ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the outset, all praises go to Almighty Allah for His Mercy and Magnanimity. It gives me immense pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed supervisor and mentor Dr. Iqbalur Rehman, Associate Professor of Department of Political Science, AMU, for his generous, inspiring guidance, extensive cooperation and consistent encouragement because of which I did not lose heart even at difficult stages. His extraordinary desire to see students flourish will always be a source of inspiration for me.

I am thankful to the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Department for their generous assistance as well as for their best wishes. I would like to express my thanks to my revered Chairman, Prof. A. R. Vijapur for his timely suggestions and help at various phases of this project. This work would have been more challenging and less accurate without the constant help, guidance and encouragement of Dr. Arshi Khan, Dr. Aftab Alam, Dr. Khurram and more importantly Dr. Sheikh Showket of Central University of Kashmir. I will always be thankful to them for their kind attitude throughout the preparation of this work.

I acknowledge and express my thanks for getting necessary material for my research work from various institutions. I am thankful to the staff of Maulana Azad Library (Aligarh Muslim University), Seminar Library of the Department of Political Science, Allama Iqbal Library, University of Kashmir, Library of Jammu University, Jawaharlal Nehru University library and Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi.

I am grateful to the personalities I interviewed, who shared their knowledge and experience with me. Special thanks goes to Syed Ali Shah Geelani- Chairman of APHC (G), Mirwaiz Umar Farooq of APHC (M), Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, President of Kashmir Bar Association, Yasin Malik, Chairman of JKLF, Shabir Shah, Chairman of PFP and their office
bearers besides others who helped me in the preparation of the given work directly or indirectly.

My special thanks go to my parents (Mr. Bashir Ahmad Mir and Mrs. Mukhtiya Begum), brother (Mir Sajad), sisters (Afiya and Mubeena) and my cousins especially Sureed and Mukhtar whose blessings have remained a constant source of enlightenment in all my academic endeavors.

My heart also goes for special thanks to all my friends and well wishers especially Idris, Tariq, Tehseen, Nadeem, Jameel, Mohsin, Tausif, Ajaz, Mehraj, Faheem, Aashiq Kilora, Fayaz, Dr. Hilal, Bilal, Javed, Akthar, G. M. Rather, Manzoor Bhai, Iftikhar, Irfan and Ayaz for their company, cooperation and encouragement which was inevitable for the given work.

I hope that this work would make a substantative and original contribution to the study of All Parties Hurriyat Conference- a separatist organization and in a broader sense to the separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir.

MOHD AMIN MIR