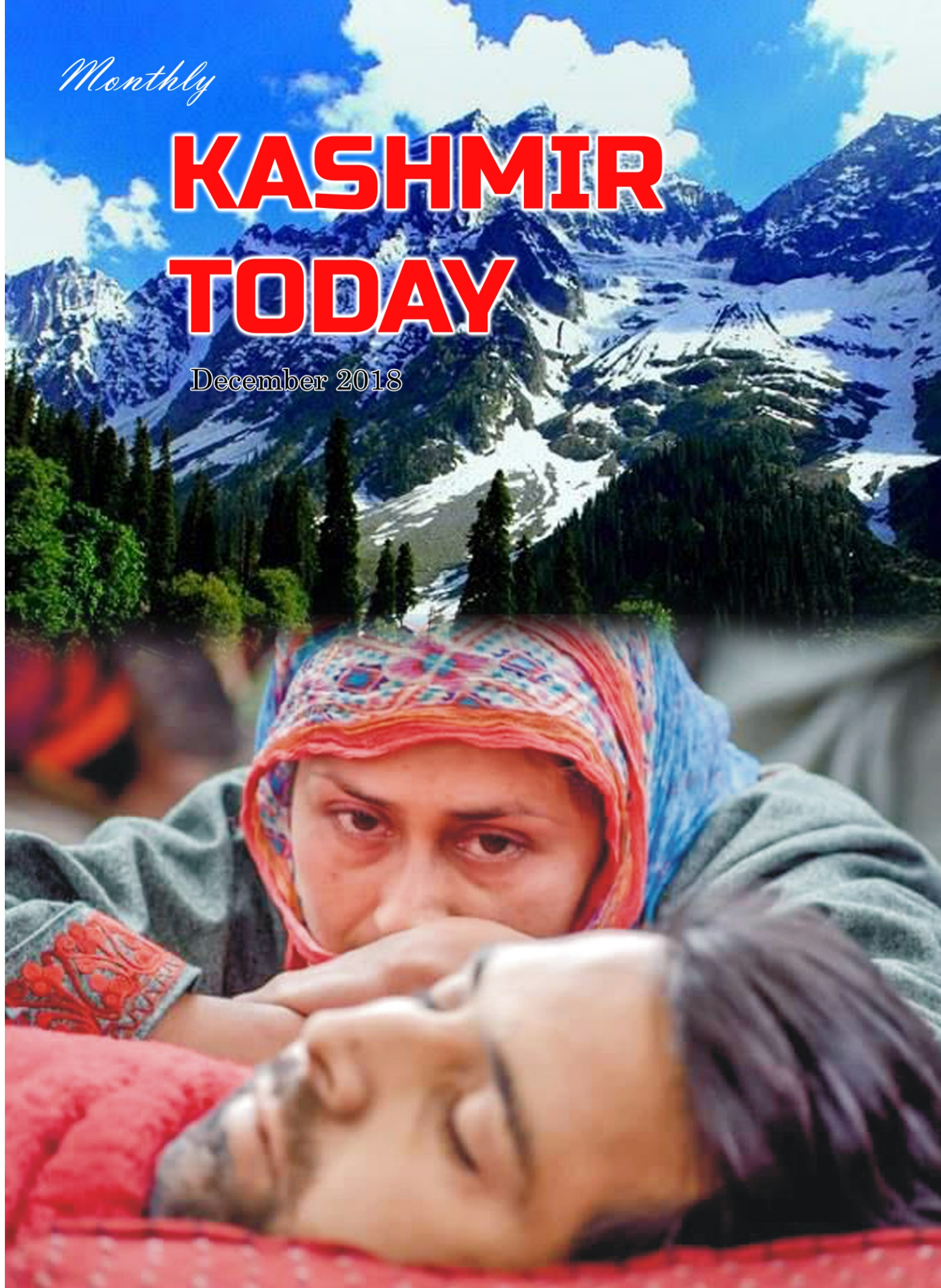


*Monthly*

# **KASHMIR TODAY**

December 2018



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*Chief Editor*  
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*Editor*  
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*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](http://www.jklc.org)  
E-mail: [kashmirtodaymzd@gmail.com](mailto:kashmirtodaymzd@gmail.com)  
Ph: 05822-920072, 05822-920074

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# SEVENTY YEARS OF ACCESSION

*Murtaza Shibli*

**T**he recent 71st anniversary of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India was marked with a routine general strike. The Kashmir valley wore a deserted look as shops and business establishments remained closed and public transport and private vehicles were mostly off the roads.

Government offices remained either closed or partially operational amid thin attendance. Even our local government hospital showed extremely low public attendance. I visited the emergency section for an urgent intervention and there were hardly any people in a place that is usually brimming with all sorts of people seeking medical attention.

Since the public rebellion in the early 1990s, October 27, the day the Indian Army landed at Srinagar after Maharaja Hari Singh apparently signed the Instrument of Accession with India, is marked with a 'civil curfew' and a general strike as a sombre reminder of deeply-hurt local sentiments a clear indicator of the unresolved nature of the problem that Kashmir has come to be known.

Elsewhere, particularly in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the day is marked by customary public functions filled with fiery and often glum rhetoric from dozens of Kashmiri activists and those associated with the officially-sanctioned façade of the Kashmiri struggle. I have known most of them, if not all, personally and, despite my serious disagreements with almost all of them, can vouch for their commitment and dedication.

But for any struggle, let alone a political resistance movement, to achieve its desired goals, it is important to have a good understanding of not only the situation on the ground, but also the regional and international outlook that plays an important role in any political struggle. I am afraid that has been consistently lacking in the Kashmiri resistance discourse and the political messaging that was offered on the occasion certainly needs a lot of political appreciation from the current political milieu local, regional and international.

This year, on October 27, Syed Salahuddin, the supreme commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and head of the United Jihad Council (UJC), addressed a press conference at Muzaffarabad's Central Press Club. In a show of solidarity, he was flanked by about a dozen commanders from other militant outfits that are represented in the UJC. All these commanders unanimously called on Islamabad to extend "full military support" to them.

Salahuddin, while offering a grim overview of the political and humanitarian situation, asked the "government of Pakistan [to] announce full military support for Kashmiris without wasting even a second". Beckoning Prime Minister Imran Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi to "hear the pleas of Kashmiris in their hearts", he lamented that Pakistan was begging India for talks despite the Indian government's "intransigence, haughtiness, and jingoism". He also dismissed any prospects for a peaceful negotiation, pointing out that Pakistan and India have held more than 150 rounds of talks in the past, but without much result.

While censuring the Pakistani state for failing to bring much-needed global attention to Kashmiri suffering, as highlighted by the UN Human Rights Commissioner's (UNHCR) report about growing rights violations, he also took a dig at the official Pakistani calendar with respect to commemorating Kashmir. "Remembering Kashmir on two or three occasions in a calendar year is not going to work," he said.

Salahuddin's peevishness at Pakistan's government and its various organs in dealing with Kashmir is not new. He has eloquently articulated his concerns from time to time, though his recent outpouring sounds quite strong. Having known him personally for more than three decades, I have heard him express his feelings and concerns very bluntly and directly on a number of occasions. Although he is known as a top-ranking resistance commander, I have known him as a balanced

Man who is more inclined towards seeking solutions through active political and personal engagements rather than through force.

But since the murder of Burhan Wani in mid-2016, followed by mass public rebellion and resultant state brutality, the septuagenarian UJC head has issued several calls for abandoning any dialogue and seeking a solution through the barrel of the gun.

At the recent Muzaffarabad presser, Salahuddin suggested that only a state-wide armed struggle can bring India to the table. "I wish every Kashmiri take[s] up arms against India, including my own children," he said. At another press conference at Muzaffarabad two years ago, Salahuddin had said that, "Pakistan should militarily support Kashmiris by providing resources to the mujahideen". There is little doubt that the situation on the ground is so hopeless that there doesn't seem to be any flicker of hope, let alone a solution, pushing more and more youth to the brink.

It is no wonder that even now PhD scholars and university teachers are abandoning their chosen fields of

inquiry and intellectual pursuit to join the pro-freedom armed resistance. In the last month, two of the top-ranking HM commanders and former PhD scholars were killed in cordon operations by the military forces.

Regardless, such calls for military intervention by Pakistan or expanding the militant resistance movement are thoroughly erroneous and extremely dangerous. They will further escalate the humanitarian suffering of the people of Kashmir, complicate the already fragile political environment, and expand the theatre of risk and danger beyond the confines of Jammu and Kashmir.

As a participant observer of the Kashmiri movement, Salahuddin has personally witnessed the trajectory of the Kashmiri rights movement and seen how over-reliance on militancy has compromised its spirit and manipulated its direction. While militancy may be a means to focus attention on Kashmir, it cannot bring about a permanent solution. For that to happen, we can only bank upon the force of political negotiations. We need a well-grounded strategic plan and not an irresponsible fiery rhetoric that seeks to exacerbate the situation on the ground.

## WAR AND NO PEACE

*Juan Cole*

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## KULGAM MASSACRE: AMNESTY CALL FOR PROBE

A day after, Amnesty International (IA) called for impartial and independent investigation of the Kulgam massacre in IOK, its offices in India were raided by Hindu extremists; a combination of Indian intelligence people and the elements of RSS. The Amnesty International has condemned the Indian Government over this criminal, offensive and immoral act where more than five officials raided its office in India. AI has asked its officials to stay put and searched their desks. It has also asked India for the action against those, raided the offices of AI. Earlier, on October 24, 2018, the Amnesty had shown its concern over the continued killings of Kashmiris and particularly the Kulgam genocide where Indian forces killed 14 innocent Kashmiri youth. In this military attack, Indian Army blasted a residential house through the use of explosive material (dynamite) and killed everyone inside the house. The local people, who later came to protest against this inhuman act, were fired upon at point-blank, causing deaths of 14 people and injuring dozens. Indian Army and paramilitary forces also used pellet guns and tear gas against the protestors.

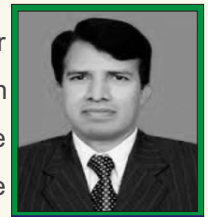
Aakar Patel, Executive Director of AI, said that, "What transpired in the aftermath of the Kulgam encounter is unfortunate and could have been avoided had the authorities taken extra caution to ensure that civilians would have access to the area only after proper sanitisation of the encounter site was done. In case of any direct or indirect violence between security forces and armed groups, extra caution should be exercised to ensure that civilians in the area do not become collateral damage. Safety of the civilian population should be of paramount importance."

Indeed, it was not a collateral damage, since killing was

through direct and pointed fire, rather through crossfire. All Kashmiris killed in Kulgam were civilians; none was the soldier from another Army or some militant outfit. Under the cover of Armed Forces Special Power Act and Public Safety Act, Indian Army can declare anyone in IOK as the militant or accomplices of militants. As part of its genocide campaign, Indian Army picks and choose all those youth, who have tangible inclination towards freedom from Indian rule. This is being done in all schools, colleges and universities in IOK. In fact, there are no armed groups of Kashmiris in IOK, since the start of their peaceful political struggle in 2003.

It is pertinent to mention that, Indian Army claims that, there are 250 armed militants in entire IOK, against 700,000 Indian Army and paramilitary forces. The question arises, how came 250 armed Kashmiri can operate against Indian Army, having its deployment all over IOK, with a massive presence in all cities, towns and forests. Hardly there is any place or area, outside the direct presence or at least surveillance of Indian security forces. With such a thick presence of its forces and strict monitoring, there cannot be a possibility of armed Kashmiris, still operating in any part of IOK.

Though AI, sympathised with martyred Kashmiris and their families, but, there is a need of precision in its reports that, all India aims at in IOK to declare the pro-independence youth as militant and kill them subsequently. Indian spying network identify and mark the youth, asking for right of self-determination, arrest them and take them to torture centres and thereafter kill them in fake encounters. In most of the cases, Indian



Dr. Muhammad Khan

Army provides them weapons too, to prove their view point, that they armed militants. It has to be known that, asking for their UN mandated right of self-determination by Kashmiris is not a crime. Rather, it is a violation from Indian side that, Kashmiris are kept deprived of their basic right to live as per their wishes.

Therefore, the militancy is not from Kashmiri side but it is from Indian state and its security forces against Kashmiris.

A justified demand from AI, all human rights organizations and UN should be that, India must stop its state sponsored genocide of Kashmiris in IOK as a first step. In the second step, it has to withdraw its forces from entire population centres of the occupied state, thus, restoring the trust of Kashmiris.

This would lead towards UN sponsored plebiscite for the right of self-determination of Kashmiri masses. A free, fair and impartial plebiscite in entire Kashmir would

determine who popular India is among the Kashmiris.

Condemnation of Kugam like massacres of Kashmiris is not sufficient. Such mass killings need independent investigations and probes by UN or its nominated teams, else the massive human rights violations in IOK have to be referred to International Court of Justice. From 1990, there have been thousands of incidents where there have been mass killings of innocent people in IOK under the garb of Indian discriminatory laws. Since there have been no investigations and subsequent penalties to those, who did it, therefore, it encouraged India to further intensify its brutalities in the occupied state with new strategies for the genocide of Kashmiris in IOK. Enough is enough, the world and UN must think beyond condemnation of Indian brutalities in IOK and take practical steps to stop the Kashmiri genocide.

The writer is Professor of Politics and International Relations at International Islamic University, Islamabad.

## UK PARLIAMENT EXPOSES ATROCITIES IN IOK

**T**he All Party Parliamentary Group of the UK Parliament comprising more than 70 parliamentarians from the House of Commons and House of Lords in a report compiled by the group and presented in the British parliament on last Tuesday in regards to the Indian brutalities and human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) has condemned the Indian government for using excessive force against people of the State. The report presented by Labour MP Chris Leslie highlighting the fact that the Indian government refused to allow independent observers from Britain to enter IOK observed "Repeated requests notwithstanding no representative of either Indian central government or the J & K State government has agreed to give evidence verbally or in writing."

The group has made a number of recommendations to the rectify the situation including the repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1990 by India enabling prosecution of armed forces and security personnel through the civilian judicial system; amending

of Public Safety Act 1978 by the J&K Government curtailing administrative detention powers in line with the international legal principles; Initiation of a comprehensive public investigation



Malik Ashraf

into the identities of bodies in mass and unmarked graves with an independent forensic verification process; providing full freedom of information mechanism by India for the families of suspected victims of enforced disappearances; immediate ban on the use of pellet guns and J&K Government opening its prisons to international inspection. The report is a serious indictment of the Indian government for human right abuses in IOK and ruthless killing of the Kashmiri freedom fighters. The recommendations of the group provide a deep insight into what the Indian security forces have been doing in IOK to quell the uprising and their blatant violation of the human rights. In June this year the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in its report had also pointed out similar facts about the situation in the Indian

occupied Kashmir.

It is pertinent to point out that India has banned the entry of the foreign media into IOK and it is also not allowing any international observer to visit the area besides blocking internet services in the valley to conceal her ugly face and the inhuman treatment being meted out to the people of Kashmir. But despite her best efforts to do so human rights organizations within India and international human rights organizations like Amnesty International have been compiling regular reports on the brutal killings in IOK by the Indian security forces and the violation of human rights. The pictures and images of the Indian security forces committing horrendous human rights violations are regularly getting out for the international community to watch.

Amnesty International in its report while enumerating thousands of killings and rape of thousands of women by the personnel of the Indian security forces since 1989 had also demanded the repeal of AFSPA. Since the beginning of the new wave of freedom struggle in the wake of the murder of Burhan Wani in 2016 which continues unabated, the Indian security forces reportedly have killed 755 Kashmiris, raped 903 women, maimed and injured thousands of them through use of pellet guns and destroyed 3002 structures and buildings. During the month of September alone 42 Kashmiris were martyred. The continued killing of the people of Kashmir by the Indian security forces with impunity is an affront to the conscience of the civilized world and the United Nations which is under obligation to have its resolutions on Kashmir implemented. The indifference shown by the world community and those powers who cry hoarse from every convenient roof-top to announce their credentials as champions of human rights, human

liberties and the right of self-determination, is not only regrettable but is indicative of their selective adherence to the proclaimed human values and principles.

India, with a view to hoodwink the international community has also adopted a belligerent posture towards Pakistan and it is continuously violating the ceasefire agreement of 2013 along the Line of Control and the working boundary. It is also trying to portray the freedom struggle in IOK as Pakistani abetted terrorism, notwithstanding the fact that the Freedom Movement in Jammu and Kashmir was an indigenous phenomenon which has been repeatedly acknowledged even by the saner elements within Indian who have been urging the need for dialogue between Pakistan and India to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Apart from the humanitarian dimensions, Kashmir dispute also poses a grave threat to peace and security in the region besides having debilitating effect on the prospects of changing the dismal economic situation of the people of both India and Pakistan as well as other countries of the region. The continuation of hostilities between the two will harm both of them. History is a witness to the fact that no people can be kept under subjugation against their will for long. The people of Kashmir come what may, are not going to accept Indian occupation as is evident from their continued struggle. Similarly Pakistan being a party to the dispute cannot remain oblivious to what is happening in the State. It has the right to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to liberation movement launched by people of Indian Occupied Kashmir till such time India agrees to act in line with UN resolutions. India must realize and acknowledge the ground realities and fulfil its commitments given to UN and the people of Kashmir as enunciated in UN Resolutions.

The writer is freelance columnist based in Islamabad.



**T**he dark night that began on 27 October 1947, with India sending occupation forces continues; but while India could physically and illegally occupy territory it could not occupy hearts and minds. Brave people of Kashmir have resisted occupation for over 70 years and continue to do so. Pakistan has always pursued the matter at the UN. Kashmir issue was raised at international level five times in 10 days preceding the Black Day this year. Human rights violations of the Kashmiri people have been repeatedly documented by independent human rights observers, the most significant among them being the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who issued a Report in June on the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK). Pakistan has endorsed the Report's recommendations, and has renewed its call for the UN to set up a 'Commission of Inquiry' (CoI) to investigate the grave human rights violations in IoK, as recommended by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. "We endorse the report's recommendations that a UN Inquiry Commission be constituted to investigate and redress the gross violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people," Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi recently told the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural questions.

Pakistan is deeply concerned at the rise of racism, xenophobia and intolerance; and is of the view that such divisive forces pose a grave threat to international peace and security and can undo the work of peacemakers by disrupting the momentum for peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation. Human rights violations in Kashmir perpetrated by Indian Army with legal immunity dwarf in scale the violations that provoked international humanitarian action in other international disputes. India does not allow HR observer delegations to visit Kashmir. It clearly shows that India has something to hide. May be, India does not want the world at large to know about tens of thousands indiscriminate human slaughtering, mass graves, countless rapes, abductions,

custodial disappearances, arbitrary detentions, arsons, and brutal suppression of peaceful political protesters.

Kashmiri people's aspirations for self-determination would have been fulfilled decades ago had India not employed a brutal policy of repression to deny the Kashmiris their right promised to them by the UN Security Council as well as by the governments of India and Pakistan. India continues to hold the future of millions of people hostage. Indian forces have unleashed a reign of terror to crush the will of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan has reaffirmed that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute will remain on the UN agenda until the Kashmiri people are allowed to exercise their will, according to the agreed method prescribed by the Security Council. Right to self-determination is sanctified in the very foundations of the United Nations. Yet, for countless people, the promise of freedom remains elusive.

It is unfortunate that despite these clear injunctions of international law and morality, millions continue to live under alien domination and foreign occupation, nowhere is this more glaring and tragic than in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Movement in Kashmir is indigenous, popular and people's movement. Indian Army is involved in serious war crimes. They open fire on unarmed civilians at their will because they have been given immunity under draconian laws, like Armed Forces Special Powers Act. (AFSPA) and the Public Safety Act (PSA). There is a need of an inquiry into these war crimes by a neutral agency, like the United Nations. Politicians in Europe are increasingly joining the growing international chorus as pressure mounts on India for the actions committed by its security forces in the disputed region. British Scholar, Alistair Lamb has convincingly demonstrated that the Instrument was bogus as an original has never been found, and there is no plausible explanation for a disappearance if an original had ever existed.

The Report of the UK Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir (APPKG), on the



Human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir, has detailed severe Indian human rights atrocities in loK. It echoes many of the findings of the UN OHCHR Report. APPKG report is critical of the human rights atrocities being committed with impunity by Indian occupation forces in loK, especially the use of pellet guns, draconian laws. The Report also mentions presence of unmarked graves in loK and enforced disappearances. The Report is a damning indictment for India and an encouraging step forward after the UN OHCHR Report. Both these reports underscore the contrast between the human right situation in loK and Kashmir and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan endorses the APPKG's Report, especially its recommendations.

Hectic efforts of Indian lobby to stop the events of October 27, Kashmir Black Day failed miserably and events were conducted with full zeal across the World. Events in Iran included Black Day messages displayed

on electronic display screens and giant billboards in Tehran. Iran's supreme leader has time and again expressed his unequivocal support for the struggle of loK people. British Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Julie Ward has said human rights violations in loK are a matter of great concern for the British people as well as the whole world. Ward said the occupied territory is the most militarised area in the world where human rights violations by the occupying forces happen on a daily basis and have sadly become part of the local population's day-to-day life. The Kashmir issue is very much alive at the UN and will remain alive until it is resolved according to the wishes of the people of Kashmir and UN Resolutions. Though the BJP government is ready to go to any length to suppress the popular uprising for freedom. However, it would never succeed in suppressing the Kashmiri freedom.

The writer is a freelance columnist based in Islamabad.

## MAO, XI, TIANANMEN SQUARE & CPEC

**C**hina-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has surely opened new political, diplomatic, economic and social multidimensional avenues for Pakistan and China in particular. Because of CPEC, people to people contacts are providing opportunities to us all. On my visit to China, I reached one of the top spacious grand squares of the world "The Tiananmen Square" of Beijing to pay homage to the Founding Father of Chinese Nation, Great Chairman Mao Zedong. Weather was very pleasant and floating gray, brown and white clouds were adding colours to my adorable visit to Tiananmen Square. Towering Chinese flag and strong wind multiplied fascination of the occasion. Gigantic welcoming flowery arrangement in front of the Great Hall was representing heartiest feelings of the great Chinese nation. It was 9:00 in the morning and over five hundred thousand people from all over the world were at Tiananmen Square to pay homage with pin drop silence of dignified respect and honour.

It was miles long zigzag queue of half a million lovers of

Chairman Mao Zedong. At Tiananmen Square the first building on the left is the mausoleum where Chairman Mao Zedong is paid homage every day by hundreds of thousands of people of different nations, cultures and creeds. It looks Chairman Mao Zedong is the Chairman of all the visitors of different countries. Tiananmen Square is a city square in the centre of Beijing, China, named after the Tiananmen "Gate of Heavenly Peace" located to its north, separating it from the Forbidden City. The Square contains the Monument to the People's Heroes, the Great Hall of the People, the National Museum of China and the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong. Chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the foundation of the People's Republic of China in the Square on October 1, 1949. The anniversary of this event is still observed there. Tiananmen Square is one of the top ten largest squares of the world spread on 109 acres. It has great cultural significance as it was the site of several important events in Chinese history.



Naveed Aman Khan

Rom Zhengyangmen Gate (Qianmen Gate) with the Gate of China, later removed in 1954, in place of the present day Mao Zedong Mausoleum. The “corridor of a thousand steps” is visible behind the Gate of China, and Tiananmen Gate is in the distance. The Tiananmen (“Gate of Heavenly Peace”), a gate in the wall of the Imperial City, was built in 1415 during the Ming Dynasty. In the 17th Century, fighting between Li Zicheng's rebel forces and the forces of the Manchuried Qing Dynasty caused heavy damage to, or even destroyed, the gate. Tiananmen Square was designed and built in 1651, and has since been enlarged by four times its original size in the 1950s. Near the centre of the Square stood the “Great Ming Gate”, the southern gate to the Imperial City, renamed “Great Qing Gate” during the Qing Dynasty and “Gate of China” during the Republican era. Unlike the other gates in Beijing, such as the Tiananmen and the Zhengyangmen, this was a purely ceremonial gateway, with three arches but no ramparts, similar in style to the ceremonial gateways found in the Ming tombs. This gate had a special status as the “Gate of the Nation”, as can be seen from its successive names. It normally had remained closed, except when the Emperor passed through. Commoner traffic had been diverted to side gates at the western and eastern ends of the Square, respectively. Because of this diversion in traffic, a busy market place, called “Chess Grid Streets”, later got developed in the big fenced square to the south of this gate.

In 1860, during the Second Opium War, when British and French troops invaded Beijing, they pitched camp near the gate and briefly considered burning down the

gate and the entire Forbidden City. They decided ultimately to spare the Forbidden City and instead burn down the Old Summer Palace. The Xianfeng Emperor eventually agreed to let the foreign powers barrack troops and later establish diplomatic missions in the area, hence there was the Legation Quarter immediately to the east of the square. When the forces of the Eight Nation Alliance besieged Beijing during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900, they badly damaged the office complexes and burnt down several ministries. After the Boxer Rebellion ended, the area became a space for the foreign powers to assemble their military forces. In 1954, the Gate of China was demolished, allowing for the enlargement of this Square. In November 1958, a major expansion of Tiananmen Square started, which was completed after only 11 months, in August 1959. This followed the vision of Mao Zedong to make the Square the largest and most spectacular in the world and intended to hold over five hundred thousand people. In that process, a large number of residential buildings and other structures have been demolished. On its southern edge, the Monument to the People's Heroes has been erected. Following footsteps of Chairman Mao years after President Xi Jinping has successfully erected and initiated CPEC to commemorate Chairman Mao Zedong's vision of great China.

Comic development in Pakistanas well, by increasing the income of the people and also their standard of living. Thus the social expansion of the CPEC is expected to serve the welfare of the people of Pakistan on a priority basis.

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# INDIA'S INFATUATION FOR ESPIONAGE

It is often seen as something hilarious how Indians are obsessed with this spying technique and find interesting ways to accuse Pakistan of spying in Indian Territory. It is now a pertinent hint that India has never accepted Pakistan since its inception and time and again certain roguish activities and blame game against Pakistan make captions. Long-time back India claimed of capturing a pigeon which according to them, flew from Pakistan towards India for spying. Likewise once balloon was also blamed for such spying acts. In June 2018 India claimed of capturing another Spy Pigeon. Indian police claimed that they have nabbed another Pakistani 'spy pigeon' near Indo-Pak international border. According to the Times of India, which highlighted this news said that the police will get a Pak pigeon X-rayed to rule out the possibility of any coded message or miniscule spying object hidden in the pigeon's body. However, news after making sensitivity on Indian media turned out to be fake. The pigeon accidentally landed near Shahpur post of Border Security Force near Indo-Pak international border and was later handed over to the police. And police later said that the pigeon was handed over to them by the BSF and they would get its X-Ray conducted. The reason behind scanning of pigeon was mentioned that conveying coded messages through birds from across the border is not a rare phenomenon on the Punjab side of the border. Interestingly, this was not the first time that India has suspected pigeons being used by Pakistan for spying purposes. In February 2017, India claimed to capture Pakistani 'spy pigeon', they said it came from Pakistan and later told it escaped Pakistan due to police negligence. In May 2016 from Pathankot, Indian authorities proclaimed to catch another pigeon carrying a stamped message in Urdu. In October the Indian police clipped the wings of a pigeon they have caught from Bamial village to restrain it from "escaping". This saga of blaming Pakistan for spying isn't limited to pigeons or birds. In end of September 2018, Indian police claimed to have 'arrested' two apples inscribed with pro-

Pakistan slogans. According to Indian media reports, the apples were believed to have been supplied from Pakistan's side of Kashmir. The report by Indian media quoted that a man named Naresh Kumar of Hindu Welfare Committee bought four apples, out of which slogans were written on the two apples. Kumar immediately reported the incident to the police. Kumar also claimed that name of some terror organisation was also inscribed on the apples. The apples were believed to have been supplied from Jammu and Kashmir. It appears quite amusing that apples which had slogans written as Pakistan Zindabad and that too with some temporary marker created hype in media and just finding a name Pakistan on the apple, Indian media blamed Pakistan of supplying spying fruits to India.

It's not just limited to birds or fruits that are often blamed for espionage. Often the farmers working or young children playing near border area if even in ignorance cross the boundary they are arrested without any reasons and kept under investigation. In one such incident a few days back two soldiers belonging to Baloch Regiment were arrested by Indian Army. However, while finding no clue of spying they were handed back to Pakistan. According to the media reports, the two 30 Baloch Regiment Jawans of Pakistan Army who were arrested by Border Security Force (BSF) were handed over to the Pakistan Rangers after a flag meeting at Hussainiwala border. The Pakistan army jawans were handed over as the intelligence agencies did not find any spy or terror and links during their interrogation. According to BSF sources, the jawans had inadvertently crossed over to the Indian territory when they were cleaning the bunkers located on the Indo-Pak border. The arrested jawans told Indian intelligence agencies that their regiment was recently stationed close to Ferozepur. They were given the task of cleaning bunkers besides keeping an eye on illegal fishing in the Sutlej River. So this incident also depicts that India does not



**Reema Shaukat**

waste a single chance of suspicion on Pakistan.

Indian Army Chief is also famous for giving statements against Pakistan which later turn into embarrassment for India itself. Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat when recently asked whether India is following a tit-for-tat policy towards Pakistan, which results in many casualties, said the policy keeps on changing.

“See we have to keep changing the policy. We have keep doing something different. It has to be reviewed so that we keep ahead of adversary. The Army chief said Pakistan kept sending terrorists to cause damage and ultimately it led to violence against the people”. It is Indian

practice since ages that it creates drama on any incident. India shaped a melodrama of surgical strike just to divert attention of rest of the world and particularly regional players from its nefarious activities in Jammu and Kashmir and arms race in South Asian region. Supported by its cunning media, the Indian political and security establishment is known for false plans and allegations so that it could defame Pakistan in the eyes of the world, gather international support and to cover up its intelligence failures.

The writer works for Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, a think-tank based in Islamabad.

## KILLINGS CONTINUE IN KASHMIR

India, it appears, is desperately trying once again but failing miserably to shoot its way out of a problem of its own making. Therefore, the continuous and blatant violation of Line of Control and that of the ceasefire accord of 2003. Indeed, had it not sent its troops to Srinagar in October 1947 to save the State ruler from the wrath of its people in return for Maharaja Hari Singh signing the Instrument of Accession which in reality was act of blackmailing New Delhi would have avoided being sucked into a problem of facing a perpetual confrontation with the people of the occupied land. Next, trying to appease the 'rebellious' people India confounded this problem further by according the occupied land a special status in its constitution under what is called Article 370. And then this problem became all the more intractable for New Delhi when on its own it went to the UN for mediation to settle the bilateral dispute between India and Pakistan over their respective claims on the state of Kashmir. Since then this problem has become so serious for the Indians that it has been forced to station as many as 700,000 troops in the occupied land to frustrate the aspirations of its people struggling to throw out the yolk of Indian slavery. Thousands of Kashmiris have lost their lives in this almost 71-year long struggle. The occupied territory has become a blood soaked land. Twice before this problem had forced a New Delhi government on the back-foot and obliged it to talk to the Kashmiri leadership

directly and also attempt to engage with Pakistan to diffuse the situation first, when the then Indian Prime Minister, Vajpayee came to Lahore to sign the Lahore accord and next when he invited



**M Ziauddin**

the then President of Pakistan General Musharraf to New Delhi for the Agra Summit. But both these attempts failed because India kept refusing to recognize the matter as its problem and resolve it on its own by giving up its wrongful claim over the occupied state.

Like his predecessors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi too first tried to get rid of Article 370 by making a bid to capture majority seats in the state assembly but failed to achieve his objective by just about a couple of seats. Article 370 stipulates that unless the state assembly passed a resolution to remove the Article in question, it cannot be done away with by the Indian Lok Sabha. Next, PM Modi tried to change the demography of the Valley by trying to settle non-Kashmiris and Jammu residents in the Valley.

This infuriated the Kashmiri youth who had by now come under the inspiring spell of young Burhanuddin Wani and the ensuing protest which as usual was peaceful turned violent with the cold-blooded killing of Wani and the use of pellet guns by the Indian security forces that blinded by the hundreds. The world reacted with abhorrence to the massive human rights violations in the





valley. But instead of cooling off India has increased the heat inside the Valley and across the LoC on the pretext of confronting terrorism being allegedly exported by Pakistan.

The United Nations human rights office earlier in June this year had called for an international investigation into abuses by India in the disputed region of Kashmir, criticizing the Indian security forces in particular for inflicting mass civilian casualties in response to escalating protests there. The 49-page report was the first by the United Nations on human rights concerns in the Himalayan territory. The conflict has robbed millions of their basic human rights and continues to this day to inflict untold suffering.

The report drew particular attention to the devastating

impact of pellet-firing shotguns that Indian troops have used against demonstrators. Security forces using those weapons killed at least 17 people and wounded more than 6,221 between July 2016 and this past February, with more than 700 of those hurt sustaining eye injuries, the reportsaid.

India seems to be coming close to having exhausted all its weapons of terror and like in the past would find it impossible to de-escalate the situation without engaging in direct talks with the Kashmiri leadership. Moreover, like in the past New Delhi is likely soon to find it impossible to avoid seeking Pakistan's help in resolving the problem of its own making. Therefore, one cannot rule out the possibility of another round of bilateral talks on Kashmir soon which we hope would be the final round.

## INDO-PAK STALEMATE AND KASHMIR Abdul Rahman Malik

**T**he relations between India and Pakistan have always experienced the Low and High degrees with later offering strategic dialogue with full support from the people of Pakistan while the former remained aggressive showing utmost hostility and acrimony due to extremist forces within their country. The arch-rival India has never trusted Pakistan despite

assurances and this mistrust has affected their bilateral relations given the existing circumstances. The terrorism is yet another key problem that has crippled the economy of Pakistan as Pakistan has given countless sacrifices by fighting the Afghan war at the behest of America. With extensive relations with the world especially Pakistan's best friend China, India's atrocities in Indian occupied

Kashmir have been intensified with the passage of time. The use of chemical weapons and widespread human rights violations, defying the UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir demanding a plebiscite, the Indian aggression has infinite boundaries. Even Indian nefarious design did not stop here; they are planning to alter the Article 35-A of Indian Constitution to change the status of the State of Kashmir in a bid to change the disputed status of the territory. The Indian Supreme Court is hearing the case. The constitutional provision of article 35-A does not allow people from outside the state to buy or own immovable property, seeking permanent residence, avail any state-funded scholarships or get the government jobs. Historically, the Article 35-A was added by a Presidential Order to Article 370, in 1954 that applied the independent status to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The application argued that the above-mentioned articles were discriminatory towards the citizens from the rest of India. The Chairman Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and former Chief Minister of State of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti has warned the Indian Government that any tinkering with the aforesaid articles will result igniting violence in the territory that will be beyond the control of the security agencies. The people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir also condemned this move and demanded from the world community to intervene and exert pressure on India to refrain from such tampering with the said provision of the Indian Constitution. Pakistan has always fought a defensive war be it 1965, 1971 the fall of Dhaka, Kargil war and the subsequent heated war of words and the indiscriminate firing incidents on the Line of Control from the Indian side, resulting in the loss of civilians lives. Though Pakistan retaliates strongly yet Indians are the first to offend and harming the peace process. The Political leadership remained divided over building close relations with India

to maintain peace in the region. Both PPP and PML-N tried to have close relations with India and start the strategic dialogue with India and signed confidence-building measures. PPP government remained close to Rajiv and Indira Gandhi's Indian National Congress Government while PML-N leadership maintained close relations with BJP. Though the two countries started peace talks at Foreign Secretary level but given strong the pressure from militant or extremist forces, it was always India which cancelled the peace talks at the eleventh hour giving no solid reasons of such cancellation or rolling up dialogue process.

The great nations always settle their disputes through negotiation table as wars always bring misery to people and the destruction that takes years to rebuild the country's infrastructure. It is ironic that the enmity as has also gripped the cricket and the fans are disappointed due to the refusal of India playing the series with Pakistan within India and Pakistan or at the neutral venue such as the UAE. The Prime Minister of Pakistan had envisaged his vibrant and robust foreign policy during victory speech that he intended to maintain relations with the world such as Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arab, US and India on the equality basis and even offered India to come forward by one step, he will go forward two steps to start the dialogue on the core issues. The talks at Foreign Minister level between the two countries were announced at UNGA but abruptly cancelled by India succumbing to internal pressure given the upcoming general election of India likely in May 2019. Imran Khan lashed out India of being arrogant over the cancellation of talks at Foreign Minister-level.

The ruling BJP eyes the 2019 general election and thus intended to create hype with their strong stance against Pakistan by cancelling the peace talks in order to get support from Indian people to win general elections 2019 and regain the Government for another term. Well, India

needs to change its attitude and should immediately start the dialogue to address the issues and find out peaceful solutions to the problem including the Kashmir issue by taking the Kashmiri leadership on board. CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan and the region. The positive outcome of the peace talks may pave the way for India to benefit from the CPEC by joining CPEC as Partner. CPEC can be made secure if we have peace with the neighbours such as India and Afghanistan and stability in Afghanistan is in favour of Pakistan. Let peace have a chance, let's learn to live like good neighbours sharing our experiences and developing resources and promoting trade through people-to-people contacts. To

pave the way for talks, India has to take initiatives such as ending atrocities in Kashmir, demilitarizing it and involving Kashmiri leadership to find out a peaceful solution that may be acceptable to people of Jammu and Kashmir. Let the people of Kashmir decide their future. Pakistan is ready to hold consequential talks and the Indian positive response is awaited to bid adieu to this long acrimony that has hampered peace process and bilateral trade ties between two strong nuclear powers. The SAARC forum can be instrumental for the countries to include SAARC member countries in CPEC provided that India does not backtrack from the peace process. The writer is freelance columnist, based in Sindh.

## THE PARALLEL PATHS OF KASHMIR AND SOUTH TYROL

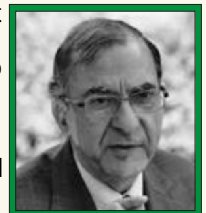
**T**he fundamental need and urgency for self-determination in South Tyrol, when compared with that of Kashmir today, might raise some questions as to what possible similarities they have. South Tyrol is now Europe's largest producer of apples, a major exporter of cheese, with world-class ski resorts in the Alps. An Italian province at the very northern edge of Italy where it borders Austria. South Tyrol is the richest district of Italy and enjoys almost full sovereignty as an autonomous state, with only 10% of its taxes being contributed to the national Italian budget.

Yet in January 2014, a tally was taken in an unofficial referendum gathered during the previous year to identify support for self-determination in South Tyrol. Although only 15% of the population voted, 92.1% of those who voted voted in favor.

Why self-determination when they seem to be doing so well? It's an interesting issue, since the dispute over the sovereignty of this small but enormously beautiful land reminiscent of Kashmir, situated squarely in the Alps adjacent to Switzerland, has been debated since 1919, fought over, and was supposedly settled after UN

intervention in 1960 and subsequent resolutions that directed the parties to resolve their differences.

South Tyrol's history might be a logical reference point for understanding the preoccupation with self-determination now, but perhaps the most obvious answer is that, however you structure it or in whatever manner you spin it, autonomy does not equal self-determination. Consciousness of some notion of a "right" to self-determination is all that is needed to keep that fire burning, apparently. More than that, South Tyrol shares with Kashmir a long tradition of fighting for self-determination, and it has become a default fall-back position whenever there's trouble. Autonomy is like a child who has grown up but still lives in his parent's home; self-determination is where he has established his own home. While living in his parent's home, he may feel like an adult and act like an adult, free to come and go as he pleases, but his home is not his. There is a higher authority that has some ultimate say over his life. He can't change that ugly picture over the fireplace, he can't park his car in the driveway because it leaks oil, and don't even



Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

think about getting married. The fundamental difference may seem to be largely psychological, but there's no question that autonomy is defector the illusion of independence masking the power and authority of the larger encumbering state which retains the option of using whatever whim or alleged emergency to come swooping in with new laws, new regulations, new taxes simply through a shifting political mood and a few "harmless" changes to that country's constitution. And the truth is that Italy's economic problems as a member of the EU has in fact caused it to take a hard look at South Tyrol's prosperity as a means of solving its debt crisis, which is second in the EU only to that of Greece.

The issue of sovereignty, its meaning, and how it is derived, and whether it rests in individual rights or collective rights, or even in a status quo maintenance of some overarching historical or spiritual endowment of power in certain individuals or tribes which preserve order and hierarchy are questions that could easily endanger one's health and safety if asked inappropriately in the wrong place or at the wrong time, particularly in Kashmir. But in an age in which power is becoming more widely distributed and democratic movements step in to fill in the gaps in ethnic, racial and other forms of social diversity and power sharing, it may be time to come to terms with it constructively that satisfies universal ideals. Sovereignty and who or what possesses it is at the bottom of our urges for self-determination. To what extent does anyone human being has a right to control his own destiny? Does his land belong to him or does it really belong to the state?

South Tyrol has had autonomy for many years, and was an autonomous region even during the Hapsburg rule. Modern problems over the issue began when,

responding to Italian ambitions, through the secret and later invalidated Treaty of London of 1915, the Allies promised this southern portion of Austria's County of Tyrol as well as Trieste to the Italians if the latter would take the side of the Allies (the Triple Entente) against Germany during the First World War. It was quite noble, however wrong, of the Allies to be giving away such a nice gift, which wasn't actually theirs to give, and it has had its consequences. The First World War itself had erupted to a great extent as a consequence of Austria's attempts at annexation of Slavic lands, ignoring the right to self-determination of another ethnic group, and the Second World War was a direct consequence of these machinations which occurred in dividing up the spoils of the first. Yet giving people the right to determine their own way of life, their own government, their own language, their own religion, and their own traditions seems yet, after so much spilled blood and tragedy, not to have been understood by leaders whose priorities do not take into account either the past or the future.

A number of these secret treaties came to light when the Bolsheviks began rummaging around in the files of their predecessors, and they immediately condemned them. "All the secret treaties must be immediately published in order to strengthen the confidence of the proletariat," they announced in October 1917. "Peace without annexations or requisitions" was echoed around the world, reflecting a statement made by President Wilson to the U.S. Senate on January 22, 1917, when he said: "We must reach a peace without victory.

Peace must be based on the right of each nation to decide its own destiny without the intervention of a more powerful external enemy."

To be continued...



# Kashmir and India: Pakistan staples at the UNGA



The United Nations General Assembly. PHOTO: AFP

Kashmir and Pakistan-India ties are expected to feature heavily in Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) today (Saturday).

The foreign minister will be presenting Pakistan's stance before the comity of nations at a time of shifting global alignments and rising regional tensions. Qureshi, who earlier served as foreign minister during the tenure of the 2008-13 Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)-led government has represented the nation earlier at the 65th session of the UNGA.

With the foreign minister set to address the UNGA, *The Express Tribune* recaps Pakistan's five past addresses.



PM Abbasi addresses the 72nd session of the UNGA.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 72nd session of UNGA (2017)

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressed the UNGA as prime minister after the Supreme Court disqualified Nawaz

Sharif. India remained the focus of his 20-minute speech. Abbasi's maiden UN speech followed a predictable pattern: relations with India, the outstanding issue Jammu and Kashmir. Abbasi also spoke highly of China as an ally and reiterated Pakistan's desire for peace in Afghanistan.

An international investigation into Indian crimes in occupied Kashmir was demanded. "We ask that the United Nations Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights send an inquiry Commission to occupied Kashmir to verify the nature and extent of India's human rights violations, secure the punishment of those responsible and provide justice and relief to the victims."

In 2018, a UN report accused India of having employed excessive force in occupied Kashmir to kill and wound civilians since 2016 and called for an international inquiry into the accusations of rights violations. India, however, called the report a "selective compilation of largely unverified information" to build "a false narrative."

## 71st session of UNGA (2016)

What would turn out to be then prime minister Nawaz Sharif's last speech to the UNGA came in the aftermath of Kashmiri freedom fighter Burhan Wani's killing by Indian occupying forces. Nawaz eulogised Wani who "emerged as a symbol of the latest Kashmiri Intifada, a popular and peaceful freedom movement, led by Kashmiris, young and old, men and women, armed only with an undying faith in the legitimacy of their cause, and a hunger for freedom in their hearts."



Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif the 71st session of the UNGA. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nawaz called on the UN to urgently implement resolutions on Kashmir to pave the way for peace and stability in South Asia. Nawaz also announced that Pakistan would present a dossier on Indian violations in occupied Kashmir.

The then prime minister also reiterated Pakistan's offer to "enter into a serious and sustained dialogue for the peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes" with India saying peace would remain elusive till the resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

### **70th session of UNGA (2015)**

During the 70th UNGA session, Nawaz proposed a four-point peace initiative with India premised on the formalisation of the 2003 understanding of a complete ceasefire in Kashmir; reaffirmation from both sides on not resorting to use of force; a demilitarised Kashmir and withdrawal of troops from Siachen. "Cooperation, not confrontation, should define our relationship," Nawaz said. "Three generations of Kashmiris have only seen broken promises," the then prime minister said terming Kashmir the UN's most glaring failure.



**PM Nawaz addresses the 70th session of the UNGA.**

**PHOTO: AFP**

In 2015, Nawaz also called for a more "democratic, transparent Security Council" saying that the UNSC should reflect interests of all member states and not be an expanded club of the powerful and privileged.

### **69th session of UNGA (2014)**

With the cancellation of planned Pakistan-India foreign-secretary talks in 2014, Nawaz expressed

disappointment over the Indian move saying "people of the sub-continent are losing out opportunities of progress and development due to regional conflicts."

Nawaz also took a jibe at the UN saying the organisation had passed resolutions to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir over six decades earlier. The people of Kashmir, however, were still to see the promises fulfilled.

As he reiterated his commitment to building a peaceful neighbourhood in South Asia, the then prime minister told world leaders that the Kashmir issue cannot be sidelined till it was resolved in line with the wishes of the region's people. "We cannot draw a veil over the issue of Kashmir," he said.

### **68th session of UNGA (2013)**

In his first address to the UNGA after becoming prime minister for the third time, Nawaz spoke positively about relations with India saying his accession to power represented a 'new beginning' for bilateral ties. "I am committed to working for a peaceful and economically prosperous region. This is what our people want and this is what I have long aspired for," Nawaz said.

He said both countries had squandered "massive resources" on a nuclear arms race which could have been used for the economic well-being of the people. With an optimistic undertone, Nawaz said the two countries still have the opportunity to do so by cooperating and added that he looked forward to re-engaging with India in a substantive and purposeful dialogue.

Nawaz had also demanded a halt to drone attacks in Pakistan saying, "the attacks conducted by US-led NATO forces on Pakistani soil using unmanned spy planes are counter-productive" violate the nation's sovereignty.

He had also shed light on Pakistan's sacrifices in the war on terror. "We have lost 40,000 lives" the premier said, adding that there had been colossal damage to the social and physical infrastructure of Pakistan. "Our economy has been denied the opportunity to grow. This must change now."



## **India will have to initiate dialogues with Pakistan and people of Jammu to find a way for resolution of this conflict peacefully. Sardar Masood Khan**

Muzaffarabad: Sardar Masood Khan, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has said there is no military



solution to Kashmir issue and India will have to initiate dialogues with Pakistan and people of Jammu to find a way for resolution of this conflict peacefully. He made these remarks while speaking to a delegation of 48th Pakistan Navy Staff Course participants at Aiwan-e-Saddar here on Tuesday. The delegation was consisting of 14 faculty members Navy War College and 92 course participants including twenty officers from friendly countries is currently visiting Azad Jammu Kashmir as a part of their inland study tour. President Masood Khan said that Pakistan always sought peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue through dialogues but India is adamant to settle the issue through military might by suppressing the voice of Kashmiri people for their internationally recognized right to self-determination. He went to say that India-Pakistan have fought three wars over Kashmir and now Indian obstinacy on Kashmir issue, inhuman atrocities in Kashmir and Indian shelling on civilian population living along the Line of Control (LoC) could bring both nuclear-armed state to the brink of another devastating war. "It is high time for United Nations Secretary General to take a step forward and appoint a special representative to explore a viable solution to the

conflict of Kashmir and to ensure peace and stability in the region", he said. "United Nations and world powers need to intervene in setting a stage for the resolution of Kashmir before the two nuclear states of India and Pakistan indulge in full-fledged war which will be a monumental disaster that will engulf not only the region but large part of the world," President Khan emphasized.

About the draconian laws, like Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA) that give the total impunity to the Indian army in Kashmir, President said an Indian soldier can shoot to kill any at will and he will not be accountable to anybody or any agency for prosecution. He said that recent report of United Nations' Commission for Human Rights on Kashmir followed by similar report compiled by All Parties Parliamentary Kashmir Group reflects that world is now realizing the gravity of unresolved Kashmir dispute. He added that another report on the state of human rights in Kashmir is being compiled by a committee of European Parliament. Earlier President briefed the members of the delegation about functioning of AJK government, its administrative matters and priorities. The president said that reinforcing Kashmiri peoples' struggle for their right to self-determination, providing better governance and efficient administration to the people of AJK and economic development of the liberated area are some of the priorities of AJK government

## **AJK president and others pay tribute to late Kashmiri reformer Khan Sahib**

PALANDARI: Glowing tributes were paid to renowned social reformer, Col Khan Muhammad Khan, popularly known as Khan Sahib for his multifaceted services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. The legendary freedom fighter and icon of valour and optimism was remembered at his 57th death anniversary memorial organised at his native Palandari town. A multitude of people spoke for the late reformer, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan, AJK Minister for Health Dr Najib Naqi, Member of

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi, Col Aurangzeb, Advocate Sardar Muhammad Hafiz Khan, President District Bar Association Palandari Sardar Khaliq-ur-Rehman, Tahmina Sadiq and Haji Mansha Khan. Speaking on the occasion, AJK President who was chief guest at the event, said Khan Sahib was symbol of courage, dedication and selflessness, who fought both politically and militarily for the rights of his people. President Masood stressed the need for following footsteps of leaders like Col Khan for early success of Kashmir Liberation Movement and establishment of an enlightened welfare society. "Khan Sahib of Poonch was not only a legendary freedom fighter of Kashmir's liberation struggle but was also a great politician, a social reformer and an ardent campaigner for education, especially education of women," President Masood said. He said that services rendered to the nation by Col Khan in Kashmir's liberation struggle, education of the people of his area and reformation of society by eradicating social evils would remain a matter of great pride and inspiration to the present and coming generations. The president said that Col Khan dedicated his entire life and resources for the betterment of the people of Kashmir in general and for the people of Poonch in particular. He added that, Khan Sahib was an educationist par excellence, a military strategist, a freedom fighter, an accomplished politician and a polished law maker. "His role to get the people of Poonch liberated from the oppressive rule of the Mahraja of Kashmir would never be overlooked or forgotten in the history of Kashmir," Masood Khan said. Highlighting the political contribution of Col Khan, President Masood said he had served as member of Kashmir Legislative Assembly from 1934 to 1946 and

relentlessly fought for the political, social and economic rights of his constituents. He also founded the Sudhan Educational Conference to motivate his people to acquire both religious and modern education.

Terming Khan Sahib as exceptionally brave, intelligent and visionary, President Khan said it was because of people like him that today we live in an environment of independence and freedom.

Dubbing him as the Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of Kashmir and true follower of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, President Masood urged the youth of Azad Kashmir to familiarise themselves with the various aspects of the life of Khan Sahib and play their role in the ongoing Kashmir Liberation struggle for progress and prosperity of Azad Kashmir. The president suggested that a memorial with a public library should be built to commemorate the legendary freedom fighter and give him honour and respect. Speaking on the occasion, AJK Minister for health and the grandson of the late reformer, Dr Najib Naqi said that Khan Sahib was a multifaceted personality taking on multiple roles such as a politician, law maker, educationist, social reformer and military commander at the same time. He was the first of his time who advocated for women education and also involved women in decision making process for matters related to the community. He also proposed to setup separate educational institutions for women and floated the idea of "women empowerment" by equipping them with education almost eighty years ago. Other speakers also paid rich tributes to Baba e Poonch for his estimable services he rendered for the general welfare of the Kashmiri Muslims. Earlier President Masood visited the mausoleum of Col Khan and laid floral wreath on his grave before offering Fateha for the departed soul.



# KASHMIR-EU WEEK IN BRUSSELS

## Right to self-determination is the basis of all Human Rights: Kashmir Council EU



**Kashmir-EU week in European Parliament organised by Kashmir Council EU - Photo: author**

BRUSSELS: The 11th Kashmir-EU week in the European Parliament was inaugurated on November 5. The event is being hosted by European Parliament members Wajid Khan, Dr Sajjad Karim, Julie Ward and Anthea Macentire. The high profile guests included AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider, internationally acclaimed human rights activist Khurram Pervez, President Kashmir Global Council, Farooq Siddiqui besides many other renowned academics, researchers, human rights activists, political workers and community leaders. Welcoming the participants in the inaugural session, Chairman Kashmir Council EU, Syed Ali Raza thanked all the participants saying that the event had become a strong tradition and influential annual conference within one decade. Raza added they needed peace in South Asia, which necessitated a just solution of Kashmir conflict according to the will of the Kashmiri people. Sajjad Haider Karim said the international community lacked the political will to insert pressure on India. He welcomed UN report on the Human Rights

Situation in Kashmir. A special feature of the conference was the photo exhibition taken by Belgian photographer

Cédric Gebahayer who gave a short presentation of his photos that captured life in Indian occupied Kashmir. Later, the exhibition was launched in European Press club which will exhibit the photos for two weeks before its inaugural in EU parliament in Strasberg.

Khurram Pervez, the winner of Reebok Human rights award and head of Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society, explained the content, importance and possible impacts of the recently launched UN report on the

situation of human rights in Kashmir. He advised Pakistan to allow UN observers mission unconditionally. PM Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider recalled the fate of young boys and girls of Kashmir who were blinded by the pellet guns used by Indian armed forces. He said people of Kashmir wanted peace but India also should respond to the call of peace instead of resorting to brutal power. A seminar chaired by MEP Wajid Khan discussed the issue of disappearances in Indian held Kashmir. MEP Anthea Macentire, Julie Ward, PM AJK, Raja Farooq Haider and academic Goldie Asurie delved upon the issue. According to a research study, around ten thousand people were missing in IoK. The participants pleaded the international community to help in recovering those missing persons. The member of Theatre X, Berlin, Ge Romany Miss Yasmine emphasised upon promoting culture to spread awareness about Kashmir.

There was a parallel conference on Kashmir chaired by former Prime Minister AJK Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan. The participants demanded right to self-determination.

## Photographic exhibition in Brussels

### highlights plight of Kashmiris

The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider inaugurated an exhibition of photographs by Belgian photographer and journalist Cedric Gerbehaye on the human rights violations in the

Kashmir and brutal use of force by Indian army after the incident of martyrdom of Burahan Wani in July 2016.

The misuse of pellet guns by Indian security forces throwing lead balls on the eyes of crowd resulted in the death and partial or total blindness of many demonstrators.



Indian occupied Kashmir. The exhibition is part of the 11th Kashmir EU Week taking place in Brussels from 5th to 8th of November and will continue at the Press Club Brussels, Europe for two weeks.

Photographs by Gerbehaye also featured in National Geographic magazine in June 2018 along with a story on Kashmir by Rania Abouzeid. His photographs depict misery of young people, the women and old people as well as misuse of force by the Indian forces. The intense anger against India which is growing among young people due to suppression and the brutal use of force by Indian security forces are particularly highlighted by Gerbehaye. A parallel exhibition of his photographs will also take place in European Parliament Strasbourg from 13th November.

Gerbehaye visited occupied Kashmir in the wake of a new wave of protests by the people of occupied

An exhibition of Kashmiri arts and crafts was also organized at the Press club besides the photographs by Cedric Gerbehaye. On this occasion Prime Minister Azad Jammu Kashmir Raja Farooq and Chairman Kashmir Council EU Syed Ali Raza addressed the participants and highlighted the plight of people of Kashmir. The Kashmir EU Week 2018 is being organized by the Kashmir Council EU and hosted by MEPs Wajid Khan and Sajjad Karim. Various events will be organized in this connection from 5th to 16th November mainly in the European Parliament both in Brussels as well as Strasbourg, under the theme 'Living the Legacy of Partition : the Search for Lasting Peace'. Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan has arrived in Brussels to participate in the events to be held in this connection.



## **AJK PM discusses LoC situation with former Norwegian PM**

Mirpur: Former Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik Monday called on Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK)

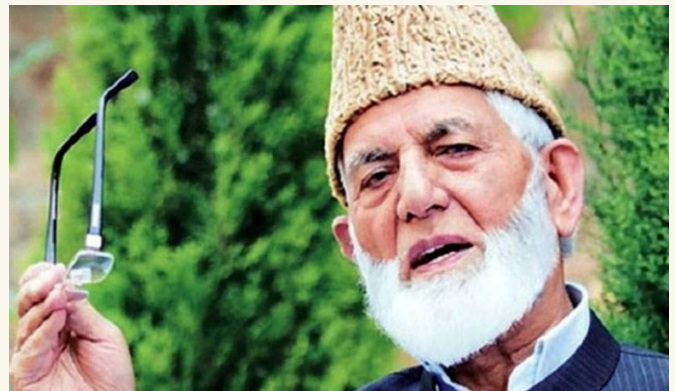


Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan and discussed the prevailing situation of human rights in occupied Kashmir, situation along the Line of Control (LoC) and ongoing process of development in the AJK. Minister for Education Barrister Iftikhar Gillani and other officials were also present on the occasion. Expression his views, AJK PM said the resolution of Jammu and Kashmir issue was imperative for the durable peace in the region. "All civilised countries including Norway, put pressure on India for the resolution of the issue so that she (India) come to the table for talks. Pakistan always supported the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, but it was India which always created hurdles in the way of resolving the Kashmir issue," he said. Farooq Haider further said that people of Kashmir want resolution of Kashmir issue accordance with United Nations resolutions so that this issue could be resolved accordance with wishes of the Kashmiris people. Kashmiri people are the core party of the dispute and they have the basic role in the negotiations, he added. AJK prime minister said that United Nations must take notice of the human rights violations in the occupied Kashmir. "India on one hand is victimising Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir and on the other hand half of million population is badly affected by the Indian firing on the LoC, routine life of the people along the LOC is also miserable," he said. AJK premier said that AJK has a

great potential of tourism, but this potential is badly affected because of Indian firing on LOC. India must respect the international law as she is targeting schools and hospitals along the LOC. Public transport and animals were also being hit by the Indian forces, he said. The AJK premier expressed hope that Norway would play its role to exposing Indian brutal force before the international community. Former Norwegian premier said that he had visited occupied Kashmir before coming to AJK and had meetings with Syed Ali Gillani, Mir Waiz Umer Farooq and other Hurriyat leadership and got the awareness of the situation. "We have desire that Kashmir issue be resolved and India and Pakistan could be brought to table so this issue be resolved through peaceful means," he said. He said, "We want resolution of Kashmir issue through implementation of UN resolutions so problems of the Kashmiri people could be solved and they could lead their lives peacefully." He said that for the significance of regional security the importance of resolving Kashmir issue cannot be ignored.

## **Syed Ali Gilani condemns Pulwama massacre**

Srinagar : In occupied Kashmir, the Chairman of All



Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Syed Ali Gilani, has condemned the Pulwama massacre in which 11 Kashmiris were killed and more than 100 injured by the pellets and bullets at the hands of Indian forces. Syed Ali Gilani in a statement issued in Srinagar said India claims to have the brave and disciplined army of the world, but in reality they are so cowards and timed that they shower bullets and pellets to the unarmed people especially kids.

They try test their muscles and arsenal on the peaceful protestors who are just demanding their basic and fundamental right, right to self-determination promised by their own leaders, he added. He questioned the so-called champions of the “Humanity and Democracy” that is this your humanity to use deadly weaponry against peaceful people? Everywhere there are protests, even violent but neither in the world nor in India itself they are showered bullets and pallets, but we being Muslims fighting for our rights here, every tool of state terrorism, bullets, pallets, arrests, killings, rapes and harassments all are legalized and justified in garb of security, he added. He said that even the brutalities have a limit, beasts too get exhausted but Indian atrocities, their unjust behaviour and the iron fist seems to have no end. “We have read in history about the heinous crimes of “Changez and Halako”, but the repression and oppression we are subjected to have surpassed them as well, he said. Meanwhile, the Chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai in a statement in Srinagar condemned the Indian state terrorism against innocent people who just demand their right to self-determination. He said the uprising against India's rule over Kashmir is neither new nor surprising in fact the resentment of broken promises and the brutality of the response is equally familiar. India always came down hard on a widespread uprising in the Kashmir valley killing, torturing, disappearing, and imprisoning thousands to silence the voices and demand of freedom from Indian brutal occupation, he maintained

### **Mirwaiz urges India to stop killings in IOK**

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, the Chairman of Hurriyat forum, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, has asked India to stop genocide in the territory as its policy to kill the Kashmiri people will not yield anything except further rebellion and hatred against its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said this in a tweet following the killing of Kashmiri youth by Indian troops in Pulwama district, today. The troops in their brutal acts of state



terrorism martyred nine youth in Kharpora Sirnoo area of the district, today. The Mirwaiz in his tweet wrote that terror and trauma on Kashmiris continues unabated as killing pursued as a state policy by India. He asked the government of India to stop this inhumanity as it will not achieve anything except further rebellion and hatred. Meanwhile, a spokesman of Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League (JKML) in a statement in Srinagar paid rich tributes to two youth, Owais Ahmed Butt and Tahir Ramzan Dar, who were martyred by Indian troops during a cordon and search operation in Brath Kalan area of Sopore on Thursday. He said that the Kashmiri people will not allow the sacrifices of their martyrs go waste and take their mission to its logical conclusion.

### **Indian troops given licence to commit brutalities in IOK: Malik**

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, the Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Muhammad Yasin Malik, has said that New Delhi has given its troops a licence to commit brutalities on the people of the territory.

Muhammad Yasin Malik said this while talking to the victims of Indian state terrorism at Mujgund and the parents of pellet victim, Hiba Jan, at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar.

Indian troops martyred two youth and destroyed more than half a dozen residential houses during a cordon and search operation in Mujgund area of Srinagar on Sunday. The JKLF Chairman met with the victim families and expressed solidarity with them.

Speaking on the occasion, he deplored that India has given a free hand to its troops to kill, maim, arrest, torture





and intimidate the Kashmiris. “They (troops) have a license to kill and destroy our properties and inflict every kind of miseries on us. It is our religious, moral and national duty to resist this onslaught and at the same time help those who are victims of this onslaught,” he said.

Muhammad Yasin Malik said the carnage at Mujgund in which more than half a dozen residential houses were razed to ground by the troops and dozens of families left roof-less in these coldest days and nights is a minuscule example of Indian aggression in Kashmir which is killing, maiming, destroying and oppressing the Kashmiris at will.

The JKLF Chairman also visited 18-month-old pellet victim, Hiba Jan, who is undergoing treatment at the SMHS Hospital in Srinagar. Hiba, the youngest pellet victim, underwent a second surgery on Wednesday. While talking to her parents at the hospital, Yasin Malik said that pellets were worldwide used to hunt animals but in Kashmir this weapon was being used to kill and blind humans.

He said, “Baby Hiba Jan was not carrying any gun or stone and she was fired upon and deprived of her eyesight in the lap of her parents.” He said that Indian rulers who boast about being democrats and peace-lovers on daily basis should answer the questions why was the eyesight of 18-month-old baby Hiba Jan snatched by pellets, what was her crime and had those who deprived her of eyesight been penalized?”

Yasin Malik said that India and its viceroy in the form of governor should wake up from their daydreaming and realize that sooner or later India would have to acknowledge the aspirations of the people of Jammu and

Kashmir. He also visited the residence of illegally detained JKLF-R Chairman, Farooq Ahmed Dar, and expressed condolence over the demise of his mother. Farooq Dar is lodged in New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail.

### **Malaysian NGO says UN actionless to stop HR abuses in IOK**

Kuala Lumpur: The Malaysian Consultation Council of Islamic Organization (MAPIM), a conglomerate of 200 organizations, has condemned the recent massacre perpetrated by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir.

A spokesman of MAPIM in a statement said, the conglomerate regrets the silence of the world community over the atrocities in Kashmir by Indian forces.

The spokesman said that report of the detention of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik, by Indian forces to curtail the rightful movement for right to self-determination in occupied Kashmir is unacceptable, and Malik is a legitimate leader of the Kashmiris' freedom struggle.

“It is most regretful that the UN has stood actionless to stop the human rights violations in Kashmir,” the spokesman of the conglomerate said. “We believe the atrocities inflicted on the Kashmiris by the forces will not be able to break the spirit of the Kashmiris for their struggle for self-determination,” he added.

The spokesman also said that keeping Yasin Malik in jail and not providing him with basic treatment for his deteriorating health was a criminal act as per the international law.

The spokesman said on record, they have received reports till November 2018, and forces have killed “48 people, besides arresting 169 and torturing 196”. “We have been informed that in the past three decades, the Indian forces have killed 95,234 people since January 1989 in which the custodial killing mounted to 7120,” the statement added.

“The UN Security Council must intervene immediately, lest this world agency will be regarded as a complicit to

the crimes of war by Indian forces in Kashmir. The long-pending Kashmir conflict cannot be a protracted conflict as it will escalate into regional instability," he said.

The statement said that MAPIM calls upon the OIC Secretary General to voice the group's concern and to send a strong message to India against its decades of brutal acts against the people of Kashmir.

### **IOK under president's rule**

Srinagar, As New Delhi has recommended the imposition of President's Rule in occupied Kashmir after the expiry of the six-month Governor's Rule on Wednesday, it will be for the first time since 1996 that the territory will be under the President's Rule.

Governor Satya Pal Malik had, on November 21, dissolved the so-called Kashmir Assembly after the pro-India Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), supported by the Congress and National Conference (NC), had staked claim to form the government. The last time the territory was under President's Rule was in October 1996 when the Farooq Abdullah-led National Conference took over at the end of six years of direct rule under Indian president.

The occupied Kashmir has been under Delhi direct rule eight times, and moved from Governor's rule to President's Rule (after six months) on two of those occasions. This will be the third time. Until March 30, 1965, the territory did not have a Governor or Chief Minister; it had a Sadre Riyasat (President of the State) and a Prime Minister. Under Section 92 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution, the Governor can rule for six months with a set of powers, the only requirement being the President's consent. Governor's Rule was imposed for the first time on March 26, 1977, when the Congress withdrew support to Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, the then puppet Chief Minister. The first spell of President's Rule was in 1986. Sheikh Abdullah's son-in-law Ghulam Mohammad Shah split the National Conference legislature party, leading to the dismissal of then CM Sheikh Abdullah, and became CM of a Congress-supported NC rebel government. This was Jagmohan's first term as Governor, sent by the Congress government in New Delhi. Facing a public backlash, the Congress eventually withdrew its support, leading to Governor's rule, followed by President's Rule.

The longest spell of central rule, from 1990, after breakdown of the state machinery led to the resignation of CM Farooq Abdullah. New Delhi sent Jagmohan as Governor again. President's Rule was repeatedly extended until October 1996. After which the Governor rule was imposed several times but could not extend beyond six-months.

Following 2002 assembly poll outcome, governor's rule led by G C Saxena was imposed in the state from October 18, 2002 to November 2, after Farooq Abdullah refused to continue as caretaker chief minister of the state as PDP and Congress took 15 days in cobbling up numbers to form the government.

The governor rule led by N N Vohra was again imposed from July 11, 2008 to January 5, 2009 following the fall of Ghulam Nabi Azad-led coalition regime. Azad resigned as chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir without facing a confidence vote on the floor of the assembly.

The Governor rule was also imposed in 2015, 2016, and now in 2018. However, the elected government was put in place before the six-month period of governor ended.

All the legislature powers are vested with the governor during this period. The governor has to dissolve the Legislative Assembly after the tenure of six months is over and the state will directly come under the President's Rule for following six months during which elections have to be declared in the territory. In case the elections are not declared, the President's Rule can be extended by another six months.

Since the occupied Kashmir does not come under President's Rule under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution and is promulgated under Section 92 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution, all the decisions taken thereof shall have a concurrence of the president under Article 74 (1)(i) under which council of ministers with the Indian Prime Minister at the head will aid and advise the President.

### **400 people killed in Kashmir so far in 2018, highest in a decade**

With the killing of six militants on Friday in south Kashmir's Bijbehara area of district Anantnag the death toll for the year reached 400 which is the highest in a decade. So far this year, 400 people have been killed in Kashmir, and more than half of them were militants. The

number of the dead is the highest in the state since 2008 when 505 people were killed, Al Jazeera reported. The number of deaths in violence in Kashmir had dropped to 99 in 2012 but has since been climbing. According to the report Kashmir has witnessed a spike in violence since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power in 2014.

Analysts say the hardline policies adopted by the Hindu nationalist government may further worsen the situation. Adding that government forces have stepped up an offensive against militants operating inside the Kashmir Valley as well as those trying to intrude from across the border with Pakistan.



## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN JOK

(From Jan 1989 till Nov 30, 2018)

<b>Total Killings *</b>	95,234
<b>Custodial Killings</b>	7,120
<b>Civilian arrested</b>	145,342
<b>Structures Arsoned/Destroyed</b>	109,183
<b>Women Widowed</b>	22,894
<b>Children Orphaned</b>	107,751
<b>Women gang-raped / Molested</b>	11,107



