +0000
Subject: The Kashmir Files

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 1:21 pm
To: Information Unit
Cc: janine.fenwick@stuff.co.nz; hrرت@justice.govt.nz; infoline@hrc.co.nz
Subject: Freedom

Categories: Non-form

Dear David Shanks

This is s 9(2)(a) from Napier. A moderate Hindu, changed alot in the past years who respect all religions and also respect apophatic theology because it is a freedom for every individual to practice what they believe in.

Christchurch crises as we all knew, worst of what had happened to the Muslim community. If a film is made on the suffering no body should have any objections including me and why should any one be objecting to show case the suffering in the first place

For me, the suffering of a human being is more important than any religion.

The movie "The Kashmir Files" is not a fictional movie but is based research done by the producer and his wife. There are 100s of videos supporting it with the victims witnessing, the horrors they have gone through and giving statements.

My request to you, please release the movie and let the audience decide. No body can fool the audience now days as it can be verified by anyone on the internet with right resources.

Yours faithful citizen

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 4:42 pm
To: Information Unit
Categories: Non-form

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: "s 9(2)(a)" <s 9(2)(a)>
Date: 21/03/22 9:26 PM (GMT+12:00)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: FW:

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: "s 9(2)(a)" <s 9(2)(a)>
Date: 21/03/22 9:13 PM (GMT+12:00)
To: info@classificationoffice.govt.nz
Subject:

Mr David Shanks - The Chief Censor
Classification Office
info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

Censorship of 'THE KASHMIR FILES'

Before the Censor Board makes its final decision, we would like you to consider some of the following information/viewpoints.

1. It is a fact that this happened in Kashmir in 1989-90. A large number of people, majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits were killed during that time. You are welcome to check some independent sources to confirm this. Furthermore, some of the eyewitnesses to these events are actually residing in India & New Zealand till date.
2. A large number of people, again a majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits had to leave Kashmir region. There are official census figures which prove this. One can have arguments whether they left of their own accord or whether they were forced to leave, or such conditions were created in Kashmir that they were left with no choice but to flee but this did happen and some of them are living here in Aotearoa who could help you understand their suffering then.
3. This film is based on the Director's viewpoint on how he perceived that this happened and based on his interviews with the victims and his thorough research.
4. To best of our knowledge, no one in India had denied the fact that it happened. the argument there is about which political party or political leader was responsible for it. The fact is that massacre did happen, and some militant groups of Muslims were responsible for it who were implanted by

neighbouring Pakistan as per govt records – not all Muslims and we have never claimed this to be the case.

5. There is nothing to stop other film makers to put their viewpoints forward through movies, documentaries or other means in future years based on the facts same as this movie.

6. Is it your opinion that by banning the film here in Aotearoa will change the facts? Or you are denying that it's not fact based?

7. To give an analogy, 9/11 attacks took place in USA by Muslim terrorists. NZ Government stood in solidarity with rest of the world and even as recently as 10th Sept 21, it expressed unity and solidarity with victims and families of the ones who were affected. None of the movies made on 9/11 were banned here.

8. To give a local analogy, if someone wants to make a movie of the Christchurch Mosque attack in 20 years later, would the Censor Board ban such movie on the basis that it could inflame hatred against a particular community? The Christchurch event is a true incident which needs to be recorded and should be allowed under the freedom of expression principle in New Zealand. This movie is no different.

9. The Kashmir Files movie has been released and screened apart from India, in Australia, USA and other countries and no violence of any kind has been reported to date. It has generated some serious and some heated discussions which is natural for any healthy society, but it has been managed well; especially we are attempting to address some of the wrongs being done on our own NZ soil.

10. The current government's move to teach Aotearoa history in schools is a brave one and sets a good example that Truth and historical facts cannot be suppressed for long.

11. We are not aware of any cases of violence by Hindu/Indian/Sikh communities here in Aotearoa. We are sincerely assuming that you are seeking/consult balanced advice on this issue rather than considering views of one particular community. Our biggest fear is that your possible decision to ban this film will set a dangerous precedent of setting one community's concerns over the other. How does one really decide who's concerns have more weight than the other!

12. Our last point is that it DID happen, it is a FACT. It should not have happened. Some victims of this crime are residing here, but we are not aware of any perpetrator living here. Thus, screening of this movie will enlighten us all and remind us NOT to let it happen here or anywhere else. Depriving the wider community, Indians, and even Muslim community, who have hitherto been unaware that such genocide occurred will miss out on getting a viewpoint of this sad history. We hold no animosity towards our Muslim brothers and sisters here as we know those living here were not responsible for these gruesome events and are convinced that they will be just horrified of the past.

Our hope is that your decision does not alienate a particular community by sending a message that their pain does not matter, their history has no value in Aotearoa and their financial, professional, social, and cultural contribution is not valued by this nation!

We hope that the right to information and freedom to choose what we should see is preserved through your decision.

Best Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my Galaxy

Sent from my HUAWEI nova 3i

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 4:51 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Request to not allow - The Kashmir Files

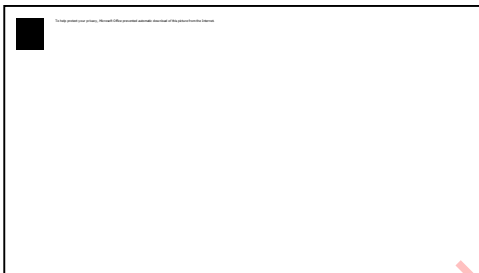
Categories: Non-form

Hi there,

I am s 9(2)(a), NZ citizen and have lived here for 13 years. I would like to request you to not to allow this hate spreader movie.

I have come across that this film is being pushed for propaganda and very sensitive matter. People from right wings here in NZ, trying to push it and posting all over social media about it, charging atmosphere with hate. I am not Muslim but I understand how propaganda is being spread all over India.

Here is a review from only few independent media - <https://thewire.in/film/the-kashmir-files-manipulation>



The Script Is Shoddy, Truth Is Distorted But The Sole Intent of 'The Kashmir Files' Is Manipulation of Emotions

The Script Is Shoddy, Truth Is Distorted But The Sole Intent of 'The Kashmir Files' Is Manipulation of Emotions. There is not a single Muslim character in the film with empathy, all of them are ...

thewire.in

Kind regards,

s 9(2)(a)

??

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 5:34 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Really shameful reply ..i m aghast u are such a hinduphobe ... kashmir genocide was just like Jew genocide n denying the truth about genocide is just another crime against humanity

On Tue, Mar 22, 2022, 10:01 Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 5:40 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files


Categories: Non-form

Dear Sir/Madam

If sentiments of certain communities are hurt by truth, then 9/11 attack in USA should not be shown anywhere.

Let the truth prevail and outrage against Hindu Genocide in Kashmir be depicted truthfully so these gruesome incidents never happen in any other part of the world. When we close our eyes to problems in other countries and ban the truth, we are making our own country and communities vulnerable to similar behavior.

Thank you

s 9(2)(a) 

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 11:30:14 PM
Subject: The Kashmir Files

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 5:52 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Shame on you wokes. This is the Schindler's List of Kashmiri Hindus. Shame on your work existence

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 7:17 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hello There,

Thanks for your response. However it's disappointing to see a Democratic country's censor board is being used to whitewash a genocide.

Any person/group can raise safety concerns about any action/event by misjudging it or purposely to satisfy their agenda. If those concerns are backed by facts, we would like to know about them so that we can also learn from them.

*On the other hand, blocking flow of such important historical facts creates high possibility of these atrocities being repeated. This is backed by the fact that Hindus in various parts of India have been the victim mass genocides not only in Kashmir, but also in West Bengal, in Bangladesh etc.

Truth never means any harm to anyone. But people do.

So I request you to consider any and/all concerns in the light of facts and take decision that will serve overall humanity rather than enabling someone to use it as a tool for their agenda.

Thanking you.

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From: HINDU SWAYMSEVAK <[REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 9:45 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: THE KASHMIR FILES

Categories: Non-form

22nd March 2022

Mr David Shanks - The Chief Censor

Classification Office

info@classificationoffice.govt.nz

Censorship of 'THE KASHMIR FILES'

We understand from press reports that the Classification Office is reviewing the above movie.

Before the Censor Board makes its final decision, we would like you to consider some of the following information/viewpoints.

1. It is a fact that this happened in Kashmir in 1989-90. A large number of people, majority of them Hindu/Kashmiri Pundits were killed during that time. You are welcome to check some independent sources to confirm this. Furthermore, some of the eyewitnesses to these events are actually residing in India & New Zealand till date.
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4. To the best of our knowledge, no one in India had denied the fact that it happened. the argument there is about which political party or political leader was responsible for it. The fact is that massacre did happen, and some militant groups of Muslims were responsible for it who were implanted by neighbouring Pakistan as per govt records – not all Muslims and we have never claimed this to be the case.
5. There is nothing to stop other filmmakers to put their viewpoints forward through movies, documentaries or other means in future years based on the facts same as this movie.
6. Is it your opinion that by banning the film here in Aotearoa will change the facts? Or you are denying that it's not fact based?
7. To give an analogy, 9/11 attacks took place in USA by Muslim terrorists. NZ Government

stood in solidarity with rest of the world and even as recently as 10th Sept 21, it expressed unity and solidarity with victims and families of the ones who were affected. None of the movies made on 9/11 were banned here.

8. To give a local analogy, if someone wants to make a movie of the Christchurch Mosque attack in 20 years later, would the Censor Board ban such movie on the basis that it could inflame hatred against a particular community? The Christchurch event is a true incident which needs to be recorded and should be allowed under the freedom of expression principle in New Zealand. This movie is no different.

9. The Kashmir Files movie has been released and screened apart from India, in Australia, USA and other countries and no violence of any kind has been reported to date. It has generated some serious and some heated discussions which is natural for any healthy society, but it has been managed well; especially we are attempting to address some of the wrongs being done on our own NZ soil.

10. The current government's move to teach Aotearoa history in schools is a brave one and sets a good example that Truth and historical facts cannot be suppressed for long.

11. We are not aware of any cases of violence by Hindu/Indian/Sikh communities here in Aotearoa. We are sincerely assuming that you are seeking/consult balanced advice on this issue rather than considering views of one particular community. Our biggest fear is that your possible decision to ban this film will set a dangerous precedent of setting one community's concerns over the other. How does one really decide who's concerns have more weight than the other!

12. Our last point is that it DID happen, it is a FACT. It should not have happened. Some victims of this crime are residing here, but we are not aware of any perpetrator living here. Thus, screening of this movie will enlighten us all and remind us NOT to let it happen here or any-where else. Depriving the wider community, Indians, and even Muslim community, who have hitherto been unaware that such genocide occurred will miss out on getting a view- point of this sad history. We hold no animosity towards our Muslim brothers and sisters here as we know those living here were not responsible for these gruesome events and are convinced that they will be just horrified of the past.

Our hope is that your decision does not alienate a particular community by sending a message that their pain does not matter, their history has no value in Aotearoa and their financial, professional, social, and cultural contribution is not valued by this nation!

We hope that the right to information and freedom to choose what we should see is preserved through your decision.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Hindu Swayamsewak Sangh NZ Inc

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 5:21 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Has New Zealand banned or delayed the screening of a blinders' list because Germans in New Zealand may be harmed?

Are you stating that other countries are foolish enough to allow it despite it being harmful to some citizens. This is about terrorism and the genocide committed on Hindus, the world need to know this occurs

Typos by Autocorrect

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

On Mar 21, 2022, at 9:30 PM, Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

The Kashmir Files has not been banned in New Zealand.

After we completed our initial classification process, concerns were raised with Chief Censor David Shanks about potential risk of harm to the Muslim community in relation to the release of this film. These concerns appeared to be genuinely held, and sufficiently serious to cause us to pause and review our classification for this film.

The distributor agreed not to screen the film in the interim.

In reviewing our classification, we have not made any commitment to ban *The Kashmir Files* or change our original decision in any way. The film may end up with the same classification it currently has (R16). The legal threshold in New Zealand for a film to be banned – classified as objectionable – is very high.

The Classification Office is an independent Crown entity. This means we make our own decisions under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 following set criteria, without direction from elected government officials or public service departments. The need to balance freedom of access to information while taking reasonable steps to prevent harm to the public are the key considerations for us, not matters of taste or ideology.

We are now working through our review process, and will be aiming to complete this as soon as practicable, taking into account the likely need to hear from representatives of key communities.

The United Communities for Peace have issued a balanced [statement](#) about this film that we encourage you to read.

We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

The information contained in this email message is intended only for the addressee and does not necessarily represent the official view of the Chief Censor or the Classification Office.

If you are not the intended recipient, please return this communication, destroy any copies of it, and do not use, disclose, copy or distribute any of the information contained within it.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 6:33 am
To: s 9(2)(a); Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Just for your information the move has been screening in Australia for a week now and has not created any Issues at all. So why are these do-gooders preempting situation in N Z other wise. Are they suggesting the intelligence of the people in N Z inferior then the rest of the World where the the move has been seen by everyone. I beg yur board will rise above the Petty Local Community Politics and make a fair decision. Pls. don't deprive the Majority to please a few.
Thank you

Sent from my iPad

On 22 Mar 2022, at 2:56 pm, s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)> wrote:

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz>
Date: 22/03/22 5:30 PM (GMT+12:00)
To:
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

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We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 8:55 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Fw: A Kashmiri Pandit fact-checks The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

IN CONFIDENCE PLEASE

Dear Sir(s)/Madam(s)

Good morning and greetings.


s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

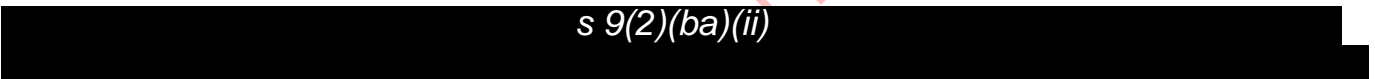
s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

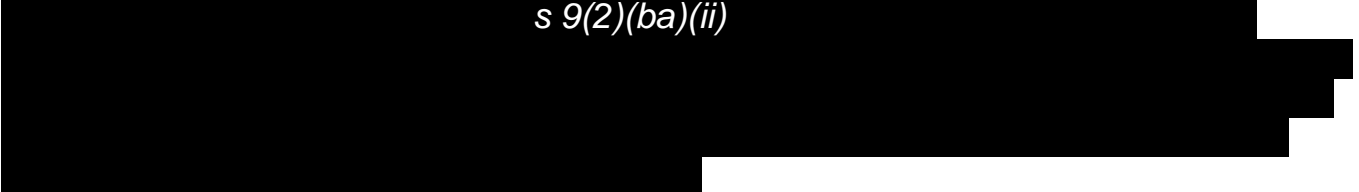
s 9(2)(ba)(ii)



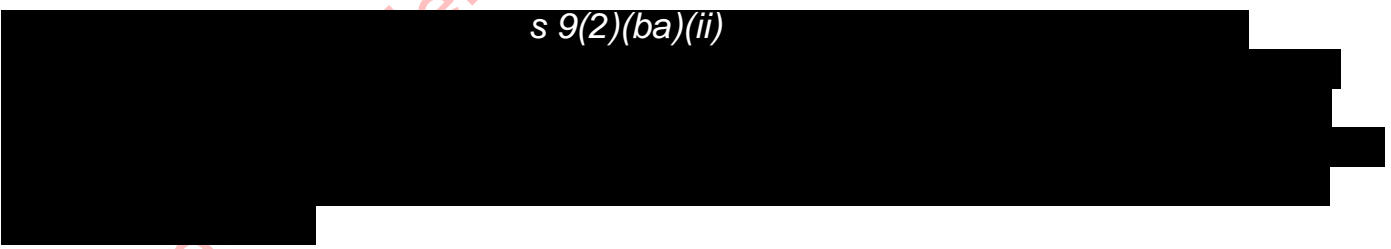
s 9(2)(ba)(ii)



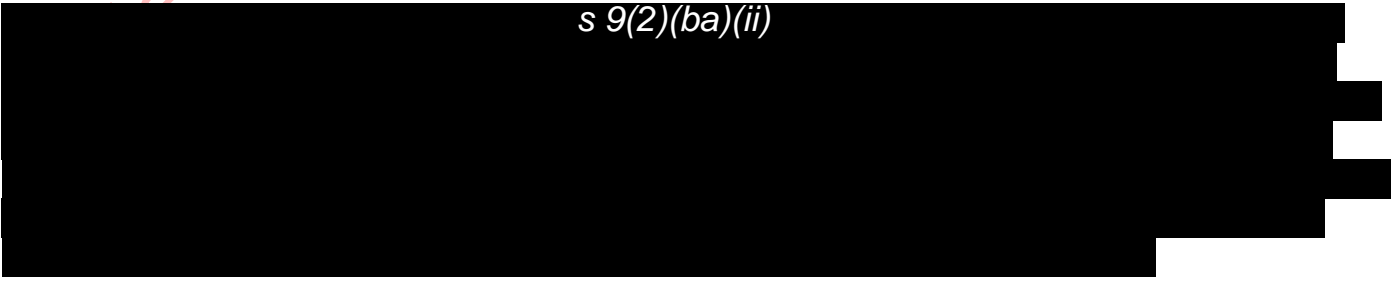
s 9(2)(ba)(ii)



s 9(2)(ba)(ii)



s 9(2)(ba)(ii)



As a note, these are my personal views and concerns and are being communicated to an independent Government organisation in confidence and has nothing to do with s 9(2)(a), which I am clarifying.

Thanking you and with sincere regards.

Ngā mihi.

Yours sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

Mob: s 9(2)(a) | Email: s 9(2)(a)

DO WHAT IS RIGHT, NOT WHAT IS EASY. ~ Roy T. Bennet The Light of the Heart

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>

Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 8:16 am

To: s 9(2)(a)

Subject: s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

s 9(2)(ba)(ii)

From: Aotearoa Alliance of Progressive Indians
<kia.ora@aotearoaprogressiveindians.org>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 11:36 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Fwd: Concerns regarding the movie 'The Kashmir Files'
Categories: Non-form

Hi Team,

Resending this email to the correct email account.

Regards,
Aotearoa Alliance of Progressive Indians

===== Forwarded Message =====

From : kia.ora@aotearoaprogressiveindians.org
To : info@classification.govt.nz, s 9(2)(a) @classificationoffice.govt.nz
Date : Tue, 22 Mar 2022 21:44:53 +1300
Subject : Concerns regarding the movie 'The Kashmir Files'
===== Forwarded Message =====

Kia Ora Team,

We write as members of Aotearoa Alliance of Progressive Indians (AAPI), a collective of community members, activists, artists, performers, academics, physicians, and professionals from across Aotearoa New Zealand. AAPI, composed of members from across religions and language groups from India have been raising awareness across cities in New Zealand regarding the ongoing human rights abuses faced by activists, journalists, academics, LGBTQ+ community, ethnic and linguistic minorities in India. We have also been vocal in bringing out the threats faced by ethnic minority communities in New Zealand and have been working in tandem with other progressive pan Indian organizations here in Aotearoa.

We would like to contribute and be part of the consultation process taking place with regards to reviewing the ratings given to the movie 'The Kashmir Files'. We will be able to throw some light on the concerns that minority communities have raised during the initial consultation period.

It would be great if you can let us know a suitable time for a face to face or zoom meeting to present our views. We are also happy to send you our views via email if that would be more convenient.

Looking forward to an early reply.

Regards,
Aotearoa Alliance of Progressive Indians

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 12:20 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Thanks for you response.

This doesn't give me assurance that you are taking decisions in right direction? Movie should be released as per planned date of 24 March and without any interference/ cut or deletion of scene. If you do so you are doing great injustice to the victims of this genocide. Please don't bow down to the tactic of certain group who wants to play victim card everywhere in political and social sphere of New Zealand. Looking forward your earliest decisions.

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

On 21/03/2022, at 5:30 PM, Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

The Kashmir Files has not been banned in New Zealand.

After we completed our initial classification process, concerns were raised with Chief Censor David Shanks about potential risk of harm to the Muslim community in relation to the release of this film. These concerns appeared to be genuinely held, and sufficiently serious to cause us to pause and review our classification for this film.

The distributor agreed not to screen the film in the interim.

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We are now working through our review process, and will be aiming to complete this as soon as practicable, taking into account the likely need to hear from representatives of key communities.

The United Communities for Peace have issued a balanced [statement](#) about this film that we encourage you to read.

We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views. Please be assured that we will take your feedback into account during our review process.

Ngā mihi,
Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 1:53 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Submission

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: The film is based on the verifiable facts. It is not right to stop the movie as it is against the freedom of expression.

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 3:14 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Dear David,

Further to my submissions, here is an article that presents some arguments that you can verify independently. Kashmir & Pakistan Occupied Kashmir would probably evoke the same struggles and emotions as Ukraine does today.

https://www.thequint.com/voices/blogs/open-islamophobia-a-kashmiri-laments-the-kashmir-files-divisive-agenda?utm_campaign=6277538d-257e-464e-9b34-307aa03df5ea&utm_source=smugglr&utm_medium=fb_messenger_bot#read-more

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2022 5:42 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files - attn chief censor Mr. David Shanks

Categories: Non-form

Dear Mr. Shanks,

Your time is valuable given your busy schedule so I will keep my points succinct for your convenience. I suppose you are facing a complex challenging task of balancing the needs and sensitivities of both Muslim and Hindu communities within the framework of New Zealand laws.

It is abundantly clear the film contents are actual historic facts, lived experiences for Kashmiri Hindus, so I would advise you to please watch the film prior to making your decision. Please be assured the Hindu community will wholeheartedly accept your final decision. It is true that emotions aroused during the viewing may lead to cheering, sloganeering etc. It is largely due to release of suppressed painful emotions for some and a sense of realising the truth after being lied to for many years for some others. This is a natural reaction when thought from the victims' point of view. We completely understand the perpetrators to be radicalised Islamic Terrorists who are not represented by the Muslim population residing in New Zealand. This factual movie is comparable to Schindler's List in content. I do not remember any demand for bans or hatred meted out to Germans after the release of Schindler's List. I would assume Germans to be intellectually mature to accept the historical events and avoid making attempts to obstruct the screening thus moving towards greater engagement and wider societal healing. Unfortunately the Muslim community has chosen to go the other way because they are convinced of a prevalent Islamophobic hate narrative. It could have been a lot easier if they had accepted the events and demonstrated support and solidarity with its victims just like they received after the Christchurch attacks. Let me highlight here the perpetrator of Christchurch attack was not a Hindu or even remotely connected to Hindutva ideologies.

I am a healthcare worker of Hindu faith but more importantly a spiritual seeker which supersedes my religious belief system. I understand hate as a strongly negative emotion which harms the person most, who harbours it. I cannot function at work if I harbour hatred towards any particular community. Ironically my supervisor, colleagues and patients are from the Muslim community and none have received any hate from me. I was promoting The Kashmir Files in my local Facebook group seeking volunteers to support the petition for the release of this movie. Unfortunately I encountered some Muslim men actively baiting me to react in a hateful manner with communal references. I chose to delete the discussion post to prevent development of a hateful environment. I realise these men live locally so I

deactivated my Facebook account for privacy reasons. I realise the Muslim community members have described harmful online activities causing them concern. I wonder if the uninvited hijacking of my Facebook post was to gather online hate content as evidence if I had chosen to respond with hateful words. This makes me believe it is possible that some people, if the movie be released, could intentionally target the cinematic audience during their vulnerable moments to elicit an angry reaction and video record it as evidence to have this and other such similar themed movies banned in the future furthering their anti-India agenda and Islamophobic narrative. Hopefully no such thing happens but if you do receive such video evidence please kindly take into account the causative triggering factors appropriately. I have come across videos of such deliberately provocative attempts made in India during the screening. We will inform the Hindu community members to refrain from reactive behaviours should they get the opportunity to watch this in the theatres to allay concerns raised by the Muslim community.

Lastly the movie has released in other democratic countries outside India without any negative incidences. Islamophobia cannot be region specific so why should people in New Zealand react differently. Please consider the larger implications if other such movies be produced in the future. I would also encourage you to read the article in the link below to understand the importance of this movie for people who have directly been affected by those unfortunate historical events.

<https://www.theaustraliatoday.com.au/the-kashmir-files-is-a-manifestation-of-lived-experience-of-kashmiri-pandits-it-documents-institutionalised-hate-towards-hindus/>

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

New Zealand



23rd March 2022

David Shanks

Chief Censor of New Zealand

Level 1, 88 The Terrace

Wellington 6011

Office of Film &
Literature Classification

29 MAR 2022

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. David Shanks

Kia Ora and Assalaam o alaikum (Peace Be Upon You)

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Pakistani community of New Plymouth to highlight our concerns over the screening of the Indian film, *The Kashmir Files*. This film has already begun fueling Anti-Muslim sentiments in India and the screening of such a controversial movie in New Zealand could significantly increase the already prominent fears and insecurities amongst the Muslim population.

The director of *The Kashmir Files*, Vivek Agnihotri, is a fully Indian man who was born into a Brahmin Hindu family. He openly supports the extremely right-wing, 'Hitler-like' Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, who is a Hindutva nationalist that has been repeatedly called out for his genocidal initiatives against the Muslim population of India.

On the 15th of March this year, Modi eliminated one's freedom to wear a hijab in educational institutes in the state of Karnataka – which directly hinders the ability of hijab-wearing Muslim women from getting an education. As you would know, a lack of education is not only detrimental for a person, but for generations to come. However, many may say, this is the least worrying of all his actions. Gregory Stanton, the founder, and director of The Genocide Watch Group has stated, during a US congressional briefing, that there are already "Signs and processes," of a genocide against Muslims happening in the Indian state of Assam and the Indian-administered Kashmir.

Therefore, it is vital to note that Agnihotri has absolutely no connection to the Kashmiri Pandit population, but more importantly, his 'concerns' for them are extremely questionable. It is apparent that he has made this film purely from the perspective of re-writing history and increasing Islamophobia to allow for Modi's government to continue the horrific oppression of Muslims in India and Kashmir. One should also realize that how majority of the advertising and promotion of *The Kashmir Files* being done by right-wing Hindutva nationalist Groups (including in Aotearoa) is not a coincidence – which also makes one question the credibility of the film. The sole purpose of *The Kashmir Files* is to undermine and justify the ongoing trials and tribulations of the majority Muslim, Kashmiri (and Indian Muslim) populations at the hands of the Hindu Indian authority.

The screening of this film will not benefit a man who cares about the Kashmiri Pandits, but one who is striving to spread anti-Muslim notions and profit off the trauma of real people. There cannot be a more inappropriate time in history to release such a biased and bigoted film which only gives reason and approval to Islamophobes to act (as they already are) on their prejudices. For that reason we strongly request to stop the screening of "The Kashmir Files" in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

PANP (Pakistan Association of New Plymouth)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: pakistan.newplymouth@gmail.com

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2022 8:26 am
To: andrew.coster@police.govt.nz; information@police.govt.nz
Cc: dcet@dia.govt.nz; media@dia.govt.nz; Information Unit; info@dia.govt.nz; media@nzic.govt.nz; enquiries@mfat.govt.nz; info@gcsb.govt.nz; enquiries@igis.govt.nz; labour.taranaki@parliament.govt.nz; andrew.little@parliament.govt.nz; media@dpmc.govt.nz; j.ardern@ministers.govt.nz; arena.williams@parliament.govt.nz; diary.admin@govthouse.govt.nz
Subject: URGENT! | The Kashmir Files | Threat to the nation
Categories: Non-form

Good morning, I am contacting you to raise a concern on an Indian Movie which is currently in review for New Zealand cinemas and if approved either for all viewers or 18+ viewers, it would be a potential threat to New Zealand.

I understand that the NZ Hindu Community would like to see this released in New Zealand, but this movie will cause harm in the relationship between the NZ Hindu Community and the NZ Muslim Community.

This movie is causing hatred around the world and will also cause hatred in Aotearoa. There is a video online showing the Hindu community shouting "When Muslims will be slaughtered, they will shout the name of Ram (Hindu God)" in a cinema after the movie had completed.

I believe that the goal of this movie is to generate the anger throughout the movie and to release it in the community/public. India has also seen a rise in Islamophobia and we do not wish to see that in this country.

From what I understand, this movie is about the incident which occurred in Kashmir against the Hindu Priest's in the 1980's which myself and all muslims are against, since then the relationship between both communities have strengthen (outside of some places in India).

Anthropologist Ather Zia says:

"You open wounds for several things. You open wounds for healing, or you open wounds for further wounding; and I think this is opening of a wound for further wounding rather than healing"

A video posted in twitter shows a Hindu male making a speech to the crowd after the movie had finished advising them to make their sons marry Muslim women to make Hindu kids. Another video shows Hindu males chanting against muslims, and another chanting "Shoot them [muslims] all".

This movie is not a simple Bollywood or Indian/Hindi movie which we all love, this movie is a threat to the nation and must not be available in New Zealand or has to be reviewed before made public in New Zealand as this may lead to acts of terrorism in this country.

References to the response of this movie abroad:

Al Jazeera: https://youtu.be/eqv_ZVj0v8M

Videos on twitter:

https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1504092927491858447?s=21
https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1503373994036461572?s=21
https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1503346472737116160?s=21
https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1503267324555513862?s=21

https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1503266435782512641?s=21

Regards,

The content of this message is confidential. This email may be forwarded to any government official or agency, however it is forbidden to copy, forward, or in any way reveal the contents of this message to the public.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2022 9:46 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Re: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Kia ora

Thank you for your response.

As mentioned before we are a non political and non religious organisation. As Kiwis are not interested in religious and other forms of politics, this will always be there and has always been there.

As kiwis we just want to watch the movie in cinemas - which is our basic right.

Thank you

Girmit foundation NZ

On Tue, Mar 22, 2022 at 5:31 PM Information Unit <Information.Unit@classificationoffice.govt.nz> wrote:

Tēnā koe,

We are writing in response to the views you have shared with us about the film *The Kashmir Files*. The Classification Office has received a large number of emails so please note this is not a response to you specifically. We hope however that the following information is useful.

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We are now working through our review process, and will be aiming to complete this as soon as practicable, taking into account the likely need to hear from representatives of key communities.

The United Communities for Peace have issued a balanced [statement](#) about this film that we encourage you to read.

We are grateful for the time you have taken to express your views.

Ngā mihi,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office

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From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2022 7:09 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Review of the Kashmir files

Categories: Non-form

Dear sir,

Kashmir files, the untold story of Kashmiri Hindu genocide in a secular democratic india.

Just returned from viewing the spectacular and heat breaking movie. Every Indian in general and Kashmiri pandits in particular are indebted to Shri Vivek Agnihotri and his team for taking the plunge to unfold this story which was kept under the carpet by Indian film industry so far.

The movie has captured and woven within 170 minutes some of the most gruesome incidents of hateful violence unleashed by jihadis on just a two percent peaceful, intelligent and patriotic Hindu micro minority of Kashmir who were living symbols of a 5000 year old rich civilisation

VRA has unapologetically exposed all responsible for precipitation of these gory incidents and delivered a clear message to Indians about the challenges posed by jihadi mindsets in subverting the functioning of our constitutional democracy.

Every main character in the movie has given his best and veteran Anupam Kher has simply lived the character but I personally liked the monologue delivered by actor Darshan Kumar (Arjun pandit). It was simply packed with power and made prof. Radhika menon (Pallavi joshi) run for cover. VRA has sent a subtle message through this monologue to both establishment as well as institutions of country. The message is that Kashmir is the cradle of Indic civilisation and its main torch bearer is Kashmiri pandit. Unless this community settles back in Kashmir with full constitutional guarantees and security india will not flourish

We know all union governments prior to 2014 were either apologetic about this problem or simply collaborating with different political outfits propagating shades of secession. Now the response shown by Indian public to this movie will definitely put pressure on union government to do something substantive for the beleaguered community which has been waiting for justice for more than three decades.

Media reporters often try to obtain reaction from people coming out of theatres and their stock question is “ do you think this movie will help you to resettle back in Kashmir “..? They approached me also with the same question and I responded saying that this movie has definitely awakened the conscience of millions of Indians who are now as good claimants of Kashmir as pandits after abrogation of 370. Kashmir files is no longer a movie but a movement for reclaiming Kashmir

s 9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

From: s 9(2)(a) <s 9(2)(a)>
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2022 8:41 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: The Kashmir Files

Categories: Non-form

Hi,

I would like to know when will The Kashmir Files will be released in New Zealand. I got an email from event cinemas that it seems to release on 24th March, but now they saying they don't know so please I would like to know what's the matter, is it gonna be released in New Zealand?

This is just a humble request and question why truth is being delayed or/hid, it's gonna come on OTT anyway. Does anyone dare to bar that?

Hope you got my point of view.

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: Pakistan Association Hawkes Bay Inc <paafhbai@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2022 10:38 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Concerns regarding the Indian movie "The Kashmir Files" release in New Zealand
Attachments: Concerns regarding the Indian movie "The Kashmir Files" release in New Zealand-Chief Censor of Film and Literature.pdf

Categories: Non-form

Respected Chief Censor of Film and Literature,
David Shanks
Wellington.

As-Salamu Alaykum/Kia Ora

Pakistan and Friends Hawkes Bay Association is a community organization representing the Pakistani community in Hawkes Bay. We have come across the news that a movie named "Kashmir Files" is to be screened in New Zealand from 24 March 2022. We are extremely concerned about its screening and urge the Classification Office not to screen this movie. Your office would have received a letter from the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) and the Pakistan Association of New Zealand (PANZ). We second these concerns. In addition, we want to highlight some facts which support the concerns of the Muslim population in NZ. Just 5 days ago on 15 March 2022, a resolution was adopted unanimously by the 193-member body United Nations to mark 15 March as the day to combat Islamophobia. This was to recognize the negative perception issues some of which very much contributed to the worst atrocity in NZ on 15 March 2019, of which we all in NZ are the living victims. While the world is recognizing the sacrifices we made and finally taking a step in the right direction, screening of Kashmir Files is going to negate all those positive gains we have made so far to unite NZ communities. While it's acknowledged by the Chief Censor Mr David Shanks that the concerns are focused on behaviours on and offline in relation to the film, rather than the content of the film itself, we submit the latter is also the case and the contents are highly politically motivated and an incorrect spinning historic fact.

Kashmir is a disputed region between Pakistan and India and both nuclear-armed countries have fought 3 full-scale wars in this disputed region. This region is divided between Pakistan, India, and China, each claiming territorial rights on it. As citizens of Pakistan, many of us have lived and grown up in Kashmir and know the facts displayed in the movie are grossly misleading to stoke hate against Muslims and divert the attention from the atrocities committed by the Indian Government and its paramilitary forces in the name of national security. This movie is prepared in the backdrop of the Indian right-wing Government formally revoking Article 370 of the Indian Constitution in 2019, which gave the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional autonomy and split it into two federal territories, bringing an end to decades of semi-autonomous rule, despite 97% of the Kashmiri population is Muslim. This is the backdrop of the full communication blackout of 13.65 million people for 5 months by the Indian Government in 2019-2020, in the name of security. This is the backdrop of Indian parliamentary elections in 2019 where not a single Muslim MP was elected on the ruling party BJP's ticket in a house of 543 members, despite there being 204 million Muslims in India. The list of these shocking facts goes on and we do not wish to make this letter a history lesson. All we submit is that the movie Kashmir Files is to distract the atrocities committed by extremist Hindu movements themselves and this movie depicts a version, created, and promoted by the right-wing ruling party of India BJP, which is deceitful at best.

This is an attempt by right-wing Hindutva movements like Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Shiv Sana (SS) to divert attention from the atrocities committed by themselves and to divert the hate and anger towards Muslims who are the real victims in that region. We submit that even if some of the facts are correct

in this movie, as claimed by people trying to screen it, what is the rationale of stoking hate when the same moment we are acknowledging Islamophobia in the whole international community. Why do we need such history, which gives a reason to hate to those people who may not even know about these facts, one way or another, what is good out of it? Classification office is in no position to control the anger and hate, implicit or expressed, this movie is very likely going to generate against Muslims in general and not just those perpetrators of crimes shown in the movie.

This movie not just shows territorial dispute, it places Hindus against Muslims, it places one religion against another religion, one citizen against another citizen. We have serious concerns on not only the uncontrolled sentiments this movie is likely to generate but also its contents which are manipulated to execute the politically motivated agenda of India's right-wing ruling party BJP and its allies like SS and RSS. This is a political party whose current Prime Minister Mr Modi faced a 10-year diplomatic boycott imposed by the UK Government for failing to stop anti-Muslim rioting that left at least a thousand people dead in India. Same Mr Modi, named as a Hindu nationalist by the Washington Post, was denied a visa to enter the United States in 2005 on religious-freedom grounds, stemming from allegations that he tacitly supported Hindu extremists during Hindu-Muslim riots in his home state in 2002.

We urge the Government of New Zealand and the Classification office to stop the screening of the movie "Kashmir Files". While people have the right to information, not every right is absolute under section 5 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act and there can be such reasonable limits as these are demonstrably justified in these circumstances, especially in the context of NZ where we are still recovering from the aftermaths of Christchurch attacks and those wounds are still fresh.

Shukria / Ngā mihi,

s 9(2)(a)

Pakistan and Friends Hawkes Bay Association Incorporated

Pakistan And Friends Hawkes Bay Association Incorporated

"We Stand together, we are one and empowering communities' friendship"

Email: pafhbai@gmail.com



Respected Chief Censor of Film and Literature,
David Shanks
Wellington.

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Shukria / Ngā mihi,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Pakistan and Friends Hawkes Bay Association Incorporated

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 8:40 pm
To: Information Unit; Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz;
n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz; media@nzic.govt.nz;
phil.goff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz; NLO@parliament.govt.nz;
green.party@parliament.govt.nz; david.seymour@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Propeganda against muslim community
Categories: Non-form

Hi all

We absolutely condemn any loss of life in the world, including the Kashmiri Pandits, Kashmiri Sikh, Kashmir Muslims and any others by the acts of violence or terrorism.

As you are aware some Hindutva (India's BJP's supporters) groups are actively lobbying for the Bollywood Hate propaganda movie 'The Kashmir Files' to be shown with their objective to sow divisiveness and hate in NZ against Muslim community.

This request is not about freedom of speech but based on the reactions of Hate by the audience who have seen this half-truth fiction.

Our serious worry is the aftermath of the movie where the viewers in NZ might show hateful actions which had been seen in India.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/17/kashmir-files-film-modi-anti-muslim-hate-speech>. This is one link, but we can send you hundreds of such violent reaction this has generated in India.

NZ Muslims in the past warned about the Islamophobia/Hate in some groups towards Muslims which was not taken into notice. This resulted on 15 March 2019 terrorist attack.

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/17-03-2019/we-warned-you-we-begged-we-pleaded-and-now-we-demand-accountability>

We have been seeing the growing rise in Hindutva in NZ, which was presented by CAREhttps://carecca.nz/wpcontent/uploads/sites/68/2021/08/CARE_White_Paper_Issue_11_May_2021.pdf
Also in local news outlets; <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300420720/the-rise-of-hindutva-and-hate-in-aotearoa-indian-diaspora>

The Hindu Right Wing BJP Indian government since 2014 has been raising issues against the Minorities in India where Lynching, atrocities, false cases, religious practices ban etc have increased multiple folds. This is basically directed at Muslims and now Christians too.

Genocide watch group raised concerns

<https://www.genocidewatch.com/india>.
<https://www.churchinneed.org/2021-worst-year-for-christians-in-india/>

We are extremely worried for our families & community safety.

God-Forbid, if any untoward incident happens because of such exaggerated politically driven propaganda, our community, society and country will be adversely impacted.

Like we warned before Christchurch attack, we consider this a much more dangerous and want to convey our community concern.

Respectfully,

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: noreply@website.classificationoffice.govt.nz
Sent: Saturday, 26 March 2022 11:00 am
To: Information Unit
Subject: Online classification request

Categories: Non-form

I'd like to request a:: Reconsideration

What kind of publication is it?: Film

What is the title of the publication?: The Kashmir Files Why are you seeking a

submission/exemption/reconsideration?: Good morning, I am writing to you to raise a concern on an Indian Movie which has been approved for 18+ viewers in New Zealand cinemas. This movie is a potential threat to New Zealand.

I understand that the NZ Hindu Community would like to see this released in New Zealand, but this movie will cause harm in the relationship between the NZ Hindu Community and the NZ Muslim Community.

This movie is causing hatred around the world and will also cause hatred here at home. There is a video online showing the Hindu community shouting "When Muslims will be slaughtered, they will shout the name of Ram (Hindu God)" in a cinema after the movie had completed.

I believe that the goal of this movie is to generate the anger throughout the movie and to release it in the community/public. India has also seen a rise in Islamophobia and we do not wish to see that in this country.

From what I understand, this movie is about the incident which occurred in Kashmir against the Hindu Priest's in the 1980's which myself and all muslims are against, since then the relationship between both communities have strengthen (outside of some places in India).

Anthropologist Ather Zia says:

"You open wounds for several things. You open wounds for healing, or you open wounds for further wounding; and I think this is opening of a wound for further wounding rather than healing"

A video posted in twitter shows a Hindu male making a speech to the crowd after the movie had finished advising them to make their sons marry Muslim women to make Hindu kids. Another video shows Hindu males chanting against muslims, and another chanting "Shoot them [muslims] all".

This movie is not a simple Bollywood or Indian/Hindi movie which we all love, this movie is a threat to the nation and must not be available in New Zealand as this may lead to acts of terrorism in this country.

References to the response of this movie abroad:

Al Jazeera: https://youtu.be/eqv_ZVj0v8M

Videos on twitter:

https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1504092927491858447?s=21

https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1503373994036461572?s=21

https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1503346472737116160?s=21

https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1503267324555513862?s=21

https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1503266435782512641?s=21

Please reconsider your decision

Regards,

First name: s 9(2)(a)

Last name: s 9(2)(a)

Phone: s 9(2)(a)

Email: s 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 26 March 2022 1:11 pm
To: Information Unit
Subject: Sharing concern over launch of Bollywood Movie "Kashmir Files"
Categories: Non-form

Hi, being Kashmiri native want to record my condemnation in regard to release of Bollywood's Hate propaganda movie 'The Kashmir Files' to be shown with their objective to sow divisiveness and hate in NZ against Muslim community.

Requesting to please get it thoroughly checked for its classification as we came to know it is showing half truth fiction because of such exaggerated politically driven propaganda, our community, society and country will be adversely impacted as we consider this a much more dangerous and want to convey our community concern.

--
Regards

s 9(2)(a)

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Saturday, 26 March 2022 1:37 pm
Subject: Request to support Ban of Indian Movie "KASHMIR FILES" in New Zealand
Categories: Non-form

Dear Sir / Ma'am,

Kia Ora,

We absolutely condemn any loss of life in the world, including the Kashmiri Pandits, Kashmiri Sikh, Kashmir Muslims and any others by acts of violence or terrorism.

As you are aware some Hindutva (India's BJP's supporters) groups are actively lobbying for the Bollywood Hate propaganda movie 'The Kashmir Files' to be shown with their objective to sow divisiveness and hate in NZ against the Muslim community.

This request is not about freedom of speech but based on the reactions of Hate by the audience who have seen this half-truth fiction.

Our serious worry is the aftermath of the movie where the viewers in NZ might show hateful actions which had been seen in India.

Thanks & Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

New Zealand-1026

From: s 9(2)(a) < s 9(2)(a) >
Sent: Monday, 28 March 2022 5:38 pm
To: Information Unit; Priyanca.Radhakrishnan@parliament.govt.nz;
n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz; media@nzic.govt.nz;
phil.goff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz; NLO@parliament.govt.nz;
green.party@parliament.govt.nz; david.seymour@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Hate propaganda movie - The Kashmir Files
Categories: Non-form

Hi,

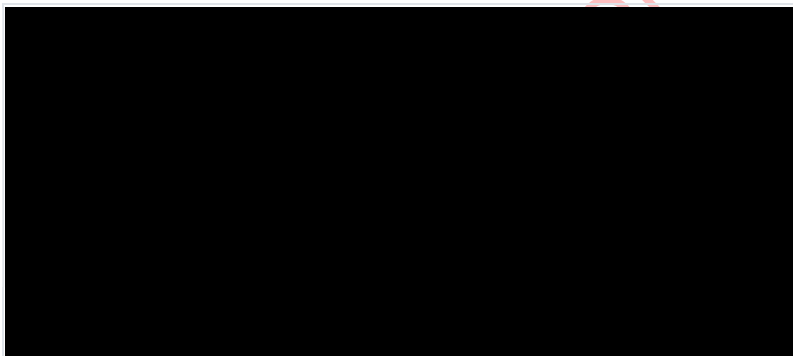
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This request is not about freedom of speech but based on the reactions of Hate by the audience who have seen this half-truth fiction.

Our serious worry is the aftermath of the movie where the viewers in NZ might show hateful actions which had been seen in India.

[Kashmir Files, hailed by Modi, triggers anti-Muslim hate speech](#)



hate speech

Bollywood film on exodus of Kashmiri Hindus that won accolades from Indian PM accused of fanning anti-Muslim sen...

This is one link, but we can send you hundreds of such violent reaction this has generated in India.

NZ Muslims in the past warned about the Islamophobia/Hate in some groups towards Muslims which was not taken into notice. This resulted on 15 March 2019 terrorist attack.

[We warned you. We begged. We pleaded. And now we demand accountability](#)



we demand accountability

Anjum Rahman

For more than five years, Muslim representatives knocked on every door we could, we spoke at every possible foru...

We have been seeing the growing rise in Hindutva in NZ, which was presented by CAREhttps://carecca.nz/wpcontent/uploads/sites/68/2021/08/CARE_White_Paper_Issue_11_May_2021.pdf

Also in local news outlets; <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300420720/the-rise-of-hindutva-and-hate-in-aotearoa-indian-diaspora>

The Hindu Right Wing BJP Indian government since 2014 has been raising issues against the Minorities in India where Lynching, atrocities, false cases, religious practices ban etc have increased multiple folds. This is basically directed at Muslims and now Christians too.

Genocide watch group raised concerns

[India | genocidewatch](#)

India | genocidewatch

<https://www.churchinneed.org/2021-worst-year-for-christians-in-india/>

We are extremely worried for our families & community safety.

God-Forbid, if any untoward incident happens because of such exaggerated politically driven propaganda, our community, society and country will be adversely impacted.

Like we warned before Christchurch attack, we consider this a much more dangerous and want to convey our community concern.

Respectfully,

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Summary of consultation on *The Kashmir Files*

Approach

Each consultation session took place on Zoom from 22–24 March 2022. They were hosted by Chief Censor David Shanks with key community groups and representatives in attendance.

Sessions began with the Chief Censor providing introductory information about:

- *The Kashmir Files*;
- the film's classification at that time;
- why the Classification Office was reviewing this classification;
- why the Office contacted the attendee;
- types of classification in Aotearoa and the consequences of viewing or possessing publications with each type of classification;
- the purpose of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, and what the Act allows the Classification Office to do when classifying publications.

Each group was then asked for their views on *The Kashmir Files* and its wider social, historical, and cultural impacts. The views are summarised below.

Feedback

Would the availability of *The Kashmir Files* in New Zealand be harmful?

Concerns were raised about disinformation and propaganda surrounding the release of the film, as well as disinformation alleging the Classification Office was considering banning it. (The Office had decided to review the film's classification.)

The factual accuracy of the film was disputed, and it was alleged that the film lacked balance in portraying only one side of the story. For example, the film does not depict Muslim victims of the militant group in Kashmir. (A disclaimer at the beginning of the film acknowledges it takes "cinematic liberties" and "doesn't claim accurateness [sic] or factuality of historic events".)

It was noted that the film was created by supporters of the current Indian government. There was concern about the Indian High Commission becoming involved in the issue of the film's classification in New Zealand, with some saying this seemed politically motivated.

Some said the film should be viewed within Kashmir's current political context. It was believed that online discussions around the film could translate into offline action by those with extreme views.

Some felt that their right to be free to express concerns about the film was impinged by others advocating for release of the film.

There was no doubt that the film had a high emotional impact on audiences overseas. However, many pointed out it had been seen by over a billion people and not caused any instances of violence. The suggestion that Hindus would resort to violence was refuted.

Some said the short-term discomfort or upset that the film's screening may cause should be assessed against the effects the film may have in mitigating future violence. It was said that the more that suffering was seen, the less likely it was to be repeated.

What is the value or importance in *The Kashmir Files* being publicly available?

Several community representatives strongly emphasised that the film's story is fact, not fiction. It depicted an experience that many people in the community and abroad have had, and thus deserved to be told.

The film was said to have educational value for the community. This included it being an opportunity to show younger generations what happened and why people left their homeland, as well as sharing their truth and experience with the wider New Zealand public.

Some said that they should simply have the freedom to watch their own story.

Making the film unavailable in New Zealand was seen as equivalent to removing the voices of those in the community who wanted it seen and shared. It would downplay the importance of acknowledging the suffering many had endured, making it feel like "our pain is not pain".

Experiences were said to differ significantly across groups from Kashmir, just as they did in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and Palestine. Several groups suggested that a plurality of voices and stories was good for creating understanding between people.

There was some reluctance to emphasise the religious affiliations of the perpetrators of attacks in Kashmir. Many were well aware that while some members of the community would feel hurt once the film was released, the film would show that they are not responsible. Some said the film should be seen within Kashmir's historical context.

Many representatives stated that New Zealand is known for upholding freedom of expression. Some suggested that the way this issue has played out may affect that reputation.

It was also noted that the concerns raised against the film have led to much more attention to the film than it would have had if it were released without issue.

Was the initial age restriction (R16) sufficient?

There was wide support for the classification of the film to be elevated to R18. Some were aware of confronting scenes in the film. Some stated that an R18 classification would serve all community groups' interests: the film would be restricted to a smaller audience, but could still be publicly screened.

It was also pointed out that the film faced classification issues in India, but these had been worked through.

What would a good response or process for dealing with these types of situations in the future look like?

There were significant frustrations with the review process occurring so close to the initial New Zealand release date, with screenings of the film ultimately being delayed by the distributor as a result.

The initial release of the film in New Zealand was set for two weeks after it premiered in several other countries. This created an expectation that any issues with the film in New Zealand would have been known and worked through in advance.

The delay in releasing the film deprived New Zealand communities from having a shared experience of the film with their peers in other countries.

Making the roles of the Classification Office and Chief Censor clearer should be a focus for the future. Members of the public should not feel discouraged to voice their concerns with the Office about films historical films. At the same time, the government and Crown entities must hear, and be seen to hear, all parts of the community.

There was wide support for opportunities to bring interested communities together to work through any future issues, such as through interfaith group United Communities for Peace. This would reduce the risk that one community was perceived as being against another, and foster wider benefits for social cohesion. It could also provide an opportunity for the Classification Office to share its work with the community more generally.

[Publication Search Screen](#) > Publication

Publication History for The Kashmir Files

2200101.000 Film (online)

Status History

Status	User Name	Date
Decision Registered	s 9(2)(a)	01/04/2022
Classified & Signed	s 9(2)(a)	01/04/2022
Decision Affirmed	s 9(2)(a)	31/03/2022
Draft Complete	s 9(2)(a)	31/03/2022
Drafting Decision	s 9(2)(a)	31/03/2022
Examined	s 9(2)(a)	31/03/2022
Examining	s 9(2)(a)	31/03/2022
Queued	s 9(2)(a)	28/03/2022
Logged	s 9(2)(a)	24/03/2022

Publication Movements

Movement	User Name	Date	Notes
Pub Received	s 9(2)(a)	21/03/2022	Saved to USB. s 9(2)(k) (OFLC 2200077 USB)
Direction Emailed to LB	s 9(2)(a)	01/04/2022	
Disposal Action Destroy	s 9(2)(a)	01/04/2022	
Final Docs Dispatched	s 9(2)(a)	01/04/2022	Emailed to all parties

Add

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

RECONSIDERATION UNDER s.42:
APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO SUBMIT PUBLICATION

TO: The Chief Censor
Office of Film and Literature Classification
Level 1, 88 The Terrace
Wellington 6011

Date of Application: 20/03/2022

Date of Previous Decision:

Pursuant to section 42 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, I [state full name]

s 9(2)(a) Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ)

hereby seek the leave of the Chief Censor to submit the publication described below for reconsideration of its current classification.

A copy of the publication is enclosed. Yes ☐ No ☒

Title of Publication: Kashmir Files

Other Known Title(s):

Director/Author: Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri

Producer/Publisher: Zee Studios and Abhishek Agarwal Arts

Format: Movie

Country of Origin: India

Language: Hindi/English

CONTACT DETAILS

Applicant's address: s 9(2)(a)

Applicant's phone number: s 9(2)(a)

Applicant's email address: s 9(2)(a)

Reasons for seeking leave:

Pursuant to section 42 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, I **s 9(2)(a)** Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) requesting the Censor Board NZ to look at the suitability of this film from the view point of its biased projection about the targeted killing of some Kashmiri Pandits by the militant Kashmiris militia who happened to be Muslims. The fact is that the same militia killed over 1635 Kashmiri Muslims as well as some Sikhs which has not been shown in this film. The story telling paints all Muslims as terrorist and anti- Hindus which is totally misplaced. It is sad to see that Bollywood movies are now being used to create further divide primarily in India but its influence is also being felt amongst the Indian New Zealanders.

We believe in the Quranic teachings that if someone kills an innocent person as though he/she has killed the entire Humanity and if someone has saved a single person then he/she has saved the entire Humanity. Loss of any innocent human life has to be condemned regardless of faith, colour or gender.

Our request is to ban "Kashmir File" from general viewing in New Zealand or to reclassify it so the negative consequences of this movie i.e. inciting hatred towards Kashmiri Muslims in general and particularly those belonging to the Indian heritage can be minimised. This could also incite white supremacists to become more anti-Muslims. Our community has already paid very high price on 15th March 2019 where 51 innocent were killed by a white supremacist who has harboured hatred against Muslims.

A copy of our letter which we wrote to PM expressing our concerns regarding the negative impact of showing "Kashmir Files" may have in NZ towards Muslims is attached for your consideration.

18 March 2022

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Prime Minister

Kia Ora and Assalaamu Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You)

I am writing to you on behalf of FIANZ, the umbrella Muslim organisation in New Zealand, to raise our concerns regarding the Indian movie “The Kashmir Files”, which I note is scheduled to be screened in cinemas in Aotearoa New Zealand. This film has already resulted in serious and widespread anti-Muslim and anti-Kashmiri sentiments in India.

It is relevant to note that “The Kashmir Files” is being promoted globally by Hindu Right Wing groups such as RSS and VHP both overseas and here in Aotearoa New Zealand. The purpose of this movie is to undermine Kashmiri and Indian Muslims in general, as well as inciting hatred against Muslims in India and globally, including here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Currently, the movie is promoting widespread hate and social discord in India, identified by the President of Genocide Watch, Gregory Stanton, as an at-risk country for genocide targeting Muslims. Genocide Watch has already issued a Genocide Alert for Kashmir. The Kashmir Files is a movie which promotes a false narrative around a fictitious genocide against the Hindu population of Kashmir, most probably to make any impending genocide of Kashmiri Muslims acceptable and necessary. You can learn more about the movie in this 10 min video from the Australian journalist C J Werlemann at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAiqKJ9_0PU

The Islamophobic hate triggered by The Kashmir Files can be exemplified by emerging social media threads including a video which shows a young man rising from his seat as the credits of the film roll onscreen and who then makes a short, passionate speech. In this speech he exhorts Hindu men to abduct, marry and impregnate Muslim women so that Hindu babies may be harvested from Muslim wombs. This is just one example of an alarming trend.

We are concerned that this film will cause further social discord in Aotearoa New Zealand as well as fuel Islamophobic hate, seriously disrupting all our efforts to create a cohesive society.

Three years ago, on March 15, our community paid a terrible price when a man filled with hatred murdered 51 Muslims while they were praying at two Mosques in Christchurch. The continued screening of this movie shows an incredible insensitivity to the feelings of the local Muslim community and will also actively promote hatred amongst communities in New Zealand. We urge you to take positive action and stop the screening of The Kashmir Files throughout New Zealand.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely,

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a)

Classification Meeting:

Decision & Discussion Record

PUBLICATION INFORMATION	
Publication No:	2200077.000 (<i>to be updated following reconsideration outcome</i>)
Title:	The Kashmir Files
Other Known Title/s:	N/A
Submission Channel:	Reconsideration Request (section 42)
MEETING INFORMATION	
Meeting Date:	25 March 2022
Attendees:	David Shanks, Chief Censor
	Rupert Ablett-Hampson, Deputy Chief Censor
	Maggie Tait, Communications Manager
	Julia Dayan, Corporate Service Manager
MATTERS DISCUSSED	
Process:	<p>The Chief Censor has met with a large number of community representatives and a significant amount of correspondence has been received over recent days.</p> <p>The Chief Censor has engaged with overseas classifiers.</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Censor has discussed the publication with the original classification team and a further senior classification advisor.</p>
Leave Request:	There has been significant public interest in the film and the community groups had genuine concerns about the impact of this film on their community. These were not heard during the initial classification and the opportunity to hear those concerns, as well as to inquire into the reasons for an unusual disparity between UK and Australian classifications for this title, means that leave is granted for reconsideration.
Reconsideration:	The classification officers who originally assessed this film at R16 found it to be a difficult 'edge case' between those two age restrictions. Having reviewed the film, heard from overseas classifiers and the community who are the likely audience of this film and having regards to the nature and intensity of the violence and cruelty depicted an R18 restriction is appropriate. The current descriptive notes are sufficient to warn of content.
Classification:	R18
Descriptive Note / Display Conditions:	Graphic violence, offensive language and cruelty
Making the Decision Public (Who to notify of Decision)	<p>Given the public interest, stakeholders will be notified immediately and a press release distributed, embargoed until 26 March 2022.</p> <p>The labelling body will be notified immediately so that they can engage with the distributor to prepare label for screening to begin on 31 March..</p> <p>A more detailed decision document and registration of the decision will follow in the new week.</p>

DIRECTION TO ISSUE A LABEL (SECTION 36 OR 36A)

TO: The Secretary
The Film and Video Labelling Body Inc.

The Classification Office directs the Film and Video Labelling Body Inc. to issue a label for the following publication:

Title of publication: The Kashmir Files

Other known title: Not stated

OFLC ref: 2200101.000

Medium: Film (online)

Distributor: Deepu Thoppil

Director: Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri

Country of origin: India

Language: Hindi, English

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Descriptive note: Graphic violence, offensive language and cruelty

Display conditions: None

Advertising material: None

	Components	Running time
Feature:	The Kashmir Files	170:23
Total running time:		170:23

Date: 28 March 2022

Consideration Sheet

OFLC ref:	2200101.000
Submission channel:	s42(3)

Title of publication:	The Kashmir Files
Other known title:	Not stated
Medium:	Film (online)
Distributor:	Deepu Thoppil
Director:	Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri
Country of origin:	India
Language:	Hindi, English
Applicant:	Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ)

Examination transcript No:	
Examination date:	31 March 2022
Other identifying information:	

Components Of Film

Components of film originally examined:

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	The Kashmir Files	170:23
Total running time:		170:23

Components of film excised:

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Consideration of the Publication under the Films, Videos, and Publications
Classification Act 1994 (FVPC Act)

Description
See con sheet attached to 2200777 for discussion of the content of this film

Section 3(1): the Subject Matter Gateway	
Does the publication describe, depict, express, or otherwise deal with matters such as:	
–	Sex ¹
–	Horror
–	Crime
–	Cruelty
–	Violence
–	None of the above, <u>proceed to s 3A and s 3B</u>

¹ Note that a publication can be found to deal with a matter such as sex if (a) the publication is or contains 1 or more visual images of 1 or more children or young persons who are nude or partially nude; and (b) those 1 or more visual images are, alone, or together with any other contents of the publication, reasonably capable of being regarded as sexual in nature. (s 3(1A)).

Section 3(2): Certain publications are "deemed to be objectionable"

Does the content of the publication raise any of these issues? If it does, discuss, and conclude whether the publication promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, that matter.

–	s 3(2)(a) The exploitation of children or young persons for sexual purposes
–	s 3(2)(b) The use of violence or coercion to compel a person to participate in, or submit to, sexual conduct
–	s 3(2)(c) Sexual conduct with or upon the body of a dead person
–	s 3(2)(d) The use of urine or excrement in association with degrading or dehumanising conduct or sexual conduct
–	s 3(2)(e) Bestiality
–	s 3(2)(f) Acts of torture or the infliction of extreme violence or extreme cruelty
✓	None of the above
If the publication promotes or supports (or tends to) any of these matters, could excisions be used to remove the problematic content?	
–	Yes. Consider the rest of the publication under s 3(3) and s 3(4) and discuss the required excisions in the conclusion.
–	No. The publication is deemed to be objectionable. <u>Proceed to Conclusion</u>

Section 3(3): Matters to be given particular weight

If any of the following criteria apply, discuss in terms of the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication:

–	s 3(3)(a)(i) Deals with the infliction of torture, serious physical harm, significant cruelty
–	s 3(3)(a)(ii) Deals with sexual violence or sexual coercion, or violence or coercion in association with sexual conduct
–	s 3(3)(a)(iii) Deals with other sexual or physical conduct of a degrading or dehumanising or demeaning nature
–	s 3(3)(a)(iv) Deals with sexual conduct with or by children or young persons
–	s 3(3)(a)(v) Deals with physical conduct in which sexual satisfaction is derived from inflicting or suffering cruelty or pain
–	s 3(3)(b) Exploits the nudity of children or young persons
–	s 3(3)(c) Degrades or dehumanises or demeans any person
–	s 3(3)(d) Promotes or encourages criminal acts or acts of terrorism
–	s 3(3)(e) Represents that members of any particular class of the public are inherently inferior to other members of the public by reason of an characteristic that is a prohibited ground of discrimination specified in s 21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1993

Section 3(3): Matters to be given particular weight

–	The publication doesn't deal with any s 3(3) criteria

Section 3A:

Does the publication contain highly offensive language to such an extent or degree that it is likely to seriously harm viewers under a certain age?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Discuss (including any necessary consideration of offensive language that is not 'highly offensive' or any highly offensive language which is not likely to cause serious harm to young viewers):

Section 3B:

Does the publication contain any of the following material?

–	Harm to a person's body, including self-inflicted death, self-mutilation or harmful body modification (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).
–	Conduct that, if imitated, would pose a risk of serious harm to self or others (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).
–	Physical conduct of a degrading, dehumanising or demeaning nature (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).
–	Visual images of a person's body that alone or with any other contents of the publication are of a degrading, dehumanising or demeaning nature (other than any already discussed under s 3(3) criteria).

Section 3B:

–	None of the above
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Does the extent and degree of the material make the publication likely to cause any of the following harms to young people under a specified age because of their general levels of emotional and intellectual development and maturity?

- Cause them to be greatly disturbed or shocked
- Increase significantly the risk of them killing, or causing serious harm to, themselves, others, or both
- Encourage them to treat or regard themselves, others, or both, as degraded, dehumanised or demeaned.

Discuss likely harm/s or why the content is unlikely to cause these harms:

Submissions & consultations (if applicable)

–	Consultation or enquiries required under s 21
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–	Submissions received from interested parties under s 20
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Any other information to be taken into account (if relevant)

(e.g. previous OFLC decisions, decisions of other classification bodies, research, books, articles, reviews, etc.)

Conclusion

- In addition to all of the above matters, consider relevant s 3(4) matters: the dominant effect of the publication, character of the publication (including any merit, value or importance), impact of the medium, intended or likely audience, intended purpose, and any other relevant circumstances relating to its use
- Identify any likely injury to the public good from the unrestricted availability of the publication
- Determine the classification, taking into account the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA) and the need to impose the least restrictive limitation on the right to freedom of expression that will prevent injury to the public good

The film is a drama about the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 due to ethnic and religious violence. The film follows a young man as he discovers the truth about the death of his family members.

On 17 March 2022 the Classification Office classified this film as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. The film was to have screened in New Zealand from Thursday 24 March with the R16 certificate. Prior to the film screening however members of the Muslim community raised concerns about the content of the film.

On 22 March 2022 a formal application was received for reconsideration under section 42 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 ("the Act") from the New Zealand Muslim Association (the Applicant). Having regard to the concern of the Applicant that the film might cause social discord in New Zealand and the disparity of overseas classifications for this film the Chief Censor determined to grant leave under section 42 of the Act and undertook a further classification of this film.

Concern has also been expressed by members of the public that the film is not an accurate portrayal of what occurred in Kashmir in 1990. The film starts with a disclaimer that it is based on testimonials recorded by victims and their families. The disclaimer also acknowledges however that "cinematic liberties" have been taken and that it "doesn't claim accurateness or factuality of historic events". The Act does not enable the Classification Office to classify a publication as objectionable on the basis of it being inaccurate or unbalanced, therefore consideration has not been given to this matter.

The Classification Office does not consider that the film meets the high threshold required for it to be classified as objectionable, however its unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good due to the graphic and cruel nature of the violence depicted.

The previous classification considered that restricting viewing to those aged 16 years and over was reasonable however in reconsidering the overall impact of the film an

Conclusion

increased age restriction is necessary. The film is impactful and will likely upset and distress audiences of any age. Younger viewers are likely to be highly shocked and disturbed by the cruelty and violence.

The film is classified R18. This is a limitation on the right to freedom of expression set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 but is reasonable and justified to prevent injury to the public good.

Classification

R18

Descriptive note to cover: Graphic violence, offensive language and cruelty

Excisions (if applicable)

Display conditions (restricted publications only)

Are display conditions necessary?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Reason for any display conditions:

Notice of Decision in respect of leave and classification under section 42 and 38 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993

TO: Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ)

Title of publication: The Kashmir Files

Other known title: Not stated

OFLC ref: 2200101.000

Medium: Film (online)

Distributor: Deepu Thoppil

Director: Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri

Country of origin: India

Language: Hindi, English

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Graphic violence, offensive language and cruelty

Display conditions: None

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	The Kashmir Files	170:23
Total running time:		170:23

A direction has been given to the Film and Video Labelling Body Inc. to issue a label for this publication.

Reasons for the Decision

1. On 17 March 2022 the Classification Office classified this film as Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
2. The film was to have screened in New Zealand from Thursday 24 March with the R16 certificate. Prior to the film screening however members of the Muslim community raised concerns about the content of the film.
3. On 22 March 2022 I received a formal application for reconsideration under section 42 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 ("the Act") from the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) (the Applicant).
4. Having regard to the concern of the Applicant that the film might cause social discord in New Zealand, the disparity of overseas classifications for this film and the desire of the affected communities to talk to me about it I determined to grant leave under section 42 and undertook a further classification of this film.
5. To classify the film I watched the film and met with members of the New Zealand Muslim and Hindu communities. I also received a large amount of correspondence. Members of the Muslim community were genuinely concerned the film would negatively affect them. Hindu representatives felt strongly that the film showed an important part of their history.
6. The film is a drama about the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 due to ethnic and religious violence. The film follows a young man as he discovers the truth about the death of his family members at the hands of terrorists intent on driving Hindus from Kashmir. The events from 1990 are presented in a series of flash-backs.
7. The film features terrorism, conflict between ethnic groups and discussions about genocide. In the flash-back sequences there are depictions of a number of brutal killings, including a scene of an execution of a woman with a band saw, a line of people murdered by gunshot with their corpses left in a mass grave, and the execution of a child.
8. The violence is displayed graphically with realistic gunshot effects and wounds. The manner in which much of the violence occurs is very cruel and is perpetrated on helpless people, in several cases involving children.
9. I can only make a film objectionable ("ban it") if it deals with "matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty, or violence", in such a way that the film would be injurious to the public good. Section 3 of the Act prescribes the matters which the Classification Office must have regard to prior to making such a decision.
10. The New Zealand Courts have found that making a publication objectionable is a significant intrusion of the right of freedom of expression under section 14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and that films need to meet a very high threshold before they are determined to be objectionable.

11. In considering this film I had particular regard to whether the film:

- a. promoted or encouraged criminal acts or acts of terrorism.

It does not, it portrays acts of terrorism but they are not promoted or encouraged.

- b. represents members of any particular class of the public as inherently inferior to others by reason of a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Human Rights Act 1993¹.

While the protagonists were presented as being from different religions, neither is presented as inherently inferior. The terrorists are presented as Muslim but they are not the only Muslim characters in the film.

12. The concern has been expressed to me that the film is not an accurate portrayal of what occurred in Kashmir in 1990. The film starts with a disclaimer that it is based on testimonials recorded by victims and their families. The disclaimer also acknowledges however that "cinematic liberties" have been taken and that it "doesn't claim accurateness or factuality of historic events". The Act does not enable me to classify a publication as objectionable on the basis of it being inaccurate or unbalanced and so I have not considered this matter.

13. I do not consider that the film meets the high threshold required for it to be classified as objectionable, however I do believe its unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good.

14. The previous classification considered that restricting viewing to those aged 16 years and over was reasonable however I am satisfied, considering the overall impact of the film, that an increased age restriction is necessary. The film is impactful and will likely upset and distress audiences of any age. Younger viewers are likely to be highly shocked and disturbed by the cruelty and violence.

15. The film is classified R18. This is a limitation on the right to freedom of expression but is reasonable and justified to prevent injury to the public good.

16. Section 27 of the Act requires the office to consider conditions in relation to the public display of the publication. I make no specific conditions.

Distribution

This notice is to be given to the Applicant and to the Secretary for Internal Affairs.

¹ The grounds of discrimination prohibited by s21(1) of the Human Rights Act 1993 are sex, marital status, religious belief, ethical belief, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, disability, age, political opinion, employment status, family status and sexual orientation.

Date: 01 April 2022

Note:

You may apply to have this publication reviewed under s47 of the FVPC Act if you are dissatisfied with the Classification Office's decision.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Record of Assistance

Date: 01 April 2022

Title of publication: The Kashmir Files

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 2200101.000

Distributor: Deepu Thoppil

Director: Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri

Medium: Film (online)

Country of origin: India

Language(s): Hindi, English

Summary of discussion:
See uploaded documents

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Classification Office Decision

Title of publication: The Kashmir Files

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 2200101.000

Medium: Film (online)

Distributor: Deepu Thoppil

Director: Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri

FVLB Applicant: Deepu Thoppil

Country of origin: India

Language: Hindi, English

Applicant: Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ)

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Graphic violence, offensive language and cruelty

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 01 April 2022

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: No notice of decision has been issued

	Components	Running time
Feature(s):	The Kashmir Files	170:23
Total running time:		170:23

Summary of reasons for decision:

The film is a drama about the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 due to ethnic and religious violence. The film follows a young man as he discovers the truth about the death of his family members.

On 17 March 2022 the Classification Office classified this film as objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years. The film was to have screened in New Zealand from Thursday 24 March with the R16 certificate. Prior to the film screening however members of the Muslim community raised concerns about the content of the film.

On 22 March 2022 a formal application was received for reconsideration under section 42 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 ("the Act") from the New Zealand Muslim Association (the Applicant). Having regard to the concern of the Applicant that the film might cause social discord in New Zealand and the disparity of overseas classifications for this film the Chief Censor determined to grant leave under section 42 of the Act and undertook a further classification of this film.

Concern has also been expressed by members of the public that the film is not an accurate portrayal of what occurred in Kashmir in 1990. The film starts with a disclaimer that it is based on testimonials recorded by victims and their families. The disclaimer also acknowledges however that "cinematic liberties" have been taken and that it "doesn't claim accurateness or factuality of historic events". The Act does not enable the Classification Office to classify a publication as objectionable on the basis of it being inaccurate or unbalanced, therefore consideration has not been given to this matter.

The Classification Office does not consider that the film meets the high threshold required for it to be classified as objectionable, however its unrestricted availability is likely to be injurious to the public good due to the graphic and cruel nature of the violence depicted.

The previous classification considered that restricting viewing to those aged 16 years and over was reasonable however in reconsidering the overall impact of the film an increased age restriction is necessary. The film is impactful and will likely upset and distress audiences of any age. Younger viewers are likely to be highly shocked and disturbed by the cruelty and violence.

The film is classified R18. This is a limitation on the right to freedom of expression set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 but is reasonable and justified to prevent injury to the public good.

From: [Submissions](#)
To: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)@fianz.com](mailto:s 9(2)(a)@fianz.com)
Subject: Decision - The Kashmir Files [OFLC 2200101]
Date: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:32:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Decision - The Kashmir Files \[OFLC 2200101\].pdf](#)

Tēnā koe **s 9(2)(a)**

Please find attached the reconsidered decision for the publication **The Kashmir Files [OFLC 2200101.000]**.

If you are dissatisfied by the decision, you may apply for a review by the Film and Literature Board of Review under s47 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993.

There is a strict application period attached to making an appeal, the Board's administrator will be able to provide you with details.

Information about that process is found [here](#).

Regards,

Te Mana Whakaatu
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE
Kōrerotahi Mātakitahi

s 9(2)(a) **s 9(2)(a)**

Āpiha Whakarite Hangarau | Registrar

Te Mana Whakaatu | Classification Office

DDI: **s 9(2)(a)**

www.classificationoffice.govt.nz

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From: [Submissions](#)
To: s 9(2)(a)
Cc: [Nicola Denney](#); [Sharon](#)
Subject: Decision - The Kashmir Files [OFLC 2200101]
Date: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:32:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Decision - The Kashmir Files \[OFLC 2200101\].pdf](#)

Tēnā koe Deepu Thoppil

Please find attached the reconsidered decision for the publication **The Kashmir Files [OFLC 2200101.000]**.

If you are dissatisfied by the decision, you may apply for a review by the Film and Literature Board of Review under s47 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993.

There is a strict application period attached to making an appeal, the Board's administrator will be able to provide you with details.

Information about that process is found [here](#).

Regards,

Te Mana Whakaatu
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE
Kōrerotahi Mātakitahi

s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(a)

Āpiha Whakarite Hangarau | Registrar

Te Mana Whakaatu | Classification Office

DDI: s 9(2)(a)

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From: [Submissions](#)
To: john.michael@dia.govt.nz
Subject: Decision - The Kashmir Files [OFLC 2200101]
Date: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:32:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Decision - The Kashmir Files \[OFLC 2200101\].pdf](#)

Tēnā koe John Michael

Please find attached the reconsidered decision for the publication **The Kashmir Files [OFLC 2200101.000]**.

If you are dissatisfied by the decision, you may apply for a review by the Film and Literature Board of Review under s47 of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993.

There is a strict application period attached to making an appeal, the Board's administrator will be able to provide you with details.

Information about that process is found [here](#).

Regards,

Te Mana Whakaatu
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE
Kōrerotahi Mātakitahi

s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(a)

Āpiha Whakarite Hangarau | Registrar

Te Mana Whakaatu | Classification Office

DDI: s 9(2)(a)

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