



Special Edition  
Kashmir Solidarity Day

**February 2020**



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## *Special Edition* *Kashmir Solidarity Day 2020*

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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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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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# KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY: A DAY FOR RENEWAL OF COMMITMENTS

Pakistani nation is observing 5<sup>th</sup> February as Kashmir Solidarity Day. This year this day has most significance and importance. After 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir had been totally changed. India had snatched the identity of Kashmir through Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill 2019. The status of state was changed into union territories. IOJK was divided into two union territories Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Article 35-A of Indian constitution was repealed to change the demography of IOJK. Curfew was imposed, all means of communication were blocked and all pro freedom leadership of Kashmir was sent to jails. Almost 14,000 people were arrested including children of 09 year age. People of IOJK are living in a cage. At this crucial time of Kashmiris, Govt. and people of Pakistan are showing solidarity with full zeal, commitment and enthusiasm. Basic purposes of observing Kashmir Solidarity Day is to reiterate continued support to oppressed people of Indian occupied Kashmir and to draw the attention of the international community towards the brutalities, atrocities, crime against humanity and gross human rights violations by Indian occupational forces in IOJK. Govt. of Pakistan raised this issue at all international forums including United Nations and OIC. International media highlighted the situation of Kashmir as well as condemned the actions taken by Indian fascist regime. The situation of IOJK was discussed and debated in several parliaments of the world. Two special meetings of United Nations Security Council were held to discuss the situation of Kashmir.

People of Pakistan had always supported the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This relation and solidarity is from the ages. People of Kashmir consider Pakistan as their destination and home. Whenever in the history people of Kashmir have to migrate due to natural disasters or autocrat rulers they chose the areas of Pakistan. During Dogra regime in Kashmir the people of Kashmir were

facing oppression and atrocities, at that time All India Kashmir Committee was established by the people of Pakistan to support these oppressive people. At the time of partition in November 1947, Dogra forces, RSS and Akali Dal goons had killed almost 2, 50,000 Muslims of Jammu and about half million were forced to leave their homes. The people of Pakistan welcomed them and also provided shelter to these refugees. Now they are settled in different provinces of Pakistan and their population is about 1.5 Million. These refugees from Kashmir are enjoying all political, social and economical rights like other citizens of Pakistan. Pakistan considers Kashmir as a disputed territory and this shows her commitment to honor and respect the wishes of people of Kashmir. In 1948, when India knocked the door of United Nations and claimed that Kashmir is her integral part due to instrument of accession, Pakistan not only rejected her claim but pleaded the case of right to self determination of people of Kashmir. Due to diplomatic and sincere efforts of Pakistan UNSC had passed almost twenty resolutions which are clearly states that the future status of Jammu and Kashmir shall be decided by the people of Kashmir through fair, free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices. Pakistan never claimed Kashmir as its integral part the Article 257 of Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan is an example.

People of Jammu and Kashmir had liberated a part of the state in 1947 and established the representative government of whole state on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1947. This Govt. had requested the Pakistan for defense, foreign affairs and communication. The slogan “Kashmir Bane Ga Pakistan” (Kashmir will accede to Pakistan) was not given by the Govt. of Pakistan, this is the slogan of people of Kashmir and they are raising this even prior to independence of Pakistan. The people of Jammu and Kashmir had affiliated themselves with Muslim League



Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan

and founder of Pakistan Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1944 during his visit to Kashmir. After announcement of partition plan All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, the only political party representing Muslims of Kashmir and having overwhelming elected representatives of Muslims in Praja Sabha had passed "Accession to Pakistan Resolution" on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1947. Two other political parties which were also representing Hindus and Sikhs, Kisan Mazdur Conference and Kashmir Socialist Party had passed accession to Pakistan resolutions on 5<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> September respectively. Independence Day of Pakistan 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947 was observed with waving of flags of Pakistan and celebrations in all over Kashmir. The new phase of freedom struggle in IOJK was started in 1988; India had deployed almost 800,000 occupational forces. In the presence of these forces people of IOJK chanting slogans Pakistan *zindabad* (Long live Pakistan), *Ham Pakistanian hain*, *Pakistan Hamara hai* (We are Pakistani-Pakistan is ours), waving flag of Pakistan and buried in

flag of Pakistan. The love and affiliation of people of Kashmir with Pakistan is due to the Pakistan's commitment and devotion with people of Kashmir. Pakistan always supported the just cause of Kashmir. Pakistan army is defending the Azad Kashmir, protecting lives and honor of people and also provide every possible support in natural and other disasters, whereas Indian occupational forces are snatching life, liberty, honor property and identity of the people of IOJK. People of Pakistan always support the Kashmir cause and feel the pain of Kashmiris like their own. Govt. of Pakistan is providing every possible support for development of Kashmir. At this stage when India is trying to merge IOJK, Pakistan Govt. had empowered the people of Azad Kashmir through 13<sup>th</sup> amendment.

A strong, prosperous and develop Pakistan is in the interest of people of Kashmir as well as for peace and stability in the region.

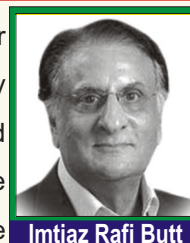
*The author is Ph.D (Law) Scholar, Working as Director  
Jammu Kashmir Liberation Cell*

## KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY 2020

The first Kashmir Solidarity Day was observed in 1990, this day marks the commemoration of the sacrifices that the people of Kashmir have made for freedom and the suffering they have endured since the 1950s. In the light of recent events, Kashmir Day is more relevant, significant and forceful than ever before. Times are changing and the world is waking up to the cause of Kashmir. Without prejudice to the pain inflicted upon Kashmiri people by the Government of India, the diplomatic stance of Pakistan since the early days, stands verified and proved before international law and statutes of liberty, freedom and human rights. 05 February 2020 represents, perhaps, the most resolute and potent show of solidarity of Pakistanis and people in Azad Kashmir with their brethren trapped in India-occupied Kashmir.

On 05 August 2019, by a Presidential Decree, the Government of Narendra Modi unveiled its violent

agenda against people of Kashmir through state terrorism. The autonomy and special status of Jammu and Kashmir was abolished. Fearing the worst backlash from inside and outside



**Imtiaz Rafi Butt**

India, the Government decided to lockdown and black out the whole region. Media representatives were removed, access to Internet and telephone lines were cut off and basic rights were suspended in the name of re-organization of Jammu and Kashmir. Srinagar became a jail itself. Even the former Chief Ministers have been put under house arrest. In other words, Jammu and Kashmir have been turned into the largest prison in the world and sadly, the same atrocious ordeal continues to this day. International media is still making inroads into the region and reporting extra judicial killings, rape and disappearances of men and young boys. Over nine hundred thousand additional troops have been deployed



to completely ransack a population of over 8 million. In such chaos, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan are now the voice of the silenced people of Kashmir. It is a time of nobility and resolve to continue to tell the world what India is doing to the defenceless civilian population of Kashmir. But only when Pakistan was gearing up to the atrocities in Kashmir, the Indian Government exposed itself with the naked agenda of Hinduvta and hatred for Islam. After the events of August, the Supreme Court of India gave no clear verdict on over 140 petitions submitted to review the status of Jammu and Kashmir. Later on, in November, the Supreme Court gave a verdict allowing the construction of a Temple on the ruins of Babri Masjid. It seems that the Secularism and Rule of Law in India have utterly lost their meaning. In December 2019, the Modi Government unleashed the most aggressive legislation aimed at Muslims of not just Kashmir but India as whole with the Citizenship Act, which specifically targets Muslims to be non-citizens if they have moved into India even in the last 50 years. This is and was the motive of RSS, the Hindu extremist party whose founder members (Sarvarkar) use to idolize Adolf Hitler, and now that party is in control of BJP and the Government of India. Under Jawaharlal Nehru, India was always envisioned to be a secular state which was home to people of varied castes, creeds and religions. With these steps, India has obliterated its very foundation on which it achieved stability and progress. According to 2018 census, India has over 201 million Muslims. The Citizenship Act has shaken the nationalism of these 201 million and it is set to play out in the near future. Muslims across India, who never raised their voices against the oppression of Kashmiris, are now out on the streets fighting for their rights and those of their brethren in Kashmir. As the voices and the protests in Delhi, Bombay, UP and Calcutta are heard and seen by the international media, and the protest (mainly by Muslims) is being met with fierce force of the Indian BJP Government and goons, the stance of Pakistan and its

foundation seem to be more and more logical as time goes by. BJP and Narendra Modi have made a gross miscalculation by marginalizing the largest minority population of Muslims in the world, for the sake of a few votes from extremist Hindu majority areas. The whole fabric of society and their modern progress has been stripped in the face of Kashmir lockdown and Citizenship Act.

The international community and the United Nations are able to observe the stark differences between Pakistani Azad Kashmir and Indian Occupied Kashmir. This will be even more pronounced on the Kashmir Solidarity Day. Imran Khan, as the Ambassador of Kashmir, has made his mark on the world forums. His speech in the United Nations General Assembly was heard and applauded by nations across continents. It is because of efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that UN Security Council called a meeting on Kashmir. In a similar fashion, international media is providing historical coverage to the lockdown in Kashmir and highlighting the human rights abuses. The European Union in January, came close to passing a resolution condemning the actions taken by the police and Indian Army in Kashmir. The US Senate openly condemned the actions of Indian Army and Ms Omar, a US Senator, termed Kashmir "on verge of genocide". Even Xi Jinping of China, who is due to visit India on Friday has made remarks for freedom of Kashmiris and their fair treatment. Pakistan has risen amid the chaos as a voice of reason, tolerance, humanity and liberty. Time and again, Imran Khan made peace offerings to the Indian Government but these were reciprocated with negativity and violent outbursts. Muslims in India, not only in Kashmir but across India are being targeted via State terror, in the words of Shashi Tharoor, the Congress MP from Kerala, "As of today, Muhammad Ali Jinnah has won". As a Pakistani, it should make us proud and commemorate our great Father of the Nation, whose vision and determination saved us and our generations from violence of extremist Hindu ideology. And we, as a nation, on this Kashmir Day, must vow to stand by the

ideals of the Quaid as he stood his ground against the propaganda and cunning tricks of the extremist Hindu mindset 70 years ago. As India fractures itself on religious lines, Pakistan is committed to rallying under the flag of Muslim brotherhood and ideals of democracy, mutual respect and peace. Finally, Kashmir Day, is set to unite Government and non-Government bodies in Pakistan to join hands in making the case for freedom of India-occupied Kashmir. More than ever, Pakistanis and Kashmiris living abroad are also keen to present the bloodlust of Hindu extremism in India. War is not the solution to the Kashmir, and so, what appears to be a

stalemate, we are left with a few options of non-violence to support the Kashmiri cause. And although, the international community and the United Nations have failed to act against Indian aggression as it is required under International law, it is up to people of Pakistan to continue supporting the oppressed people of Kashmir in this hour of extreme pain and anguish, become their voice throughout the world for we must remember that the night is darkest just before dawn.

*.The writer is Chairman, Jinnah Rafi Foundation, based in Lahore.*

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## RESOLUTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

04-02-2020

On behalf of the honorable Members of the National Assembly of Pakistan. Emphasizing that 5th February is the international Day of Solidarity being marked all over the world to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir who are living under a state of siege since more than seven decades under a fierce and cruel Indian occupation, Expressing unflinching, unwavering and unstinting commitment of the people of Pakistan with the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) also expressing solidarity with our brothers and sisters in their historical for their freedom and rights, Honoring the courageous and the valiant people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and paying tribute to all those men, women and children who have laid down their lives fighting for their right of self-determination over seven decades, Reaffirming that Jammu and Kashmir remains the subject of an internationally recognized dispute that has been and continues to be on the agenda of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) since 1948, and affirmed by the subsequent relevant United Nation Security Council Resolutions, Recognizing that any political process held under the foreign occupation cannot be a substitute to the exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of the Jammu and Kashmir as provided in the relevant UNSC Resolutions, Reaffirming Pakistan's consistent political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people until the

realization of their legitimate right to self-determination as per the relevant United Nation Security Council Resolutions,

1. Condemn strongly the unilateral and illegal action of the Indian Government of August 5 and October 31 ,2019 and the subsequent illegal detentions, arrests, lockdown, communications blockade, media blackout in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, which have brought immense sufferings to the people of Kashmir;
2. Expresses grave concern at the continued presence of more than 900,000 military personnel thereby turning the entire valley into a virtual prison, and making it one of the most militarized areas of the world;
3. Condemns the past and present Indian atrocities, including detention of over 13,000 Kashmiri youth at undisclosed locations, the use of pellet guns by the Indian military against innocent civilians, and torture and humiliation of the ordinary civilians;
4. Expresses concern at the illegal detention and long incarceration of political leaders from different political parties, particularly the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders like Yasin Malik, Shabbir Shah who was first arrested when he was 14 years old and kept behind bars on and

off, presently more than 65 years of age and still in Jail, Syeda Asiya Andrabi kept behind bars for 11 years collectively, Syed Ali Gilani house arrested and Mir Waiz Umar Farooq house arrested, Dr. Qasim Faktu behind bars for 27 long years on a stretch, Masrat Alam in Jail for 19 years continuously and many such more political prisoners;

5. Strongly condemns the horrifying violence against women especially the use of rape as a weapon of war by the Indian occupation forces;
6. Deplores the impunity accorded to the Indian occupation forces by India's draconian laws, and the continuing restrictions on freedom of movement, and expression in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir constituting gross violation of fundamental rights the people of Kashmir;
7. Denounces India's deliberate targeting of civilian populations with the intensified ceasefire violations, which has led to the death of Kashmiris across the line of control, further threatening peace and Security in the region;
8. Expresses concern also at Indian strong-arm tactics to alter the demography through ethnic cleansing in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir in violation of the international human rights law including the 4th Geneva Convention;
9. Rejects totally the BJP Government's belligerence and warmongering inspired by the exclusionary Hindutva ideology in utter disregard of human rights laws and threatening to destroy peace and stability in the region, and reaffirms the unshakeable resolve of the Pakistani nation to thwart any Indian aggression;
10. Welcomes the United Nation Security Council Resolutions consultations of the 16th August 2019 and 15th January 2020 and acknowledge the internationally recognized nature of the dispute, and the gravity of the situation post August 5 and its implications for the regional peace and security;
11. Notes the Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of June 2018 and July 2019 documenting extensively the grave and systematic violations of human rights in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and endorses the call by the High Commissioner of the Human Rights Council to conduct a comprehensive

independent international investigation into the alleged human rights violations in Kashmir;'

12. Appreciates the role played by world leaders, statesmen and stateswomen, parliamentarians, human rights organizations, international media, and many countries, particularly China, Malaysia, Turkey, in raising their voice against Indian atrocities in IOJ&K
  13. Calls upon the United Nations Security Council to enforce a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions;
  14. Urges the Government of India to implement forthwith numerous pending United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir that call for a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations to determine the will of the people for the final disposition (resolution) of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;
  15. Demands that India immediately reverse and rescind its illegal action August 5, 2019 and October 31st 2019, repeal the draconian laws such as Public Safety Act (PSA) and Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), withdraw its occupation troops from Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and along the LOC and immediately lift its six month long inhuman lockdown, communication blockade and media blackout;
  16. Urges the United Nations Security Council Resolutions to compel India to allow Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan and call upon India to respect the UNMOGIP mandate accorded by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions;
  17. Demands that India immediately allow access to the international human rights and humanitarian organizations and Parliamentarians of the countries affiliated with United Nations as well as the international media to the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir so that they are able to assess and report the human rights situation there.
  18. Calls upon OIC to immediately convene OIC special summit on Kashmir.
- Speech of Prime Minister Pakistan on Kashmir Solidarity Day in Azad Jammu Kashmir Legislative Assembly Muzaffarabad



# KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY FRESH IMPETUS REQUIRED

**K**ashmir Solidarity Day is observed by Kashmiris and Pakistanis on February 5 each year and is a closed holiday in Pakistan. It is in observance of Pakistan's commitment to unity with the people of Indian-Occupied Kashmir (IOK), and to pay homage to Kashmiris who have been martyred in the conflict. Solidarity rallies are held in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and by the Kashmiri Diaspora all over the world. Kashmir Day was first proposed by Qazi Hussain Ahmad of the Jamaat-e-Islami in 1990. In 1991, the then-Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Nawaz Sharif called for a "Kashmir Solidarity Day Strike". Since then Kashmir Solidarity Day is observed regularly with solidarity rallies, seminars, tableaux and performances to remind the world of the sad plight of the people of IOK.

This year, the day is occurring six months after the questionable August 5 act of abrogating Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution, which provided IOK with autonomy and prohibited non-Kashmiris from acquiring property in the Valley or settling there. Resultantly, India annexed IOK and Ladakh to the Indian Union. The government was aware that the residents of IOK would come out in droves to protest the illegal Indian action, thus the Valley has been in a state of lockdown since.

For Pakistan this Kashmir Solidarity Day was a major challenge. Human rights organizations and international parliaments have generally been silent over the plight of Kashmiris. Last September, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan delivered an emotional speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Session. His speech was well received, and he met numerous world leaders

on the sidelines of the UNGA including US President Donald Trump. The US President was sympathetic to the plight of the Kashmiris and offered his good offices to mediate between Pakistan and India, but his gracious offer was turned down by the Indian Prime Minister on the plea that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between Pakistan and India. Since then two other acts of the current ruling dispensation in New Delhi have brought about roars of protest in India. The contentious anti-Muslim Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) allows Hindus, Christians and other religious minorities who are in India illegally to become citizens if they can show they were persecuted because of their religion in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It does not apply to Muslims. The National Register of Citizens (NRC), which excludes 1.9 million of northeastern Assam state's 33 million population. The NRC demanded the citizens to register themselves but the Muslims of Assam and elsewhere were barred from it so that they remain outside the reach of registration, deprived of their basic rights and if deemed necessary, forced to leave India.

"The requirement is that the atrocities being carried out by India including the employment of "Rape as a Weapon", must be highlighted effectively. Mere briefings by Pakistan's envoys will not have the same weightage as the Prime Minister, who has an iconic personality and is respected internationally, who must carry the torch himself. He has shown that he is an effective speaker while Kashmir is a subject close to his heart. Notwithstanding the fact that Pakistan itself is faced with



SULTAN M HALI

Myriad issues, which need the close attention of the Prime Minister, the time for adding impetus to raising the ante is now otherwise India would have devoured IOK and suppressed any domestic dissent, sealing the fate of Kashmiris and other Indian Muslims forever”

Throughout India, there have been massive rallies protesting the promulgation of both pieces of legislation, which were deemed as an usurpation of human rights. Interestingly, it is not just Muslims who are protesting the NRC and CAA, but citizens of various faiths including Hindus. The rallies have been led by the student community, who have been fired upon and a number of them have been killed.

The US Congress and European Parliaments have taken cognizance of the draconian piece of legislation in the form of CAA and NRC. They have asked India to reconsider. The sad part is that the largest Muslim body to redress grievances, the OIC, has remained silent at the Indian atrocities against Muslims.

Here Pakistan has been found wanting. Domestically it has made the right noises, holding rallies and organizing seminars. It has even motivated the Pakistani and Kashmiri diasporas to hold protest rallies in various capitals of the world. The requirement of the hour, however, is that the Prime Minister himself should have undertaken whirlwind tours calling on his counterparts in world capitals to explain the gravity of the situation. Pakistan’s Foreign Minister has made numerous visits abroad, while our Ambassadors accredited to different countries have been summoned to Islamabad and been provided

detailed briefings regarding the grim situation in Kashmir but that is not enough.

With every passing day, Narendra Modi’s government is getting emboldened despite the local remonstrations, which will die down. The Indian economy is in doldrums and unemployment is at an all-time high, which is acting as a catalyst for the students of its various universities to join the protest rallies, but it is Pakistan that needs to get its act together. India is already threatening that it will not talk to Pakistan regarding IOK, which it claims has become a part of the Indian Union. Modi’s government insists that parleys, if any, with Pakistan will be held regarding the state of Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, which India claims as its integral part and which thus must be returned to India. The requirement is that the atrocities being carried out by India including the employment of “Rape as a Weapon”, must be highlighted effectively. Mere briefings by Pakistan’s envoys will not have the same weightage as the Prime Minister, who has an iconic personality and is respected internationally, who must carry the torch himself. He has shown that he is an effective speaker while Kashmir is a subject close to his heart. Notwithstanding the fact that Pakistan itself is faced with myriad issues, which need the close attention of the Prime Minister, the time for adding impetus to raising the ante is now otherwise India would have devoured IOK and suppressed any domestic dissent, sealing the fate of Kashmiris and other Indian Muslims forever.

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London: President AJK, Sardar Masood Khan addressing a Kashmir conference organized by Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK at the House of Commons(04-02-2020)



London: President AJK, Sardar Masood Khan addressing the Women and Youth conference at the House of Commons organized by JKSDMI(04-02-2020).

## KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY ACTIVITIES





# MUZAFFARABAD AZAD KASHMIR



**Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan meeting with Parliamentary Leaders of AJK Legislative Assembly in Muzaffarabad on 5th February, 2020.**



**Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan meeting with representatives of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Muzaffarabad on 5th February, 2020.**







## SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN MUZAFFARABAD





## HUMAN CHAIN AT KOHALA



## KOHALA VOTING FOR RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION



## HUMAN CHAIN AT BRARKOT



## NEELUM AZAD KASHMIR







## HAVELI AZAD KASHMIR



## BAGH AZAD KASHMIR





## HATTIAN AZAD KASHMIR



## BHIMBER AZAD KASHMIR



## KOTLI AZAD KASHMIR



## MIRPUR AZAD KASHMIR



## SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN





# VOTING FOR RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION



## RAWALPINDI

# VOTING FOR RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION



## SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN





## LAHORE



## VOTING FOR RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION



## SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN







## KARACHI SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN



## DIFFERENT PART OF THE COUNTRY









# INTERNATIONAL



High Commissioner of Pakistan to UK, Mohammad Nafees Zakaria addressing at Kashmir Solidarity Day Seminar at the British Parliament, London



CHARGE D' AFFAIRES, SYED FAWAD SHER AND OTHERS ADDRESSING AT KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY CEREMONY HELD AT EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN IN TEHRAN ON FEBRUARY 05, 2020



AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN TO JAPAN, IMTIAZ AHMAD ADDRESSING KASHMIR SOLIDARITY DAY CEREMONY HELD AT EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN TOKYO ON FEBRUARY 05, 2020



Muhammad Saeed Sarwar, Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in UAE, addressing ceremony for observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day at Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi on February 05, 2020.



Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) has organized an event of candle light vigil in Brussels



## IOK annexation will lead to its independence:

**Imran**

Muzaffarabad (Mubashir Naqvi) Prime Minister Imran Khan



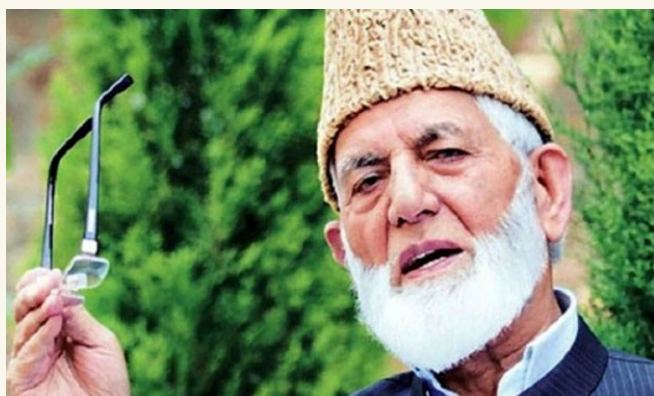
on Wednesday said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's annexation of occupied Kashmir would eventually lead to its independence. The prime minister was addressing a special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly as the nation observed Kashmir Solidarity Day on Wednesday. The premier said he believed occupied Kashmir would achieve independence as a result of the action Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken in the region on August 5, 2019. "If he had not taken that step, we could not have said anything to the world," the premier said, adding that prior to the events of August 2019, no one was paying attention to Indian atrocities in the valley. "On that day Modi made a fatal mistake, one that he could not step back from," the prime minister said. "Hopefully Kashmir will now move towards independence," Prime Minister Imran said. "Our job now is to inform the world about what is happening in the valley on all forums," he added. "They [India] cannot continue in this manner any longer. They have detained eight million people in an open jail." The prime minister warned that India's situation will continue to deteriorate with time. "In desperation, Modi said that he will defeat Pakistan in 11 days. The head of a country, giving such a statement when both countries in question are nuclear powers, cannot be normal. "His [Modi's] only aim is to please his Hindutva base. The last refuge of every scoundrel is patriotism. They hide behind nationalism and then make such claims," Imran said. "Worried people make such statements, and they are now worried." He urged the world to

not play into India's trap, predicting that they will either use terrorism as an excuse or conduct a false-flag operation to inflict more torture on the people of occupied Kashmir. Proceeded to do so had we not raised the issue in front of the whole world. They have stated that they wish to change the region's demography, from a Muslim-majority to a Muslim-minority. "We should not give them any chance. This is a political, and a diplomatic fight as well as in the media. And for the first time since the 60s, international media is presenting Pakistan's stance," he added. Commenting on "Islamic terrorism", Imran said: "Religion and terrorism are not linked. Since 9/11, Muslims have been persecuted due to Islamic terrorism. Therefore, we have to be very careful about what their game plan is." Imran acknowledged that the issue "drifted" after it was raised at the UN General Assembly, at a time when it was at its peak, due to the "storm that was headed to Islamabad" an apparent reference to the Maulana Fazlur Rehman-led sit-ins against the government last year. However, the issue has now entered the world's political arenas, Imran said. "We will inform them of what is going on in the occupied valley." The premier ended his address by reiterating that Modi's actions will lead to freedom for occupied Kashmir. Earlier, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider warned Prime Minister Imran against accepting United States' offer to mediate on the Kashmir dispute, saying that such a move would only benefit India. During his address in the AJK Legislative assembly, Haider said that after August 5, 2019, today was the first time Pakistan had expressed solidarity with Azad Jammu and Kashmir and its people. "As a Kashmiri I want to make a request to you. Begin national reconciliation in Pakistan. Raise yourself above everyone else and take everyone along," Haider said. "You are the prime minister of the country. We respect you and have some expectations from you. Please end these fights on TV talk shows, this has really divided the country." Haider said the West had put Pakistan in "shackles" which "we need to remove". "This can only happen when there is national unity and consensus of opinion in the country," he added. The AJK premier said that his government

was cognisant of the challenges being faced by Pakistan and was thankful that, despite the difficulties, Islamabad continued to stand by the Kashmiris. “I hope you didn't mind anything I said,” the AJK premier said as he wrapped up his address. “We are with you and will not let Pakistan's flag come down in Kashmir.” Prime Minister Imran began his address by responding to the AJK premier's address, saying he was a democrat because the history of the world had proven that democracy was the best system. He said that as far as “consensus-building” was concerned, he stood with the AJK premier but added that “reconciliation with the corrupt” was something he did not support. “One thing I want to tell the AJK parliament is that don't lose hope,” he said, adding: “Losing hope means you have lost faith in God.” “Indeed it is a very difficult time for the country. But I have no doubt the country will not only manage to find its way out of these difficult times but will eventually become a great nation.” The assembly session began with the AJK and Pakistan anthems. Legislative Assembly Speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir welcomed Prime Minister Imran as well as the other government officials who were accompanying the premier.

### **Gilani praises Pakistan's role for highlighting Kashmir cause**

Says Islamabad's support a source of inspiration for Kashmiris



Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, the Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Syed Ali Gilani, has expressed gratitude to the people and the government of Pakistan for observing the 5th February every year as Kashmir Solidarity Day. Syed Ali Gilani in a statement issued in Srinagar, today, said this year the day has attained special importance as it is being observed in the

backdrop of India's August 5, 2019, illegal move of stripping occupied Jammu and Kashmir of its special status in contravention of international norms and the United Nations resolutions. The APHC Chairman said that New Delhi's last year's unilateral actions are aimed at fully integrating occupied Kashmir with India and thereby fulfilling the long-held desire of Hindutva forces. He said time has come for Pakistan to send a solid and clear message to the world in general and India in particular that it will never ever accept India's unilateral actions and whatever be the cost it will not sit idle until the Kashmiri people are given their inalienable right to self-determination and this year's Kashmir Solidarity Day provides the best platform for it. The veteran pro-freedom leader said that people in occupied Kashmir were challenging a big power which is being run by RSS-backed fascist forces and Pakistan was the only country which had been offering persistent and categorical support to the Kashmiris' right to self-determination. Syed Ali Gilani hailed Pakistan's diplomatic efforts post August 5 moves to highlight the Kashmir cause and Indian excesses at the international level and said it was because of this role that two meetings of the UN Security Council were held to discuss the Kashmir dispute in the past six months and international media and rights organizations had bitterly criticized New Delhi for its massive human rights violations. The APHC Chairman urged Pakistan to double its efforts to raise the plight of the Kashmiri people at all the international platforms at a time when India has unleashed a reign of terror in Kashmir and night raids, beatings, detentions on mere suspicion and killings have become a routine. He lamented that the entire occupied Kashmir has been turned into a prison and stressed that Pakistan needs to exhibit persistence and steadfastness in impressing on the world to initiate urgent and effective measures to stop the Indian state terrorism against the Kashmiri people and take practical steps to resolve the Kashmir dispute. He pointed out Pakistan is a prime party to the Kashmir dispute and no lasting solution to it is possible without its



active involvement. While maintaining that Pakistan's unflinching support to the Kashmir cause had always been a source of strength for the Kashmiris, Syed Ali Gilani said the fact that Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute and UN resolutions are pending in this regard.

### **65 martyred, 922 injured in IOK during 6-month siege**

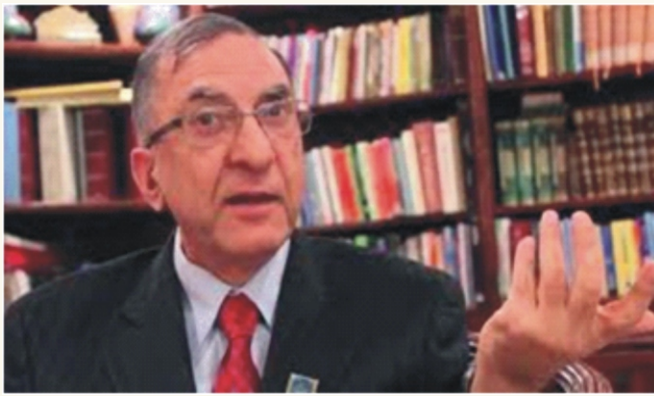
Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops have martyred 65 Kashmiris including 2 women and 4 young boys during the ongoing 6-month long siege and lockdown in the territory. According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, on the completion of six months of unprecedented military lockdown, today; of those martyred seven youth were killed in fake encounters or custody. India had revoked the special status of occupied Kashmir on 5th August, last year, and put the territory under military siege. The report said that during the period, at least 922 people were critically injured due to firing of bullets, pellets and teargas shells on peaceful demonstrators by Indian military, paramilitary and police personnel in the occupied territory. It said that thousands of Hurriyat leaders, activists, politicians and civil society members including APHC Chairman Syed Ali Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Ghulam Muhammad Hubbi, Bar President Mian Abdul Qayoom, human rights activist, Muhammad Ahsan Untoo, and Bar General Secretary, Muhammad Ashraf Butt, continued to remain under house arrest or in jails. The report said that the troops molested 42 women after barging into the residential houses in the period. The occupation authorities also did not allow people to offer Juma prayers for 19 consecutive weeks at historical Jamia Masjid in Srinagar after August 5, it said. The report said that although uneasy calm and uncertainty prevailed in the Kashmir Valley, yet life was badly affected there as restrictions under Section 144 remained enforced. The increasing cordon and search operations have also added to the miseries of the already suffering people of the occupied territory, it added. KMS

### **Kashmir Solidarity Day: KC-EU holds candlelight vigil in Belgian capital**

BRUSSELS: The Kashmir Council-European Union (KC-EU) on Wednesday organised a candlelight vigil in the Belgian capital in order to express solidarity with oppressed people of occupied Kashmir. The programme was arranged on Tuesday's evening in connection with the Kashmir Solidarity Day at Place du Luxembourg across the European Parliament and continued on despite heavy rain and unpleasant weather. A large number of people, representatives of various NGOs, and members of human rights organisations participated. The vigil went on for hours, with people from different segments of the society expressing their sympathy with the people of Kashmir, the Muslim-majority, Himalayan region that has been under a lock-down after India unilaterally scrapped its special status on August 5, 2019. Expressing solidarity with Kashmiris, who have suffered brutalities at the hands of Indian troops over the past seven decades, KC-EU Chairperson Ali Raza Syed said the situation in the region had become severer after India's move to revoke Article 370 and impose a curfew. Condemning New Delhi's atrocities against and genocide of Kashmiris, Syed paid tribute to the oppressed but brave people struggling for their right to self-determination. "We will continue our support to the people of Kashmir till suitable resolution of the Kashmir dispute," he said. "People of Kashmir are struggling peacefully for right to self-determination and there should be plebiscite under United Nations supervision in order to make clear political fate of the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir." Other speakers pointed out that the deployment of 800,000 Indian troops in occupied Kashmir was a proof of the large-scale human rights violations. Indian authorities were actively suppressing the peaceful mass movement of innocent Kashmiris by the use of force and brutalities, including massacre. The participants demanded that the UN and EU should play their role for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue and urged human rights organisations to pressurise India to stop the rights abuses.

### **Kashmir Solidarity Day event hails people under siege in IOK**

New York (KMS): An event in connection with the Kashmir Solidarity Day was organized by the All Pakistani American Council in New York to highlight the



Kashmir issue at the international level. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum speaking at the event said, “The unflinching resistance by the people of Kashmir is a living proof that they are not going to compromise, far less abandon, their demand for Azadi (freedom) which is their birthright and for which they have paid a price in blood and suffering which has not been exacted from any other people of the South Asian subcontinent.” He said, “The participation of Pakistani American community in highlighting the issue of Kashmir at the international level couldn't be forgotten by the people of Kashmir. And they deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the people of Kashmir, who are literally under siege since August 5, 2019.”

Fai added, “Kashmir continues to bleed. We see the horrendous brutality, unstopped and unpunished barbarities unleashed against the defenseless population. A deliberate, systematic and officially sanctioned massive campaign of brutal oppression launched against the people of Kashmir is still on the increase. There is a deliberate targeting of youth in flimsy hopes to crush a legitimate and popular uprising against occupation. The irony is that the impunity that is being granted to the violator of human rights is not in the context of a new dispute. It is being allowed to arise and to persist in a territory which, under international law, is not part of any member state of the United Nations and whose status is yet to be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under supervision and control of the United Nations.” Fai quoted Srinagar based NGO, The Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP), which said: “Post abrogation of Article 370 by the Indian

Parliament, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been in a state of siege and lockdown; the lockdown has egregiously affected the daily lives of the people living in the valley. Fai also quoted Human Rights Watch, which issued a report on January 14, 2020, “The Indian government's actions in Kashmir have led to loss of livelihood and access to education. The repression resulted in international criticism including in the United States' Congress, the European Parliament, and the United Nations Human Rights Council.” He said Kashmiris want peace but peace with dignity and honor. No country whatsoever has the right to decide the fate of Kashmir saying that it were the people of Kashmir who were granted the right to determine the political future.

The United Nations has the opportunity to affect a positive resolution to the conflict and resulting humanitarian situation by promoting the conditions of the original mandate. It is only through international recognition and inclusive representations that a genuine and lasting peace can ensue. The risks of maintaining the status quo for Kashmir, South Asia and the world are too great to ignore, Fai added.

Dr. Fai urged the Trump administration to place Kashmir on its radar screen, because of the American and international consensus that Kashmir pinched between nuclear-capable India and Pakistan is the most dangerous place on the planet. Now is no time for complacency or temporizing. The nuclear clock is moving forward, not backward. And the chilling suffering and misery of the Kashmiri people continues every day a peaceful resolution is deferred.

Senator Captain Khalid Shaheen said that Pakistan has always stood by the side of Kashmir's demand for a plebiscite, because they felt cheated when India invaded Kashmir. According to agreements then in place in 1947, majority Muslim provinces within British India would have joined the new state of Pakistan while those primarily Hindu would have stayed in what remained of India. Kashmir was very solidly Muslim with only a small minority of Hindu and other communal groupings,



and a plebiscite would have determined whether or not Kashmir would choose to join Pakistan instead of India. He said the killings of innocent civilians in Indian occupied Kashmir must shake the conscience of all peace loving people. He condemned the efforts to muzzle the press and further expressed need to restore the right to assemble and freedom of expression in Indian occupied Kashmir

We stand in solidarity with the people of the occupied Kashmiris. We condemn in the strongest terms the ban on Internet, social media and restrictions on freedom of opinion and freedom of assembly, said Senator Shaheen.

Sardar Sawar Khan, former advisor to the prime minister of Azad Kashmir said that it was our duty to support the people of Kashmir who are struggling for their right to self-determination. Our objective is to draw the attention of the world powers to the situation in Kashmir and to exert pressure on the government of India and to resolve dispute over Kashmir and help stop human right violations in Indian occupied Kashmir.

Sardar Sawar said that the way the Kashmiri youth is confronting the Indian forces and turning the entire Kashmiri movement into a peaceful resistance not only impresses the people of Jammu and Kashmir but also international community. He added that today the mantle of the freedom struggle of Kashmir has been successfully passed on to the younger generation and they are resolute and determined to take it to its logical conclusion.

Nothing better can be said about human rights there. Every human rights group that has examined the convulsed scene in Kashmir has reported harrowing human rights violations, including tens of thousands of extrajudicial killings, rape, torture, plunder, arbitrary arrests, and ruthless suppression of free speech and press, Sardar Sawar added.

Sardar Amerjit Singh Ji, leader of Khalistan Affairs Center in the United States voiced deep regret over betrayal of Indian Government of her high-minded ideals in Kashmir that marked its entry into the family of nations after long years under the British raj: shocking human

rights violations and contempt for international law and binding self-determination resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. He urged the community of nations to seize this opportunity to promote an initiative towards bringing about conditions necessary for settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

Sardar Amerjit Singh Ji urged the United States to resist the temptation to jettison its traditional foreign policy championing democracy and human rights in the case of Kashmir and Punjab for in the name of big power politics or economic opportunities in India. Down that road lies a troublesome blow to international law and amity.

Dr. Singh informed the audience that Sikhs all over the world are waiting for November 2020 when they will participate in the referendum to decide the future of Khalistan.

Sheikh Touqeer Haq of APAC said that the resolution of Kashmir issue could have enabled both Pakistan and India to spend their finite resources more on the development of their people rather than on defense expenditure. He expressed his admiration to the Pakistani and Kashmiri American community for being the advocates of peace in the United States for the cause of Kashmir. He said that it is indubitable that the Indian army has committed thousands of human rights violations in Kashmir.

He expressed his unconditional moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir for a just and peaceful solution to the long-standing dispute. He said that we stand shoulder to shoulder with our Kashmiri brethren. He said that defying all odds, the brave desire and aspirations of the Kashmiris for liberty and justice remain strong forever.

Mr. Muhammad Hussain, Co-Chairman of APAC said, "An iron-fisted military rule has prevailed in Kashmir, featuring a staggering 900,000 soldiers and paramilitary personnel. Human rights atrocities against non-combatants are commonplace. He discounted the United Nations hopes that the dispute could be settled through bilateral peaceful talks between India and Pakistan.

Bilateral talks and negotiations over Kashmir between parties have proven sterile for 72 years, and nothing in that dismal equation has changed.”

He said that It is a purely peoples movement inspired from within which aims at regaining the freedom and economic justice that the foreign occupation has usurped. The community of nations must seize this opportunity to promote an initiative towards bringing about conditions necessary for settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

Sardar Taj Khan said the people of Kashmir have suffered long and needlessly because of this brutal conflict. They demand and they deserve peace. Peace in the region of South Asia remains elusive because of the Kashmir dispute. The inalienable right to self-determination enshrined in the United Nations Charter and promised to the people of Kashmir by the international community, continues to be denied. He said that the whole world knows the magnitude of carnages committed by Indian army in Kashmir but they have yet to utter a word of condemnation. Mr. Roed Dar of PMLN said that it is gravely sinful for any nation to remain silent or passive over frightful human rights violations anywhere in the world, including Kashmir. He underlined that the way to a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue lies in tripartite negotiations between India, Pakistan and the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. He said that it was absolutely necessary to have third party mediation because history shows that bilateral arrangements have never worked out, as India is always insincere.

Mr. Khalid Awan of PPP said that India's war crimes in Kashmir are notorious. Soldiers kill civilians with impunity. Indeed, Indian law grants virtual legal immunity to any type of war crime or crime against humanity perpetrated in Kashmir. Col. Maqbool Malik said that Kashmir's painful situation is a rebuke to the world powers for their passivity. The world powers need to know that unless India accepts the realities known to the entire world outside the dispute will fester; and that any solution must satisfy democratic principles, the rule of law, and security for every inhabitant of Kashmir. He

emphasized that the brutalities of Indian government cannot and should not go unnoticed. It is the responsibility of the Kashmiri diaspora to be the voice of voiceless people in the corridors of powers all over the world.

Mr. James Cyprian, the Secretary General of Pakistan Christian Association of North America said that we fail to understand why world powers do not want the Kashmiri participation in the talks when the right to choose the destiny of 23 million people was given by the UN Security Council to the inhabitants of the territory and not to the leadership in New Delhi or Islamabad. Any attempt to strike a deal between any two parties without associating the third, will always lead us to a barren land. So, the future negotiations must be tripartite between all parties concerned.”

Mr. Vakil Ansari said Kashmir being a nuclear flash point should be a major interest of the world powers to prevent this dispute from exploding into a conflict which can be catastrophic for a large proportion of the human race. Yet, ever since the start of the popular uprising in 1990 against alien military occupation, United States has remained unmoved by the killings of tens of thousands of innocent civilians in Kashmir. Mr. Arshad Khan said that we are not asking military intervention. Neither are we asking for rugged economic sanctions. We are asking only that the United States exercise its high international bully pulpit to reproach or condemn India for its chilling human rights record in Kashmir as part of a campaign of moral suasion and transparency in the disputed territory.

Mr. Khurram Khan, the Co-Chairman of APAC enumerated the prevailing draconian laws, like Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) which has given the total impunity to the Indian army in Kashmir. An Indian soldier can shoot to kill at will and he will not be accountable to any body or any agency for any prosecution. He added that the Hurriyat leaders have always impressed upon the people of Kashmir to express their dissent in a peaceful manner. The presence of millions of people on the streets of Kashmir cannot be



termed as extremists or terrorist. The massive peaceful demonstration has been reflection of the indigenous nature of the Kashmiri resistance movement. Young human rights activist, Ms. Fatima Zulqurnain Khan said that the world powers need to intervene in setting a stage for the resolution of Kashmir. She said that the world powers do not need to take side of either India or Pakistan. However, as the members of humanity, we need to take side of justice and freedom. We as humans need to be the voice of voiceless. Mr. Zameer Khan said that vandalism is used to terrorize Kashmiris. Mobs of soldiers routinely go through neighborhoods breaking windows with large stones, upending autos and motorcycles, setting fire to trucks, and anything else left

vulnerable to their attack. Occasionally they will shoot at the people inside, and many have been killed or injured with buckshot right in their own homes. Children and housewives have frequently been victims.

Ms. Shabana said that the truth is that the people of Kashmir themselves have always been hostile to the presence of India's troops on their soil and have resisted to such oppression, and over hundred thousand Kashmiris have died within the past 30 years alone. Long-standing agreements at the United Nations in place have in fact afforded the Kashmiri people the right to determine their own destiny. Others who spoke included: Ms. Amna Habib, Sardar Hikmat Singh, Sardar Mehmood, SherKhan, Haji Shari Khan and others.



**Funeral Prayer of Raja Izhar Khan, a leader of Kashmiri refugeeet**

## **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IOK**

**(From Jan 1989 till Jan 31,2020)**

<b>(From Jan 1989 till Jan 31,2020)</b>	
Total Killings *	95,496
Custodial Killings	7,136
Civilian arrested	158,506
Structures Arsoned/Destroyed	109,462
Women Widowed	22,911
Children Orphaned	107,784
Women gang-raped / Molested	11,178



