

Monthly

Special Edition
Kashmir Solidarity Day

KASHMIR TODAY

February 2019



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Patron
Mansoor Qadir Dar

Chief Editor
Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan

Editor
Muhammad Sarfraz Khan

Assistant Editor
Matloob Hussain

Circulation
Naqeebullah Gardezi

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Chief Editor Kashmir Today K-Block, New District
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Website: www.jklc.org
E-mail: kashmirtodaymzd@gmail.com
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WHY SOLIDARITY WITH THE OPPRESSED KASHMIRIS!

Muhammad Raza Malik

Introduction

The people of Indian occupied Kashmir intensified their struggle for securing their right to self-determination in 1989 and the mass movement gave sleepless nights to the Indian rulers. In a bid to crush this popular movement, India appointed Jagmohan Malhotra as the Governor of the occupied territory on January 19, 1990, dismissing the government of Farooq Abdullah. Jagmohan was already notorious for his anti-Muslim

in Gaw Kadal area of the city, killing over 50 people and injuring hundreds of others. The massacre caused resentment in Pakistan and the ensuing 5th February was declared as a solidarity day all across the country. Since then, every year, the day is being observed to express unity and oneness with the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir at the state level.

Pakistan observes a public holiday on the day. Seminars, conferences and

Background of Kashmir dispute

It is a historical fact that India had illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir by landing its troops in Srinagar on 27th October, 1947, against the wishes of the Kashmiri people and in total disregard to the Partition Plan of the Indian subcontinent that had resulted in the formation of two new independent countries - Pakistan and India. The Partition Plan had given all the Princely States the choice to accede



bias and activities in India. Soon after the appointment of new governor, a reign of terror was unleashed in occupied Kashmir and on the night of January 20, Indian troops molested several women in Srinagar during house raids. As the word about the molestation of the women spread in the morning, thousands of people took to the streets in the city to protest against the brutal action of the troops. The occupation forces resorted to indiscriminate firing on the protesters

demonstrations are held by the government and people of Pakistan to highlight the important aspects of the Kashmir dispute and the gross human rights violations being perpetrated by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. The Pakistanis and Kashmiris living abroad organise special events in world capitals to remind the international community that settlement of the Kashmir dispute is imperative for sustainable peace and stability in South Asia.

to either of the two countries. Being a Muslim majority State, Jammu and Kashmir was destined to become part of Pakistan, but Indian rulers in connivance with the British rulers and Maharaja Hari Singh destroyed the future of millions of Kashmiris under the so-called "Instrument of Accession" document.

Many neutral observers reject the existence of any such document. A prominent British historian, Alistair Lamb, In his book "The Birth of



Tragedy”, citing successive events after the partition wrote that the Indian troops had invaded Kashmir prior to the signing of the “Instrument of Accession”. He claims that it was due to this reason that the Indian government never made the document public at any international forum. Noted Kashmiri researchers, Abdul Majid Zargar and Basharat Hussain Qazilbash, proved that the “Instrument of Accession” is fake and no such genuine document ever existed. Even Indian Archives Department has now declared that the document is lost. This has put question marks on the very existence of the document. The people of Jammu and Kashmir never accepted India’s illegal occupation of their motherland and right from the day one they have been

struggling to liberate it from Indian subjugation. Their resistance and resilience forced India to seek the help of the international community to settle the Kashmir dispute. Sensing a humiliating defeat to its forces, it approached the United Nations Security Council on January 01, 1948. The World Body in its successive resolutions, accepted by both Pakistan and India, promised that the people of Kashmir would be given the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under its supervision. These UN resolutions and the pledges made by Indian leadership remain unimplemented even after the passing of several decades.

Commonality between Pakistan and Kashmir

Pakistan’s affinity with the people of Kashmir can be understood in the backdrop of several reasons. Both share strong bonds in respect of religion, geography, culture and aspirations. The worst kind of Indian state terrorism in occupied Kashmir since 1947 has forced hundreds of thousands of Kashmiri people to migrate to Pakistan from the occupied territory and the main driving force behind their movement has been their strong

emotional attachment to the country. This affiliation has been acknowledged even by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru. When asked a question in 1965 about holding of plebiscite in Kashmir, he had responded, “Kashmiris would vote to join Pakistan and we would lose it. No Indian government responsible for agreeing to a plebiscite would survive.”

The ideological commonality between Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir can be gauged from the fact that the genuine representatives of Kashmiris had attached the future of the territory with Pakistan by passing a resolution in the meeting of their representative party, Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir, in Srinagar on 19th July 1947, whereby it was declared that Jammu and

Kashmir would be a part of Pakistan. This development had happened about a month before the creation of Pakistan. The people of occupied Kashmir have time and again showed their attachment with Pakistan by raising the slogans of “Long Live Pakistan” and “We want Pakistan.” Hoisting of Pakistani flags during protest demonstrations has become order of the day. Kashmiris celebrate Pakistan's national days with enthusiasm while those of India are observed as black days. The reality is that both Pakistanis and Kashmiris consider the Kashmir dispute as an unfinished agenda of the partition of the South Asian sub-continent in 1947 and the liberation struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir as an inseparable part of Pakistan movement.

Kashmiris' revolt against Indian occupation

The people of occupied Kashmir gave impetus to their struggle to secure their right to self-determination in 1989. This movement gave sleepless nights to the Indian rulers who lost their control, in practical sense, and could not even hold sham elections for the so-called Legislative Assembly and the Indian Parliament in the occupied territory. They responded this popular movement with the brute

military might. Since January 1989 till December 2018, Indian troops have martyred 95,234 Kashmiris, widowed 22,894 women, orphaned 107,751 children and molested or gang-raped 11,107 Kashmiri women - the rape of women being used as a weapon of war to intimidate the Kashmiris into submission. Over eight thousand innocent youth have been subjected to disappearance in custody and their whereabouts remain untraced. Many of those are feared to be buried in thousands of unmarked graves discovered in the territory after being killed by Indian troops in fake encounters.

Mass uprisings

The Kashmiris' ongoing freedom movement took a new turn in 2008. For the next three consecutive years, people in thousands kept hitting the streets with the demand of the right to self-determination. However, most of the time, Indian troops and police personnel subjected these peaceful demonstrators to excessive use of brute force, killing more than 200 people during the period. In the ongoing mass uprising triggered by the extrajudicial killing of popular youth leader, Burhan Wani, on 8th July in 2016, over 760 Kashmiris have been killed and more than 25,300 injured in the firing of pellets, bullets

and teargas shells by the Indian forces' personnel during demonstrations and military operations. More than 340 people including an 18-month-old Hiba Jan have lost their one or both eyes to the pellet injuries while over 1,020 are at the verge of losing their eyesight. Hundreds of people including Hurriyat leaders have been put behind the bars. The Indian police and troops have stepped up cordon and search operations across occupied Kashmir to suppress the uprising and intimidate the people into submission.

Indian state terrorism and other machinations

Despite killing hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris during the past over seventy-one years, India could not subdue the Kashmiris' resolve for freedom. Narendra Modi-led BJP communal government is hell-bent to completely merge Jammu and Kashmir in India and change the Muslim majority of occupied Kashmir into minority by using its judiciary to abrogate Article 370 and Article 35-A of the Indian Constitution to pave way for giving the citizenship rights of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian people. Indian designs to change demography of Jammu and Kashmir are intended to influence in its favour the results of a referendum whenever

held in the territory. As such, the move is against the very purpose of the relevant UN resolutions. At the same time, New Delhi is using its investigating agencies like National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) to implicate Hurriyat leaders, activists and pro-freedom people in false cases to force the Kashmiris to surrender their just cause.

Pakistan's support

The Pakistani leadership has always represented the Kashmiris' aspirations and never betrayed the faith reposed in it by the Kashmiri people. The Prime Minister, Imran Khan, since assuming his office in August 2018 and the Army Chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa, have time and again called for peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute for ensuring durable peace in South Asia. The opening of Kartarpur corridor for the Indian Sikh yatrees to visit their holy places in Pakistan is the manifestation of the Pakistani leaderships' desire for cordial and friendly relations with India. It is a reality that despite facing the worst Indian military aggression for supporting the Kashmiris during the past several decades, Pakistan never gave up its support to the Kashmir cause and continues to advocate resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Kashmiris' aspirations. The Senate and National Assembly in unanimously passed separate resolutions strongly

denounced the massacre of 14 Kashmiris and injuring of over two hundred others by Indian troops in Pulwama district of occupied Kashmir on the 15th of December, 2018. The resolutions urged the international community to play its role in resolving the long-standing Kashmir dispute to bring an end to the bloodshed of Kashmiris at the hands of Indian forces' personnel.

Promising developments

The unparalleled sacrifices rendered by the people of occupied Kashmir in their just struggle during the past over seven decades have shaken the attention of the world community, which has started to raise its voice in favour of their rights. Many promising developments on Kashmir have taken place during the past few years. The UK Parliament held a debate on the Kashmir situation on January 19, 2017 during which a motion supporting the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and upholding the UN resolutions on Kashmir was passed. The European Parliament issued a document on July 18, 2018 that highlighted the history of the Kashmir dispute, the UN resolutions on the issue and the Kashmiris' freedom struggle. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussain, released a report (first of its kind) on June 14, 2018 that highlighted the grave human rights violations perpetrated by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. The incumbent UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, upheld the position taken by her predecessor, Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussain, on the human rights situation in Kashmir. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir in the British Parliament in its report released in October 2018 expressed concern over the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

Conclusion

Given the fact that the Kashmir dispute involves two nuclear powers and a small incident can prove disastrous for the entire South Asia, it is high time for the world community to take steps towards addressing this contentious problem. It needs to understand that due to the unrealistic and intransigent approach of India, the peace of the entire region is at stake. 5th February is a reminder to the world powers that they should use their influence on New Delhi to settle the conflict over Kashmir. At the same time the supreme sacrifices of Kashmiri people needed to be acknowledged besides India warrants to be censured for disrespecting the UN resolutions and continued human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. The observance of the Kashmir Solidarity Day conveys a clear message to India that it would have to recognise the Kashmiris' right to choose their fate by themselves as granted by the UN resolutions.

(The writer is working as Senior Editor at Kashmir Media Service, Islamabad, and can be reached at razamalik849@yahoo.com)

All Azad Jammu & Kashmir Inter Colleges Speech Competition



Topic: Human Right Violations in IoK and Role of International Community.

1st Muhammad Sohaib Rumi, Govt Science Model College, Bagh (Cash prize Rs: 75,000)

2nd Fariha Akhtar, Govt Girls Degree College, Athmuqam (Cash prize Rs: 60,000)

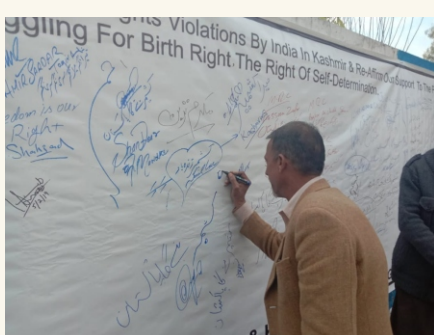
3rd Adina Ghulam Nabi, Govt. Girls Post Graduate College, Pallandri. (Cash prize Rs: 50,000)



Lahore 5th February 2019



Mirpur Azad Kashmir 05th February 2019



Kotli Azad Kashmir



Bhimber Azad Kashmir



Neelum Azad Kashmir



Rawalakot Azad Kashmir



Hattian Bala Azad Kashmir



Karachi



Muzaffarbad Azad Kashmir



Barar Kot



Blood Donation Camp CMH Muzaffrabad



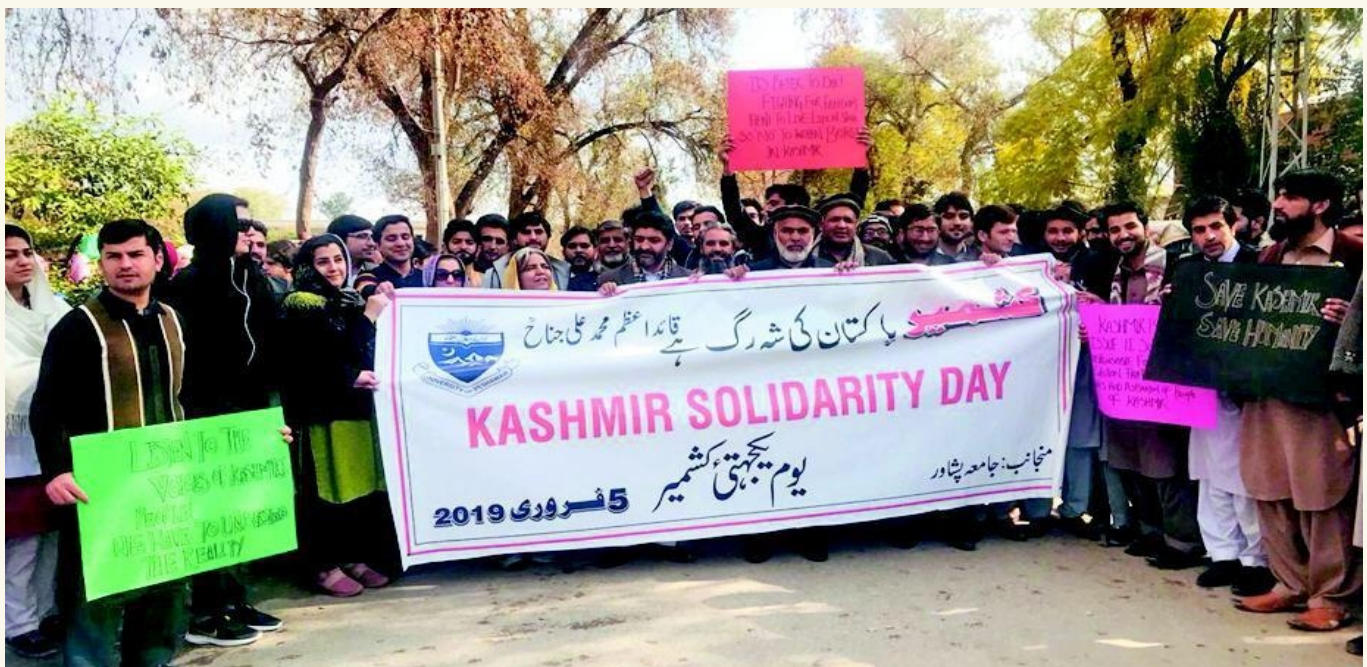
Rawalpindi



Kohala Bridge



Different parts of the Country







International



News Section

Alvi put forward eight demands to India in his address to AJK legislative assembly.

Muzaffarabad:(PID) Reiterating Pakistan's moral, political and diplomatic support for the people of Kashmir in their just struggle for the right of self-determination, President Dr. Arif Alvi put forward eight

stood behind their Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for right to self-determination which was also recognized by the international community through UNSC resolutions. He lauded the courage and sacrifices of people of Kashmir including men, women, youth, children and elderly people in the ongoing freedom struggle and said their sacrifices would not go in vain and they would achieve their goal of freedom.



demands to India in his address to AJK legislative assembly here on Tuesday.

Addressing a special session of legislative assembly on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day President Alvi demanded India to immediately release all political prisoners in IHK and allow freedom of speech to the Kashmiris. He urged India to halt the use of firearms as well as pellet guns against the innocent Kashmiris in the occupied valley and called on the Indian authorities for withdrawal of aggressive black laws. The President emphasized upon India to allow the leadership from India Held Kashmir to travel abroad so that they could freely present their case and point of view before the international community. He demanded the Indian government to give access to the international human rights organizations to visit the occupied valley to see the situation for them. The President also urged the Indian authorities to open up the communication links for international and social media networks. President Alvi reiterated that the people and all political parties were on one page on the issue of Kashmir and firmly

He said Kashmiris do not accept any despotic and atrocious power rather they would decide their future themselves. He said UN had granted Kashmiris their right of self-determination, despite it, they had been subjected to atrocities and state-terrorism in IHK for the past 72 years. President Alvi recalled that during the struggle of 1947, conspiracies against Kashmiris had been hatched. India was allowed access up to Kashmir state through unjust partition of boundary commission, he observed. He said dogras sold Kashmiri nations but people of Kashmir fought back the machinations against them. He cited the UN human rights commission report in which Indian human rights abuses against Kashmiris have been adequately exposed. President Alvi believed that Kashmir issue could be resolved through composite dialogue it was why Prime Minister Imran Khan had wanted good relations with India but his offer had been turned down by PM Modi. When Kashmiri youths would have no option they would resort to freedom struggle, he remarked. He said when UNSC President visited Pakistan the government had demanded her to send a fact finding mission to IHK to take stock of ground realities in

Kashmir. He said when resolutions on Kashmir were passed in UNSC, Pakistan trusted the world body but it never implemented its own resolutions.

Masood stresses upon Britain to play role to stop HR violation in IOK

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muhammad Masood Khan has stressed upon the Britain to play its due role to stop India from perpetuation of atrocities and gross human rights violations against Kashmiri people in Indian Occupied Kashmir who are struggling peacefully for achieving their right to self-determination. Addressing the Kashmir conference in London, he said Britain is one of the most influential country of the world and important member of UNSC



and it has the responsibility to utilize its approach in resolving Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and as per the wishes of Kashmiri people. He asked the British parliamentarians to use their approach in stopping India from human carnage in IOK and inhumane treatment against the innocent Kashmiri people. The conference was also addressed by different British parliamentarians, councilors, leaders of Kashmiri expatriates including Mayor Waltham Forest Council Cilia Lytle Jon, member British parliament and others.

Relation with Kashmiris set up by founder of nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Jinnah, Raja Farooq Haider Khan

Muzaffarabad: Kashmir solidarity day was observed with people of Jammu and Kashmir with great enthusiasm. The day dawned with special prayers in mosque for stability of Pakistan and early liberation of Jammu and Kashmir. Various functions and rallies



were held in different part of Pakistan and AJK to express solidarity with oppressed people of J&K. Solidarity day functions were also held in Mirpur, Bhimber, Neelum Valley and Poonch. Addressing the special session of AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan said that the relation with Kashmiris set up by founder of nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Jinnah was maintained well by all governments of Pakistan during the past 71 years. "India was adhering to operation all out in IOK under which Kashmiris who aspire for freedom are killed. Besides held valley, India has continued barbaric operations along the LoC, targeting innocent civilians of AJK through unprovoked shelling" he said.

He demanded the world powers to play their role to help Kashmiris attain their inalienable right to self-determination. PM AJK also demanded Pakistan to file review petition against the decision of Supreme Court of Pakistan on Gilgit Baltistan.

Expressing thanks to President of Pakistan and CM GB he said that presence of President Alvi had encouraged people of AJK and sent a positive message across the LoC on Kashmir Solidarity Day but he wished that it would have been great if Prime Minister Imran Khan and leader of the opposition Shahbaz Sharif would also have graced the occasion of solidarity day in Muzaffarabad.

The AJK PM said when Modi recently visited India held Kashmir no one welcomed him there. But when Pakistani President visited AJK today he was accorded warm welcome by leaders of all political parties irrespective of their political affiliations, he maintained.

International community to take concrete measures to address and halt human rights' violations in the occupied Kashmir, Shah Mehmood Qureshi

London: Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi addressing the International conference on



Kashmir held at the British Parliament. by the international conference in London to express solidarity with Kashmiris which condemned the atrocities committed by Indian military on Kashmiris. The forum demanded world bodies to stop human rights violations in the occupied territory. It also extended support to Kashmiris in their just struggle. All the Pakistani and British dignitaries present on this occasion unanimously approved the resolution. Addressing the conference. Member of the British House of Lords. Sayeeda Warsi said, sexual violence in occupied Kashmir as a tool of war is self-determination. He said India is a member of commonwealth and by its rule should respect human rights. Liberal Democrat MP Tom Brake said there is a special role for the UK government in terms of the historic role that it has to play for resolving the Kashmir dispute. Labour MP Sharron Debbie said Kashmir has become a horror story but peace can never be achieved by violent means. EX-prime minister of Norway Mr Kjell Magne Bondevick said Kashmir is the longest lasting conflict. People are suffering, adding that huge abuses have created refugee problem.

People of Pakistan, GB and AJK stand behind people of Jammu and Kashmir, Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman

Muzaffarabad: The chief minister of Gilgit Baltistan Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman says that people of Pakistan, GB and AJK stand behind people of Jammu and Kashmir who have been striving hard to attain their right to self-determination for the past 7 decades. The CM who was in Muzaffarabad on Tuesday to express solidarity with the people of J&K was talking to media in

Jalalabad garden. He made it clear that Gilgit and Baltistan was essential part of Kashmir conflict. He said recent resolutions adopted on rights of people of GB in AJK parliament were morale boosting to people of Gilgit Baltistan. If there was any misunderstanding between the people of GB and AJK these resolutions have ended it.

The CM observed that entire nation was completely united regarding settlement of Kashmir issue. He believed that a strong and stable Pakistan was greater guarantee of liberation of Kashmir. He said there are historical, social and



geographical relations between people of GB and AJK. He urged for a collective working group of GB and AJK to exploit enormous potential of tourism. He believed that relaxation of visa policy would benefit both the regions. Rehman said China aims at sending at least one million tourists to GB this year. If ground level contacts between GB and AJK are set up the tourists could also visit liberated territory. Later he also visited stalls of fruit plants along with AJK Prime Minister. AJK Information Minister Raja Mushtaq Minhas, Agriculture Minister Masood Khalid, MLA Raja Javed Iqbal, Additional Chief Secretary General Farhat Ali Mir, Secretary Information, Tourism and IT Midhat Shahzad, Secretary Agriculture Raja Tariq Masood, and DG Information Raja Azhar Iqbal were present on the occasion.

Rallies held across PaK to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day

Rallies and other demonstrations were also held in all district and tehsil headquarters to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day. People from Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK) and Pakistan formed symbolic human chains at several places on Tuesday in a manifestation of what they termed as

'eternal bonds of brotherhood and harmony between the Kashmiris and Pakistanis'. Rallies and other demonstrations were also held in all district and tehsil headquarters to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day. Human chains were formed at Kohala, Mangla, Azad Pattan, Holar, Tain Dhalkot and Brarkot which link PaK with Pakistan, but the most noticeable gathering was held in Kohala, some 35 kilometres south of here, with participants from different walks of life from PaK and neighbouring Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces.

Punjab minister for higher education and tourism Raja Yasir Humayun Sarfraz and Sindh minister for Auqaf and religious affairs Faraz Dero were prominent among the political leaders and public office holders attending the event from Pakistan. The schoolchildren were holding small flags of Pakistan and PaK as well as placards inscribed with slogans condemning human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir and paying tributes to Kashmiris. Occasionally, they also chanted pro-freedom and anti-India slogans. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab minister Sarfraz said, "Kashmiris and Pakistanis were determined to continue struggle until the freedom of Kashmir."

He said Pakistan's government, political parties and public were on the same page with regard to Kashmir policy. The Punjab minister said a strong Pakistan was needed to effectively raise the case of Kashmir at international level and added: "We all have to make Pakistan economically and politically strong by forging complete unity and harmony in our ranks."

In his speech, Sindh minister Dero said Kashmir ran in the blood of every Pakistani, regardless of political affiliations. "I pay tribute to Kashmiri men, women and children for offering unprecedented sacrifices in the presence of India's more than 700,000 military and paramilitary forces," he said, adding, "Atrocities could not suppress the resolve of Kashmiris for freedom."

Dero called upon the UN to play its role in persuading India to implement resolutions on Kashmir. The Sindh

minister also urged the federal government to formulate a comprehensive policy on Kashmir.

Earlier, director Jammu Kashmir Liberation Cell (JKLC) Raja Muhammad Aslam presented several resolutions on the occasion, calling upon India to withdraw "draconian laws, stop use of pellet guns and human rights abuses against Kashmiri people". Schoolchildren also formed a human chain in Muzaffarabad city, where some of them were carrying a mock coffin, draped in Pakistani flag. Another rally was held at Bank Road here under the aegis of Jamaat-e-Islami, where a 7-year-old girl drew attention of everyone as she had chained herself.

To express solidarity with oppressed brethren of Indian Occupied Kashmir

Kuhala:PID AJK, To express solidarity with oppressed brethren of Indian Occupied Kashmir on Tuesday, people of Pakistan and AJK formed a human chain at historical Kuhala Bridge that connects both of them at Kuhala. To pay tributes to the sacrifices of martyrs of IOK sirens were played while one minute's silence was observed. Punjab minister for education and tourism Raja Yasir Humayun, minister for Auqaf and religious affairs Sindh Firaz Dero, administrator district council Bagh Raja Saeed Inqalabi, member APHC Ishtiaq Hameed, Mushtaqul Islam, leader MC Major Retd. Nasrullah Khan, leaders of refugees Abdul Ghani, Ghazanfar Gulzar Abbasi and PML-N leader Raja Ansar Shafique participated in the human chain formation. A large number of male and female students of educational institutions, women, refugees, and members civil society also attended the function. Addressing the function Humayun said Kashmir issue was not only the issue of Kashmiris rather it was the issue of every child of Pakistan. Kashmiris have a natural relation with Pakistanis which is a long lasting, he added. He said Indian Prime Minister Modi could occupy the land of Kashmir but he could never win the hearts and minds of people of Kashmir. He said Pakistan was pooling all channels to highlight Kashmir issue over the globe.

Addressing on the occasion Firaz Dero observed that hearts of Pakistanis whatever political party they belong to beat with

Kashmiris. He said Indian atrocities and tyrannies could not cool down people of Kashmir's spirit for freedom. He appealed to the UN to play its role for implementing its own resolutions on Kashmir. Dero urged federal government to formulate a comprehensive policy on Kashmir to effectively highlight this longstanding issue at international level. Raja Saeed Inqalabi also addressed on the occasion.

On this eve several resolutions were presented by Director Jammu Kashmir Liberation Cell Raja Aslam calling upon India to withdraw draconian laws, stop use of pellet guns, atrocities and human rights abuses against people of Kashmir. The resolutions demanded UN to grant Kashmiri people their right to self-determination. Bid of changing of demography in IJK by India was condemned through another resolution. The resolutions also denounced violations of working boundary and ceasefire line by Indian forces.

Geelani, Mirwaiz, Malik thank Pakistan for observing 'Kashmir Solidarity Day'

Srinagar: The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) comprising of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik have thanked Pakistan for observing the 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' on Tuesday.

In a statement Chairman Hurriyat Conference (g) Syed Ali Geelani thanked Pakistan for observing 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' to highlight the "oppression and suppression" against the people of Jammu and Kashmir at the hands of Indian forces.

Geelani, according to the statement, expressed gratitude to Pakistan, its people, the leadership of Pakistan Administered Kashmir and the people across the globe, who organize demonstrations, symposiums, seminars and rallies in favour of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their right to self-determination and highlight the dispute and the "gross human rights violations" being perpetrated by Indian troops in Kashmir. Hurriyat (g) chairman in his message said: "We are highly thankful to Pakistan for their categorical



support, and we hope Pakistan will play a more effective and active role in this regard. They should activate all its embassies and other human resources to highlight Kashmir issue and human rights violations in an operative method." Geelani in a statement said that although Indian "atrocities and barbarism" have crossed all the limits and are continuing unabated for the last seven decades; it is the responsibility of the UN to realize the gravity and severity of this grave and grim situation.

This world body has testified our stand that Indian armed forces under the "undemocratic and unethical shield of legal impunity continue the genocide of Kashmiris, with bullets, pellets, torture, rape and humiliation", he said. Geelani appealed UN rights body to take serious note of "this brazen denial of facts" and pressurize India to abide by the universal obligations and fulfill long-pending UN resolution on Jammu and Kashmir to pave way for permanent peace and prosperity. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the chairman of Hurriyat Conference (m) on the occasion expressed his gratitude to the people, government and the leadership of Pakistan for their "unconditional and unflinching support" to the political movement of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the right to self-determination. In his message, Mirwaiz said the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Hurriyat leadership have always appreciated the support of Pakistan, at all levels, be it diplomatic, political or moral for the past seven decades, despite difficult and testing times for the country itself. "We also appreciate the Government of Pakistan and its leadership who has always extended all possible support to our political movement for the resolution of Kashmir dispute," he said.

Mirwaiz said Pakistan being one of the main parties to

Kashmir dispute has always played a frontal role at both regional and international level in highlighting the suffering and “grave human rights abuse” in Kashmir as well as presenting the Kashmir dispute in its historical context. In a video message posted by Mushaal Hussian Malik on Twitter handle, JKLF chief Muhammad Yaseen Malik said that “Currently the same international community which once said that there could only be a military solution in Afghanistan is talking to the Taliban for peace there, because it has understood that no nation can be defeated using military might and that the solution to all problems lies in talks.” The JKLF chairman observed that the international community “has adopted a stance of criminal silence on Kashmir”, even as infants, elders, and youths lose their lives and property to the cause each day. “The citizens of Kashmir are people too,” Malik asserted, adding that is why the international community which seeks global peace and is making efforts for peace in Afghanistan should make similar efforts for resolving the Kashmir issue “so that there is true peace in South Asia”.

Pakistan observes “Kashmir Solidarity Day” every year on February 5 to express its solidarity with the people of Kashmir.

Several events and ceremonies scheduled to mark 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' across the country on Feb 5, Mansoor Qadir Dar.

Muzaffarabad (By Tariq Naqash) President Dr Arif Alvi will address a special session of the Azad Jammu and



Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly on Tuesday to renew Pakistan's unequivocal support to the freedom seeking people of India held Kashmir. The president's address will be one of the several events and ceremonies scheduled to mark 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' across the country on Feb 5, said Mansoor Qadir Dar, secretary Jammu Kashmir Liberation Cell (JKLC) at a media briefing here on Saturday. Mr Dar, who the AJK government has appointed as 'focal person' for the Feb 5 activities, pointed out that

the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir had attained same dynamism and strength as was its hallmark in early nineties and added that in spite of the unparalleled bloodthirstiness of Indian army, there were no signs of abatement of determination of the valiant Kashmiri people. “This is also evident from the fact that more and more people are joining anti-India struggle day by day,” he said. He said since the number of the Kashmiri people martyred, injured and blinded for life had been very high during the bygone year, Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider had expressed his desire that this year's 'Solidarity Day' should be observed in a more impassioned and effective manner. “By doing so, we will not only be reaffirming solidarity, brotherhood and amity with our oppressed brethren across the Line of Control (LoC), but also sending a loud and clear message to the whole world that tyrant India can no longer keep the Kashmiris separated from each other,” he maintained. He told that on Feb 4, a speech contest on Kashmir, among 10 students drawn from as many AJK districts after local competitions, would be held in Muzaffarabad and first three position holders would be given Rs 80,000, Rs 60,000 and Rs 40,000, respectively, in cash by JKLC. The same evening, a candle light vigil would also be held at Naluchi Bridge, he added. Of Feb 5, he said, sirens would be sounded across the country at 10am following which one-minute silence would be observed. Human chains would be formed at all five points linking AJK with Pakistan to manifest everlasting bonds of brotherhood between the people of Pakistan and Kashmir, he said, adding, the major of these events would however be held in Kohala, with ministers and legislators from all four provinces among the participants. The JKLC, he said, would also send SMS on human rights situation in held Kashmir to some 150,000 subscribers in AJK with the cooperation of cellular companies. Separately, the government of Pakistan would also send solidarity messages to mobile phone users, he said. Mr Dar said various federal ministries had also chalked out different events to mark solidarity day. In Islamabad, he told, artists from Muzaffarabad would present a special stage drama “Aey mere Kashmir,” a puppet show and Kashmiri songs at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) auditorium with the cooperation of PNCA, Kashmir Cultural Academy and Ministry of Kashmir affairs. Federal Kashmir affairs minister Ali Amin Gandapur would open “Kashmir Festival” at Lok Virsa where Kashmiri culture and Indian repression would be highlighted, he added. He expressed the hope that media would give full coverage to all these events to help participants send their message across the world in general and across the LoC in particular.



Kashmiris mark Indian Republic Day as Black Day

Srinagar: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observed Indian Republic Day, the 26th January, as Black Day, today, to remind the world that India's continued denial of right to self-determination to the Kashmiris is contrary to its claim of being a democratic republic. Call for the observance of the Black Day was given by the Joint Resistance Leadership comprising Syed Ali Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Muhammad Yasin Malik and supported by the Kashmir High Court Bar Association. The day was marked by a complete strike in occupied Kashmir. The occupation authorities deployed Indian troops and police personnel in strength in Srinagar and other towns to prevent people from staging anti-India demonstrations. The authorities also placed Hurriyat leaders including Syed Ali Gilani, Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Hilal Ahmed War, Javaid Ahmed Mir, Zafar Akbar Butt, Abdul Ahad Parra, Molvi Bashir Irfani and Parray Hassan

Firdosi under house arrest or in custody to prevent them from leading the demonstrations. All roads leading to a cricket stadium in Sonawar area of Srinagar, the main venue of official function in Srinagar, were sealed. The Indian forces also used quad copter drones fitted with cameras for surveillance around the stadium. The authorities suspended mobile internet and rail services in the occupied territory. Media persons held a rally and a sit-in protest after Indian police stopped senior journalists from covering the function of Indian Republic Day in Srinagar. The Joint Resistance Leadership in a statement in Srinagar deplored that New Delhi had been illegally occupying Jammu and Kashmir and denying all basic rights to the Kashmiri people for the past over seven decades. Meanwhile, the Chairman of Hurriyat forum, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, launched a social media campaign, today, highlighting the miserable plight of the Kashmiri detainees lodged in different jails. He shared pictures of many detainees on twitter along with details about their place of arrest and present detention and the sufferings their families are going through.



Indian Occupied Kashmir Valley of Tears



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