


Monthly

KASHMIR TODAY


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Let's legality prevail over Kashmir dispute

There is a basic contradiction between what India proclaims and what Indian Constitution warrants. Since mid-1950s, successive Indian leadership has been claiming that Kashmir is integral part of Indian Union. Whereas, the fact is that Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK) is being ruled by India, through Article 370 of its Constitution. Article 370 is drafted in part XXI of the Indian Constitution and clearly relates to the "Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions" concerning Kashmir. No other Indian State is being ruled through this article, which clearly depicts that Kashmir is not integral Indian State like other Indian states. Indian political leadership has been misleading the world through false and illegal claim in total violation of its own Constitution and UN resolutions. In order to know the reality of Indian claim on Kashmir, there is need to understand the historical context of Indian partition and subsequent events. On 03 June 1947, the British Indian Government announced partition of the Subcontinent into two Dominions; 'India and Pakistan'. As per Article 7 of the Act, it was clearly stated that from 15th August 1947, "the suzerainty of His Majesty over the Indian states lapse and with it lapses all treaties and agreements enforce at the date of the passing of this Act between His Majesty and the rulers of Indian states". Apart from

Kashmir, there were over five hundred sixty princely states in British India at the time of its partition. As per Indian Independence Act, all agreements of British governments with either rulers or states also lapsed on 15th of August 1947. Since the state of Jammu and Kashmir was a Princely State with a special autonomous status, therefore, it can be very conveniently said that on 15th day of August 1947, the Maharaja Sir Hari Singh was not the legal ruler of the state of Jammu and Kashmir as all his treaties with British India lapsed on that day. Once he was not a legal ruler of the state, he had no right to sign the instrument of accession (if at all he signed that) with the new Indian dominion. This title to the state was granted to him by the British Government (East India Company) under the Treaty of Amritsar (Kashmir Sale deed) signed on 16 March 1846 and lapsed on the appointed day of 15th August 1947. Besides this act, on July 25, 1947 in his address to special full meetings of the Chamber of Princes held in New Delhi, Lord Mountbatten categorically told all princes of Princely States that they were practically free to join any one of dominions; India or Pakistan. He however clarified that, while acceding to any dominion they could take into account geographical contiguity and wishes of the people. In case of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, either of the above factors

was favouring state's accession to Pakistan, which was not implemented, the first and most significant violation of Indian Independence Act.

The Indian claim that its forces landed at Srinagar Airport on October 27, 1947, only after signatures on Instrument of Accession by Maharaja and the Indian government, is also fabricated and nothing else but a lie. Indeed, a heavy contingent of Patiala State was involved in fighting against



Dr. Muhammad Khan

the Kashmiri rebellion in Uri Sector on 18 October 1947, which means that they were very much inside the State's territory much earlier than October 27, 1947. On 24 October 1947, Kashmiris formally declared their independence from Dogra Raj and established their own government with the name of Azad (Free) Kashmir Government. Following this Maharaja Hari Singh sent his deputy Prime Minister R L Batra to New Delhi, requesting Indian military assistance. The Indian Government however, conditioned the military assistance with state's accession to India, which Maharaja Harisingh never desired. Two well-known British historians; Alastair Lamb and Victoria Schofield have contested the signing of any Instrument of Accession by Maharaja Harisingh with India, at least before

October 27, 1947. Nevertheless, even if there was an instrument of accession between Maharaja Hari Singh and Indian government, it provides a number of safeguards to the state's sovereignty, e.g. Clause 7 of the instrument says, "Nothing in this instrument shall be deemed to commit me in any way to acceptance of any future constitution of India ...". If it is accepted that there was an instrument of accession, signed by the Maharaja and Indian government, even then, it clearly states that "after the restoration of law and order in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and the expulsion of the raiders, its future will be decided in accordance with the wishes of the people of the State." A top-secret letter addressed to British

Government by Mr Alexander Symon, UK High Commissioner to India, also negates any accession treaty. Another significant fact is that, had there been any accession treaty between the state of Jammu & Kashmir and the Indian Government, why it could not be published in the Indian White Paper of 1948? Besides, as per UN resolutions; 2017 of 30 March 1951 and 3779 of 24 January 1957, Kashmir Constituent Assembly cannot pass any resolution for accession with any state. loK Legislative Assembly cannot declare Kashmir as integral part of India as per the provisions of these resolutions. In summary, Indian claim over the State of Jammu and Kashmir is completely illegitimate and

unsubstantiated. India is negating its own constitution, commitment of its leadership with Kashmiris, UN resolutions, Pakistan and international community. Indian leadership should realise this and adopt a realistic approach for the solution of this outstanding issue, rather endeavouring to abrogate Article 370 and Article 35A of its constitution.

Let's legality prevail over Kashmir dispute and UN settle it in accordance with its resolutions and as per the wishes of Kashmiri masses.

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

Kashmir dispute in perspective

M Yahya Mujahid

The issue is not only of strategic, political and economic significance but also of ideological centrality. When the Creator of the Universe spread the earth, He so beautifully joined the Valley of Kashmir with Pakistan through its rivers, mountains, water channels and land routes as if nails are attached to a person's fingers or head is artistically placed over our body. The ancient historians agree to the fact that Kashmiris interacted with the outer world in the areas which now form part of Pakistan. They used the area for their transportation and trade with Central Asia and other regions. The remains of the small route on the bank

of River Jhelum are still present on which the people of the area would walk while the Kings and Knights would travel by riding on horses or elephants. In 1880, the Dogra rulers constructed a road on the left side of the River Jhelum. Through this road, the vehicles moved from Srinagar, and via Muzaffarabad would reach Raja Bazar of Rawalpindi. From that period till today, despite passing hundreds of years, this route always remained open. Even the cruellest of tyrants never closed this route and never banned travelling of human beings to and from the region. This route was forcibly closed for the very first time in 1947. The second route of

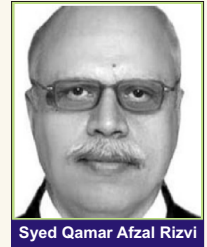
the Valley was from Jammu to Sialkot. The All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference (AJKMC) formally declared for annexation with Pakistan 27 days before the day of partition. This resolution was basically a resolution of annexation of Islam. India entered its troops into the Valley on October 27, 1947. It is a fact that the Kashmiris are sacrificing their life and wealth till now only because Pakistan was created in name of Islam. Though recently they have written new and glorious accounts of resilience through matchless sacrifices, but even long ago the people of Kashmir have been presenting their lives for sake of

Islamic Pakistan. In the extreme cold weather, children, old men, and women are kept standing under the open sky for hours. They face all these pains for the greater cause of freedom and to join Pakistan. When they gather for funeral of a martyr, they would risk their lives. During funeral prayers, they are not spared. When the Indian army sees them offering funeral prayers of the body wrapped in the Pakistani flag, they would open indiscriminate fire on them. The Kashmiris would take bloodbath, but they would again gather whenever there is next funeral. Nothing could make them scared. No level of tyranny, oppression or brutality would restrain them from their goal of freedom. They are given electric shocks in jails, tortured to the worst levels, thrown alive in chemicals, but they would not stop demanding freedom. Further, a large number of youths have been blinded by pellet guns, faces have been defaced, clots of blood would stick in their eyes, many have got asthma and breathing problems. Many youngsters have become handicapped. They are unable to continue their education, and their future has become a big question mark. Businesses have severely been affected due to routines of suffocating curfews and people have lost millions in this situation. Many respectable leaders such as Syed Ali Gilani, Syed Shabbir Shah, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Yasin Malik, Masarat Alam Bhat and several others have continuously been kept in detention. Even, the Indian authorities have accelerated their

campaign to transform the demographic structure and nature of Jammu & Kashmir. They are obliging and rewarding many of the families of the retired military officials whoever years ago "served" in Jammu & Kashmir by offering them homes and lands. Indian oppressive rule in Jammu & Kashmir is the worst picture of modern imperialism. Killings, abductions, maiming and torturing have become a routine matter. In the face of all these Indian machinations, the Kashmiri youth is standing firm like a rock in front of India's tyranny and state terrorism. Nastiest human rights violations and vilest despotism are unable to deter the youth from pelting stones and raising slogans against the occupation with Pakistani flags in their hands or wearing on their heads. Look at their unshakeable courage and tenacity. Sky-piercing slogans for their allegiance to Pakistan and declaring Kalima as the cause of this connection; "Pakistan sy rishta kya, La ilaha il Allah." They have practically demonstrated their resolve to fight till the last Indian soldier is in the area. When, despite all the Kashmiris' sacrifices, India calls Jammu-Kashmir as its integral part, the people of the territory look towards Pakistan. But our authorities, in response, would apologise for their "limitations" and problems. The Pakistani rulers and policymakers have failed to understand that many of Pakistan's regional and internal issues including water, India's sponsorship of terrorism, Sir-Creek, Siachen, trade and economic issues

are directly or indirectly linked to Indo-Pak dispute over Jammu & Kashmir. Everyone knows that the Kashmiris are under perpetual and intense pressure from India and our casual attitude won't suffice for them. Just for the sake of formality, we observe the 5th of February as the Day of Solidarity with Kashmiris. This lip-service is not enough, and the seriousness of the issue demands practical efforts and concerted campaign against the tyrant India. The Pakistanis need to come forward. We must make the Kashmiris realise through our actions that they are not alone in their struggle. Our great Quaid Muhammad Ali Jinnah's next mission after the creation of Pakistan was to win freedom for Kashmiris by freeing the jugular vein from India's clutches. Pakistan is not complete without Jammu & Kashmir, and Pakistan's economy is heavily dependent on the waters of Jammu & Kashmir. Kashmir has entered into a critical and decisive phase, and it needs Pakistan's and its people's support more than earlier. This momentum the issue has gained through continuous sacrifices must not go wasted. These are rarest of the moments, and it would be sheer improvidence to lose the singular chance of the Kashmiris freedom. Pakistan must make strong decisions for Pakistan's unalienable national interests. The day of 25 December marks as a historic day for Pakistanis. It was 1876 same date when father of nation, worthy Quaid-i-Azam was born. The writer is freelance columnist.

Kashmir clarion call for justice



Syed Qamar Afzal Rizvi

Truly undeniable today in Kashmir, the humanity is crying for justice where Indian security forces are engaged ad infinitum, brutalizing, terrorizing, arresting and killing the hapless Kashmiris. The Vale witnessed a complete shutdown on Feb 05 in order to protest against Indian policy of ruthless occupation. While having an insight into the current HR situation in Kashmir, we find no let and confusion to infer that Indian state policies in Kashmir are grossly violating the very instruments of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) the core of UN's Human Rights Charter. Veritably, IHL and IHRL law are two distinct but complementary bodies of law. Both these laws are fundamentally concerned with the protection of the life, health and dignity of individuals. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) applies in armed conflicts while International Human Rights Law (IHRL) applies at all times, in peace and in war. The UN role is instrumental in this regard.

While looking into Kashmiris' affairs, we see that they are the people dying everywhere getting massacred in every town and village, there are the people being picked up and thrown into dark jails in unknown parts, there are dungeons in the city where hundreds of young men are kept in

heavy chains and from where many never seem to have emerged alive, there are thousands who have disappeared leaving behind women with photographs and perennial waiting, there were multitudes of dead bodies on the roads, in hospital beds, in fresh martyrs' graveyards and scattered casually on the snow of mindless borders." This is what an irrefutable estimate given by the author Mirza Waheed in his book "The Collaborator" describing Indian atrocities in Kashmir.

The recently published UN report unravels the facts that the Indian security forces use excessive force that leads to unlawful killings and a very high number of injuries, the report says, citing civil society estimates that up to 145 civilians were killed by the security forces between mid-July 2016 and the end of March 2018, with up to 20 other civilians killed by armed groups in the same period. One of the most dangerous weapons used against protesters in 2016 and which is still being employed by security forces was the pellet-firing shotgun.... And 6,221 people were injured by the metal pellets. Civil society organizations believe that many of them have been partially or completely blinded"

Since international human rights law prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of life under any circumstances and veritably the government of India is a

party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), there

seems a valid question about Indian infringement of the ICCPR. Truly, Article 6 of the ICCPR expressly prohibits derogation from the right to life. Thus, even during time of emergency, "[n]o one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life." Furthermore, the ICCPR also prohibits torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Articles 4 and 7 of the ICCPR explicitly ban torture, even in times of national emergency or when the security of the state is threatened. "Impunity for human rights violations and lack of access to justice are key human rights challenges in the state of Jammu and Kashmir," the UN report says, noting that the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act 1990 (AFSPA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act 1978 (PSA) have "created structures that obstruct the normal course of law, impede accountability and jeopardize the right to remedy for victims of human rights violations."

The AFSPA prohibits prosecution of security forces personnel unless the Indian Government grants prior permission to prosecute. "This gives security forces virtual immunity against prosecution for any human

a single prosecution of armed forces personnel granted by the central government," the report says. It is justifiably argued and solicited that India should urgently repeal the AFSPA; establish independent, impartial and credible investigations to probe all civilian killings since July 2016 and all abuses committed by armed groups; and provide reparations and rehabilitation to all injured individuals and to the families of those killed in the context of security operations. Similarly, the PSA should be amended to ensure its compliance with international human rights law, and all those held under administrative detention should either be charged or immediately released.

Given the political and humanistic dimensions of the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan, it clearly vindicates that the issue has long been entered into a very

sensitizing stage: "This is not a conflict frozen in time; but a conflict that has robbed millions of their basic human rights, and continues to this day to inflict untold suffering," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. Since the humanitarian argumentation holds that Human Rights are far more than a political platform in today's world, there arises the imperative that the HR values must be considered paramount beyond any means of expediencies entailed by Government policies. The life scenario of Kashmiris is honeycombed with manifold human rights' transgressions by the Indian government that tell us awesome stories engulfed in misery, plight and pain. To live freely and independently is the fundamental right of every Kashmiri citizen provided to them by the credo of UN's Charter of Human rights. Conclusively, the human

rights are under great threats posed by the security operations, doctrines and laws practiced by the Indian government in Kashmir.

Therefore, the Human Rights Council must take action in Kashmir as it has had taken in the Gaza conflict by creating 'the United Nations Fact Finding Mission' to investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the occupying power, India against Kashmiris in India-occupied Kashmir. And also the UNSC P5 must play role of 'collective responsibility' in this matter.

The writer, an independent 'IR' researcher-cum- analyst based in Pakistan, is member of European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on IR, Critical Peace & Conflict Studies, also a member of European Society of International Law (ESIL).

UDHR & brutalities in IoK

Muzaffar Ali

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) remains as relevant today as it was on the day in 1948, when it was proclaimed and adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly. A document that, for the first time, articulated the rights and the freedom for which every human being is equally and inalienably entitled. Its global nature is a yardstick by which we measure right and wrong. The members of United Nations are

signatories to this document, which having extraordinary vision to safeguard all human beings in this universe from discriminatory treatment by the states or otherwise. Either kingdoms or democracies but unfortunately, despite having such a golden document, there are dire illustrations that even in most of member states of United Nations, the human beings are being subjugated to, against their will and wishes by the states but UN discriminatorily ignores

rather strengthens such violations of superpowers against the oppressed people within their domination. Kashmir and Palestine are the chronic and popular instances in this regard. Kashmir is under forceful occupation of India since 1947 but people in occupied Kashmir never ever surrendered to the atrocities of Indian governments from the day 1st of their occupation. Indian government, once in history, scared and could not control the struggle of

People of Kashmir and to rescue herself went to UN, seeking its help in resolving the issue. The UN passed various resolutions, calling for holding a plebiscite in the State. The resolutions were accepted by India. Prominent leaders of India also repeatedly promised to hold plebiscite. However, they rescinded from their promises with the passage of time, strengthening India's control through atrocities extended by the Indian army, imposing black laws and their implementation. At this juncture, I really emotionally want to appreciate the tolerance and persistent struggle of Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir. They really do not bow their heads; India failed to overcome the indigenous struggle and protest of Kashmiris against the pandemonium and forceful occupation of their motherland. They are sacrificing their lives; they are standing in front of Indian Army to face their bullets.

Kashmiris always launch their protest and invite the attention of international community, particularly, those powers who are signatories to UDHR, to take notice of violations and cruelties extended by the Indian Army against the armless Kashmiris. Stunning, international community, UNO and international powerful states have forgotten the golden document of universal declaration of human rights and have turned deaf and dumb towards severe human issues in occupied Kashmir, but the Kashmiris never abandoned and their struggle is gaining momentum day by day. They

didn't lose their hearts that is why they have fixed 5th February a day of their solidarity all over the world to prick the international community's conscience to rise against Indian atrocities. Worth mentioning here that the Kashmir issue is not only the oldest issue on the agenda of the United Nations, but is also an unfinished agenda of partition of subcontinent. As per the partition Plan, it was up to the will of the population of princely states to preferably join either India or Pakistan but in case of Kashmir, Indian Army, in violation of plan, intruded into Kashmir against the will of Kashmiris therefore, they stood up against Indian army, took up arms, liberated some areas of the state and established an "Azad Government of Jammu & Kashmir". The Azad Government has its interim constitution and enjoys a system of their own, joining the struggle for liberation of their motherland remaining in forceful occupation of India, joining hand with the indigenous struggle of people in occupied Kashmir through peaceful struggle and agitations for awakening the conscience of international community. Gilgit-Baltistan, a region surrounded by lofty mountains, having big deposits of glaciers, bonded to China from one side touching middle south states crossing a small strip of Afghanistan, adjacent to occupied Kashmir from other side. The region remained aloof from outside world, having its own small states headed by local chieftains up to the 19th century. In the second decade of 19th century

the outsiders, first the Sikhs of Punjab then the Maharaja Kashmir invaded, conquered the region defeating the local forces. In the year 1947, when subcontinent divided into two sovereign countries; one the Muslim State of Pakistan. The occasion instigated the spirit of local people of Gilgit-Baltistan to get rid of foreign rulers, they stood up against Maharaja's forces and succeeded to liberate their motherland from Maharaja Occupation and attached their future with Pakistan, the newly born Muslim state. The then Government of Pakistan, instead of merging Gilgit-Baltistan with Pakistan, attached the region with Kashmir issue but ruled over directly by its Federal Government. The overwhelming majority of native populations of Gilgit-Baltistan do not consider their selves to be a part of Kashmir and feel aggrieved of the decision taken by the Pakistan Government. Their ambition is to be an integral part of Pakistan with a constitutional status but despite of their grievances, they are with Kashmiris who have been occupied forcefully by Indian government. Gbians have always shown their solidarity with Kashmir cause to liberate occupied Kashmir and always actively participated in their struggle even Gbians sacrificed their lives in all wars imposed on Pakistan by India particularly in Kargil War and Siachin aggression by India.

The writer is retired Justice Supreme Appellate Court, Gilgit-Baltistan.

Kashmir solidarity day 2019: Int'l dimension

Iqbal Khan

As the Kashmir solidarity day was observed the World over, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that all those who love freedom throughout the world must stand with the people of Kashmir. And President Arif Alvi demanded of Indian government to uphold the rights of the Kashmiri people instead of "justifying its terrorism" against innocent citizens. This year, the day was observed in Pakistan, both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and other parts of the world at a time when Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir have reached a new level of oppression and human rights' denial to crush the indigenous freedom movement against the subjugating forces. Alongside Kashmiris, Government of Pakistan had planned a number of activities to mark the day and expose massive human rights violations and brutality being committed by the Indian forces in the occupied Kashmir. International Conference on Kashmir in the UK Parliament was the hallmark of this year's solidarity day celebrations. Rehman Chisti, currently, Chairperson of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Pakistan (APPG-Pakistan), was the main organiser of the Conference. This conference was attended by all political parties from Pakistan and UK. AJK President and more than three dozen Pakistani parliamentarians were in attendance

including opposition leaders. Dozens of Kashmiris representative groups also participated in the event. While addressing the conference, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said we are here to express support to Kashmiris and all those who love freedom: "Humanity is bleeding in Kashmir, people are distressed, life is extremely difficult with each passing day. Rape, murder and killings and grievous injuries are the daily occurrences." He emphasized that the right to self-determination was a basic right of the Kashmiri people. "In Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir, humanity is bleeding, No doctrine of state security or sovereignty can justify such heinous acts of violence". Qureshi tweeted. India had asked the UK to stop Kashmir event in London, however, the UK government declined. A Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) source said, "Members of Parliament are independent of the government; it is for individual members to decide who they meet and for what purpose." MPs from Conservatives, Labour and Liberals were present in the gathering. Notable were the shadow Foreign Secretary of the Labour Party, Emily Thornberry and MP Debbie Abrahams. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi who served in former PM David Cameron's cabinet as Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office also attended

the conference. The first Sikh MP of Indian origin Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi was also present. Conference resolution presented by Lord Qurban Hussain was unanimously approved by the international conference. It condemned the atrocities committed by Indian military on Kashmiris. The forum demanded world bodies to stop human rights violations in the Indian occupied territory. It also extended support to Kashmiris in their just struggle. Addressing the conference, member British House of Lords, Sayeeda Warsi said "sexual violence in Kashmir as a tool of war is most horrific and India is failing to fulfil its responsibility". Debbie Abrahams said international community needs to wake up to take interest in the issue of Kashmir and their right of self-determination. Liberal Democrat MP Tom Brake said there is a special role for the UK government in terms of the historic role that it has to play for resolving the Kashmir dispute. Labour MP Sharron Debbie said Kashmir has become a horror story but peace can never be achieved by violent means. Ex-Prime Minister of Norway Kjell Magne Bondevick said Kashmir is the longest lasting conflict where people are suffering and "huge abuses have created refugee problem". AJK President Sardar Masood Khan said let's hope this conference will bring worldwide realisation about Kashmir issue. He

said, "International media has exposed massive human rights violations in Kashmir. There is global awareness but governments are tight lipped." Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said, "Right to self-determination is the fundamental right of the people of Kashmir". Senator Sherry Rehman said, "Over the time we have seen three generations of Kashmiris under a reign of unchecked terror. Sadly the world conscience has not spoken up enough to end this impunity." The meeting voiced that sufferings of Kashmiri people have increased while the dispute has not been addressed and it has negative implications for regional peace and security. The resolution stressed on the need of providing immediate medical assistance to the people of Kashmir who were shot by pellet

guns.

A seminar to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day was organized at the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington DC. The event began with screening of a special video message by President Azad Jammu and Kashmir which emphasized the importance of a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Charter and UN Security Council resolutions. Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Asad Majeed Khan urged the international community, specifically the United States, to play its due role in resolving this longstanding dispute. A special documentary portraying the unabated and undeterred resilience of the Kashmiri people was also screened.

This year the day was observed in the

backdrop of intensified atrocities by Indian occupation forces that are systematically eliminating Kashmiris physically as well as economically as part of India's campaign of ethnic cleansing; their political rights are also being stampeded. Indian leadership is engaged in all sorts of manipulations aimed at bringing about a demographic change to the disadvantage of Muslim population of Kashmir. Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights has effectively exposed the human rights abuses and brutalities by Indian occupation forces against Kashmiris in its report. Constitution of Commission of Inquiry by the UNSG is now overdue; UNSG needs to perform this duty without further

The writer is a freelance columnist based in Islamabad.

Unflinching support to Kashmir cause

This year, Pakistanis and many others around the globe marked the 5th of February as Kashmir Solidarity Day. It's not for the first time that people have shown their affection to innocent Kashmiris. Throughout the world people and Pakistanis living abroad showed their will to resolve Kashmir issue. According to media reports, in Tehran, capital of Iran, ECO Cultural Institute observed solidarity with Kashmiris through cultural exhibition. A number of pictures depicting scenic beauty of Kashmir and everyday life of Kashmiris was showcased. A

documentary titled Iran-e-Saghir made by Iranian Sahar TV was also shown to the audience. Likewise in Sri Lanka, Kashmir Day was also arranged. In the UK, a huge procession took place on 10 Downing Street to express solidarity with Kashmiri people. The protestors were not only Pakistanis and Muslims but Sikhs too. They chanted pro-Pakistan, pro-freedom and anti-India slogans. Similarly in Pakistan, AJK and on the other side of LoC this day was observed to express wholehearted support of the Pakistani nation and Kashmiri brethren to the

just struggle of Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination



Reema Shaukat

under the UN resolutions. One minute silence was observed at 10.00 am to pay homage to the martyrs of the liberation struggle of occupied Kashmir. Human chains were formed at Kohala and other points linking Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. Though this day is celebrated every year but very few know the importance of this day and try to assess its significance as Pakistani. This Kashmir Solidarity

Day is commemorated by Pakistani nation with a commitment and promise to extend their moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiri brethren. It is also observed to not only support their fair and impartial right of self-determination but to eulogize their sacrifices they are making every day by bearing brutality from the hands of Indian military. While turning the pages of history, one finds that Puppet Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was forced to resign on 19 January 1990 and Governor Rule was imposed in Indian Occupied Kashmir under Jagmohan Malhotra who was well known for his hatred against Muslims in general and Kashmiris in particular. With his imposition of Governor Rule, he unleashed new reign of terror on Kashmiris. Indian forces barricaded Srinagar and door to door search operations were carried out. On the name of these search operations many women were abused and men tortured. As the news of this havoc spread, thousands of people from the loK gathered in the streets of Srinagar and protested against this abysmal doing of Indian military. Sadly during the gripe Indian forces on the orders of Governor Jagmohan Malhotra opened fire on peaceful protestors, killing around fifty and leaving hundreds as injured. This mass killing of 21 January 1990 is considered as one of the worst massacres in the history of Kashmir. This bloodshed shocked every Pakistani and nationwide strike was observed on 5

February 1990. People greatly supported aggrieved Kashmiris, expressed solidarity and stressed upon international community to take notice of Indian atrocities on Kashmiris. Government of Pakistan that year officially designated 5th of February as Kashmir Solidarity Day. Therefore, now in every nook and corner of Pakistan this esprit de corps is observed to express camaraderie and unflinching support to Kashmiris. Today marking solidarity day, but still watching our Kashmir bleeding. That Kashmir which is our jugular vein is in continuous state of haemorrhage, particularly in Post-Burhan Wani scenario Kashmir is going through a new youth uprising and political struggle which seems very operative for peaceful solution to Kashmir Diaspora. Preventive arrests are fairly common in Indian-held Kashmir, particularly ahead of important events that authorities fear could be targeted by anti-India protests. Hurriyat leadership has been suppressed by the BJP government by not allowing them to organize rallies for demanding freedom and expressing their sentiments for Pakistan. Hurriyat leaders are always detained in Police Stations or kept under house arrest during all important events. Now when Indian elections are in the pipeline, brutalities in loK have risen strangely because of BJP's agenda to win election at any cost. Government as well as people of Pakistan has stood firmly by their commitment to Kashmir cause.

Pakistan's internal and foreign policy has always been towards the settlement of dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. Unfortunately with BJP in power, apart from propaganda against Pakistan, it violates ceasefire along the LoC. Indian malicious intent is evident from the blame game against Pakistan for every internal security issue, merely to avoid serious dialogue on bilateral issues as well as the humanitarian crisis in Kashmir. India which itself took this unfinished agenda of partition to UN but always making plea for undertaking the dispute. India is suppressing and muzzling Kashmiri men, women and children through massive presence of security forces under draconian law of "Armed Forces Special Powers Act". In the wake of changing regional and global dynamics, resolution of the issue has become a top most priority but insensitive international community is perhaps waiting for emergence of a regional crisis out of Kashmir Issue. As global players do not find any interest in resolution of the dispute, it now has become a humanitarian issue in the region. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other organizations have raised their voices time and again in their reports for Kashmir's mayhem. Keeping in view the present regional canvas, Kashmir Solidarity Day was of utmost importance to give world a wakeup call and show Pakistan's stronger support and sustenance for Kashmir freedom.

KASHMIR DISPUTE, DENIAL OF PROMISE

Dr Nasreen Akhtar

Kashmir is a disputed issue. In 1947, Kashmir one of the princely states, was given the choice to join Pakistan or India but due to machinations of Indian leadership in collusion with the British, Kashmir, was left unresolved and it remained a bone of contention between Pakistan and India. Since 1948, both India and Pakistan have fought four wars (1948, 1965, 1971, 1999). Both neighboring rivals have developed nuclear weapons and the new arms race has endangered peace, progress and development in South Asia. In fact, Kashmir issue is a major source of extremism, terrorism and unrest in the region and the international community does not realise this security dilemma which could become global security threat if this issue remains unresolved. In 1949, India went to the United Nations (UN) to de-escalate Kashmir-specific war. As the fighting continued, on 01 January 1948 on the advice of British Governor General, Lord Mountbatten, though opposed by his Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council (UNSC) by invoking Articles 34 and 35 of the UN Charter against Pakistan. On 26 October, India reiterated its pledge of its commitment to a "plebiscite or referendum under international auspices" thus neither Prime Minister Nehru nor his followers honoured the

words to grant the right of plebiscite to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and constantly continued to support its puppet governments in Jammu & Kashmir. It is significant to note that the people of Jammu & Kashmir never accepted India's occupation. Ironically, India has rejected all efforts for peace made by the international community and the U.N and never hesitates to claim that "Kashmir is an integral part of India". India is of the view that "Kashmir is no more bilateral or international issue" whereas Pakistan urges that Kashmir is an "unfinished agenda of partition" and it needs to be resolved. Until Kashmir remains a dispute between India and Pakistan peace may not prevail in South Asia. Human history has unfolded the untold stories of the state and societies; it shows that whenever people decided to get freedom from oppressors, aggressors and invaders, they succeeded. The US got independence from Britain in 1776 and Muslim-Hindu fought for their independence finally forced the British Empire to leave the subcontinent. Freedom always costs high but eventually it makes its way. Over the past seventy years, India could not legitimise its presence in Jammu & Kashmir and grave situation has frustrated Indian civil-military leaderships consequently they always blame Pakistan for supporting the Kashmiri freedom

fighters. Independent Organizations have reported that Indian forces in January 2019 have killed over 20 young people were killed by the Indian forces and this is never ending strategy of Indian forces. In his interview, an Indian former Minister rightly said that "India has lost its control in Jammu & Kashmir". Since India-Pakistan independence, Jammu & Kashmir has experienced three uprisings (1989, 2008, 2016). The current uprising 2016 is more powerful and going to be a turning point in Kashmir's history. A young freedom fighter, Burhan Wani, was killed by the Indian forces in 2016 that gigantically triggered Kashmir dispute. Modi's government and Indian Army Chief tried to control the people of Jammu & Kashmir but the resilient people are determined and demanding for freedom. Uprising 2016 is different than the previous uprising in Kashmir. Modi's government and the present Indian Army Chief, Bipan Rawat, both have developed the same strategy to suppress the freedom movement in Jammu & Kashmir. Post Burhan Wani Kashmir is strengthening Kashmir Uprising (Kashmir cause) and weakening India's stance. The magazine 'The Wire' on 27 August 2016 published a statement by former Chief of RAW, AS-Dulat that "Jammu and Kashmir Uprising is 100% indigenous" this has negated India's

blame game against Pakistan that “Pakistan is taking benefit of it”. Jammu & Kashmir uprising after Burhan Wani's martyrdom has set new dimensions to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute owing to present situation of Kashmir the international community and organizations have known the actual condition of folk those suffered by the occupants' army. India may not be able to justify its heinous policy against the people in Jammu & Kashmir. Some rational people of India have realised that India and its Army is ruthless in Kashmir Valley and killing innocent people.

In December 2018, former Supreme Court Justice, Markandey Katju, criticised the Indian Army Chief, for

the massacre of civilians in the Pulwama region of Kashmir. He wrote on twitter “Congratulations to Gen Rawat whose soldiers killed 7 civilians in a Jallianwalabagh or My Lai type massacre in Pulwama, Kashmir. How brave of the Indian Army General”. Katju continued to write and said, “three cheers for the Indian Army which has now started killing civilians in Kashmir, like Gen Dyer at Jalianwala Bagh, or Lt Calley at My Lai in Vietnam. All Indian army officers and soldiers should be given Bharat Ratna”. Pakistan has always raised Kashmir issue and committed to providing diplomatic support which irks India. It is evident that all civil-military leadership tried to resolve Kashmir dispute but India not only

rejected 'rational' proposal for the peaceful resolution but also stop talking on Kashmir issue. To India its terrorism not Kashmir issue to be addressed between India and Pakistan. India must understand that terrorism and Kashmir issue are connected.

Let us resolve this longstanding issue to eliminate terrorism in South Asia. The time has come to respect Nehru's promise to grant the right of self-determination because the failure would cost high because India is not only violating human rights but also is humiliating the humanity in Jammu & Kashmir. The denial of promise always pays high price.

The writer is Assistant Professor, IIUI, Islamabad.

Pattern to blame Pakistan continues

The Pulwama attack has brought out new fissures in the India-Pakistan relations. Just as the news about the gruesome killing of 44 paramilitary forces was unfolding in the hills of Kashmir, the Indian media in grip of ultranationalist sentiments, and throwing every ethics of reporting to the wind, not only accused Pakistan for conducting the ghastly act, but also demanded from the Indian government a matching and befitting response. Going overboard in their reaction the politicians, cutting across ideological lines, frothed similar anger. The only sensible voice in this chorus was of the former Chief Minister Jammu & Kashmir, Farooq

Abdullah who reprimanded a young journalist for falling into the inadvertent blame game of accusing Pakistan without knowing the ground realities in Kashmir. He made some correct assessments of the Kashmir issue: One, the insurgency in Kashmir is indigenous and not entirely dependent on Pakistan. Two, India rather than talking with the Kashmiris is using force to quell dissent. Three, the guns will not unravel the Kashmir conundrum. As the cacophony of pushing Pakistan to the wall continued another fit of anger from the Indian policymakers hit the headline: India withdraw the Most Favoured Nation status from Pakistan.

It has been a pattern. Any attack on Indian soil, whether in Kashmir or on the Indian



Durdana Najam

parliament in Delhi, Pakistan is suspected for plotting the game. In another pattern, the international community too joins India on its ride of self-pity, in complete disregard to the international norms of justice that calls for the accused to be considered innocent unless proven guilty. Here Pakistan is not only blamed for carrying out the Pulwama attack, but the jury is also out on giving Pakistan the taste of its own medicine. The US Ambassador in Pakistan met with

Pakistan foreign office personnel with advice to restrain the non-state actors from infiltrating into Kashmir. In yet another pattern, the video released on social media, allegedly by Jash-e-Muhammad, the outfit that has taken the responsibility for the attack, has been instantly accepted as the evidence of the last resort.

Ideally the self-confession video of a young boy surrounded by arms and heavy guns should have shaken India out of its slumber and seeing where its youth is heading. After all, when India claims Kashmir to be its "Atoot ang", (the indispensable part) there is a muted claim of Kashmiris, irrespective of their caste, creed and religion, being the responsibility of the state of India.

Will India ever understand that Kashmir is not merely the name of a territory and that territory is just a meaningless piece of land without citizens? There is a lesson for India to understand, if not from its own failed policies than from the failed policies of the US in Afghanistan. Let's brave the fact that the aspirations, the dreams and the will of the indigenous population always win at the end of the day. Let's face the reality that by throwing the Taliban induced insurgency in Afghanistan into Pakistan's basket, the US could not for too long turn its eyes from the real issue of returning

the ownership of Afghanistan to where it belongs. Kashmir is a disputed territory between India and Pakistan and the resolution lies in understanding what the locals want from both the countries. But what has India chosen to do: Shut down the remaining doors of interaction with Pakistan. Adamancy or calculated move, this policy of focusing on isolating Pakistan rather than on the suffering of the Kashmiris that led to the Pulwama attack will backfire. The message received by Kashmiri freedom fighters is of a state still bent on using the muscular side of its brain instead of where the wisdom lies.

Of late South Asia has been in the grip of arms race and with this new episode, it might get fierce. Recently in October 2018, India has signed a deal with Russia to buy five S-400 missile systems worth US \$ 5.4 billion, one of the largest deals in India. By the time this missile system is delivered in 2020, Pakistan might as well have developed a counter strategy to balance power against India.

Already China has agreed to sell Pakistan 48 military grade drones. According to Pakistan's National Command Authority, Pakistan's Ababeel a Multiple Independently Targetable Vehicle is equipped to counter the Ballistic Missile Defence

System of India. In a similar attempt to enhance its second strike capability India has launched its first domestically built nuclear-powered submarine. Pakistan has vowed to counter yet another India's move.

In the perfect analogy of bullet versus butter, what would have been left for the development for the poor, which are in billions in India, after spending \$ 12 billion into building Arihant, the nuclear power submarine. And Pakistan too, at the cusp of the balance of payment crisis, would also have to leave its own millions in the swamp of poverty to equal the power equation.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, India and Pakistan each possess up to 150 nuclear weapons. Sooner or later, there will be a solution to Kashmir with Pakistan on board. The moderate and liberal voices in India, from within and outside the government, have pressed Delhi to take the dialogue route with Pakistan. But India has been rejecting every Pakistan's overture to interact.

The Composite Dialogue offered the perfect methodology of incrementally reaching to contentious issues, but India stalled the process because it wanted to start with picking the raw sides first, that is terrorism.

Ghazi-Millat Col. Syed Ali Ahmad Shah, Former President of AJK

Syed Qaiser Sheraz Kazmi

During the annual meeting of All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim conference in Sri Nagar in 1944, Quaid-e-Azam spotted a person whose eyes reflected wisdom and whose face was confident. When that person took the dais, he started speaking fluently. He was delivering his speech in English eloquently and quoting the Quranic injunctions in between. The passion for independence had made that man a volcano. After the conclusion of the meeting, the great leader M.A Jinnah fervently had a conversation with him. This hidden pearl who cast a spell on the Quaid was not other than Syed Ali Ahmad Shah. Later on, he held the offices of Defense Minister and the President of AJK.

Syed Ali Ahmad Shah was born in Sadaat Kazmi Clan-in July 1901 at Sher Garhi, Sri Nagar. His father was an A.D.C to Maha Raja Partab Singh. He was a major in Army. His ancestors had made Sher Garhi their abode before the era of Gulab Singh. The family had plenty of agricultural land. Most of the members of the tribe kept on serving in the army and in the Punjab. Syed Ali Ahmad Shah received his early education at Mission School, Sri Nagar. After the completion of education in July 18, 1923, he was made lieutenant in the Jammu and Kashmir Army. He discharged his services at different

parts of Gilgit and KPK by remaining a part of infantry and Artillery. He joined politics in 1942 at the time when the political environment of the state was in dire need of a true and candid politician. He left his army service and started his struggle from the platform of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim conference which was the party of 3.2 million Muslims. By utilizing all his potentials, he presented a resolution in the presence of the Quaid which explained that the Kashmiri Muslims would spend their lives according to their social, economic and teaching of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. He was chosen Chariman of the central Parliamentary Board of All JKMC in June 1946. That was time when the historical resolution of Azad Kashmir was presented and when Ch. Ghulam Abbas and other leaders were arrested. At this critical juncture it was Syed Ali Ahmad Shah due to whose efforts, Muslim conference participated in the Legislative Assembly and won the election in a large majority. He was also present at the residence of Ghazi-e-Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim in Sri Nagar when the resolution to accede to Pakistan was presented to the Maha Raja to accept Kashmir's accession to Pakistan.

Shah Sahib sent a detailed letter about the situation of Kashmir to the Quaid in September 12, 1947. This

letter was later on published in a Pamphlet under the caption "The political Scenario of



Kashmir Liberation Movement" that letter was written at a time when the MahaRaja had sent his military brigade to Poonch to crush the Muslims after the proclamation of independence in August 14, 1947. When Sikhs started Muslim genocide in the valley, Shah Sahib visited Pakistan in September 18, 1947. On arriving at Pakistan, he started assembling Mujahideens for the Kashmir Liberation Movement and with help of companions got liberated Mirpur, Dadyal and Bhimber.

He was included as Minister of Defence in the Government which was formed in October 24, 1941 under the presidentship of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim. During the process under Resolution #306, both he and Sardar Ibrahim were given the title of Ghazi-e-Milat. On the eve of reshuffling in cabinet, his name was also brought under consideration for the new AJK president. Liaqat Ali Khan and the members of the cabinet were informed that Syed Ali Ahmad Shad was an extremely honest person and his honesty was above

board. Late Ghulam Muhammad amused all the participants with an interesting analysis at that occasion. Late "Ghulam Muhammad Quotes that the person who is being chosen as a president of AJK has all the qualities mentioned by Liaqat Ali Khan. It is a pleasant coincidence that Syed Ali Ahmad Shah is the defense minister of AJK Government. Our P.M (Liaqat Ali Khan) also held the portfolio of the Defense Minister. Liaqat Ali Khan is simultaneously holds two part folios Prime Minister and a Defense Minister. Similarly, Syed Ali Ahmad Shah will be president and defense Minister at the same time." Liaqat Ali Khan smiled at that analysis of Late Ghulam Muhammad and the meeting was concluded. Ch. Ghulam Abbas who was the president of M.C and the supreme Head of AJK Government was also consulted for the Presidentship of AJK. It was due to his advice that the Pakistani. P.M Liaqat Ali Khan nominated Ghazi-e-Millat Syed Ali Ahmad Shah for the president of AJK. After becoming president, Syed Ali Ahmad Shah left no stone unturned for the liberation of Kashmir and the development of Azad Kashmir. He took momentous decision during his tenure as the president. Efforts were launched to mould the system of government according to Islamic injunctions. Ministry of religious affairs was founded in AJK. The laws were enforced according to injunctions of Quran and Sunnah. Muftis were appointed in the courts and the Islamic law was promulgated. During his tenure as President, he established a regular Army of AJK. Under an order 392, he was given an honorary post of Captain

General In October 12, 1950 in this regard. His services had been matchless for the M.C, people of AJK and Particularly for the Muslims. He had obtained comprehensive information about all the branches of AJK administration and in Particular the army. During his twenty seven years of services, he made a deep study not only in the army affairs of Pakistan and India but also of Britain. He had a full command over a vast knowledge of democratic principles and international affairs. He was much interested in the comparative studies of religions. That's why he was well versed in the Islamic teachings and the knowledge of the principles of Philosophy. Besides the AJK Government benefited from his experience in Economics. He penned down many booklets to highlight the aims and successors of the Kashmir Movement to the world among them two booklets proved useful and effective. During his rule, these were published in the form of pamphlets. He kept on raising his voice on every platform of the world about the atrocities and cruelties committed against the Kashmir Muslims and the Muslims of the rest of the world. He wrote a number of letters to the president of UNO, secretary General, Pope John Paul, international court of Justice, leaders, of the world and the president and P.M of Pakistan in this regard. Moreover, he kept on urging the leaders of AJK for the liberation of Kashmir.

Syed Ahmad Ali Shah was a candid, simple and honest person. Everybody bears out his gentleness, honesty and truthfulness. Even today people miss his reign. He believed in action rather

than in rhetorics. He was open-minded and humanitarian. To him the situation of Kashmir was hidden in giving a right of self determination to four million Kashmiris. According to him it was only possible through fair, independent and unbiased polling under the auspices of UN otherwise Jihad became unavoidable. Syed Ali Ahmad Shah was blessed with only one son who passed away. In spite of the loss of that only support, Shah Sahib kept on fighting for the independence of Kashmir and the Muslims. At last, this great leader passed away on 21, March 1990 and was buried at the rear Cemetery of MUST University. Even today his golden period in AJK echoes. Whenever the names of the martyrs are mentioned, Syed Ali Ahmad Shah is remembered in excellent words.

He was the proponent of unity and harmony among different Muslim factions. Owing to his efforts a Quranic Society was set-up in Mirpur Degree College which had scholars of all religious sects. Regular sessions of that society were held. Scholars of every school of thought delivered speeches there, but nobody touched any controversial issue. This practice developed a lot of harmony among sects. In the beginning he was its member and then he remained its President. The other members included Mufti Abdul Hakim, Syed Akbar Ali Shah, Abdul Aziz Sulehria Principal, Mauli Muhammad Ayub and Sardar Muhammad Ayub Session Judge. Professor Ch. Muhammad Yousaf was its secretary. Among students Ali Asghar Shah, Lala Ikram and Khalil Nizami were its active members.

Kashmir Hearing in EU Parliament



PRIME MINISTER

*Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir
Muzaffarabad*

No.PMS/

333

/2017

Dated: 2nd November 2017

Dear Mr Pier Antonio Panzeri,

Following our meeting on Thursday 12 October 2017 in the premises of the European Parliament, I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Human Rights Sub-Committee to formally request you to schedule a debate on the topic of Kashmir.

I am sure you agree that the human rights abuses perpetuated against the civilian population of Kashmir warrant the urgent attention of the European Parliament, and should be placed on the agenda for the Human Rights sub-committee.

The continuing civil unrest in Indian Administered Kashmir (IAK) and the excessive force used by the Indian administration in response have exacerbated an already dire situation in which the most dreadful human rights abuses have become a part of the daily experience of virtually the entire the civilian population of IOK. To take just one example: Indian security personnel have been issued with pellet guns (shot guns) which are used routinely and indiscriminately against unarmed civilians during street demonstrations in which both demonstrators and by-standers are targeted.

These weapons are formally classed as being non-lethal but are capable of inflicting serious injuries on unprotected areas of the body. The eyes are especially vulnerable and appear to be consistently targeted by the Indian security personnel. The result has been that since July 2017 when the present wave of unrest started, some 400 individuals have been permanently blinded.

I believe that it would be appropriate for the Human Rights Sub-Committee to place the Kashmir dispute on its agenda for 2018. There are four main reasons for this suggestion. The first is the length of time the dispute has been on-going. The Kashmir dispute been a major de-stabilising factor in the region for the past 70 years. It has expanded into full-scale war between the parties on three occasions. The failure to resolve the dispute by treating it as an internal, domestic, matter serves to underline the need for an external moderator if progress is to be made.

Second, the issue of Kashmir has not been discussed in the Humans Rights Sub-Committee for some considerable time - the most recent Resolution of the European Parliament on this topic was passed in 2008.

Third, the increasing militarisation of Jammu and Kashmir (Indian personnel number approx 600,000) has been accompanied by reports of more and more flagrant human rights abuses.

Finally, of particular concern to the international community is that the both the India and the Pakistan are nuclear powers.

I look forward to receiving your expression of support for the suffering people of Kashmir.

Yours sincerely

(Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan)

Mr. Pier Antonio Panzeri MEP
Chairperson
European Parliament's Sub-Committee on Human Rights
Brussels.



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

Wajid KHAN
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
Altiero Spinelli 13G340
Rue Wiertz 60
B-1047, Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 14th January 2019

Dear Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider,

It is my distinct pleasure to invite you to the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium in your role as the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The European Parliament's Human Rights Committee is organising an exchange of view on the situation of human rights in Kashmir on Tuesday, 19th February 2019. Moreover, in my capacity role as the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The European Parliament's Human Rights Committee is organising an exchange of view on the situation of human rights in Kashmir on Tuesday, 19th February 2019. Moreover, in my capacity as a Member of Human Rights Committee, I will be hosting additional events on 18th - 19th February to discuss the topic in more depth. It would be an honour if you could attend the events and contribute with your expertise.

I look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you in the European Parliament the w/c 18th February.

Yours sincerely,

Wajid KHAN
Member of the European Parliament
Member of the Foreign Affairs and Human Rights Committees
Labour Party Spokesperson on Human Rights in the European Parliament



Members of European Parliament ask India to stop atrocities in Kashmir

An overwhelming majority of members of the European Parliament (MEPs) attending a landmark event on the rights situation in occupied Kashmir on Tuesday put their weight behind the recommendations of a United Nations report on the state of human rights in the valley, and called on India to immediately halt its atrocities in Kashmir, the Foreign Office said in a press release on Wednesday. In a significant development, the European Parliament's sub-committee on human rights hosted an official exchange of views on the situation of human rights in Indian-occupied Kashmir. It is the first time since 2007 that the issue of Kashmir has been discussed publicly at an official European Union (EU) forum, the FO said. The discussion focused on the June 2018 report of the United Nations' Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) on Kashmir. Christine Chung, one of the authors of the report was invited to the event by the sub-committee. In her comments, she highlighted the dire human rights situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir and reiterated the OHCHR's recommendations for establishing a commission of inquiry to conduct a comprehensive and independent international investigation of human rights

violations in Kashmir, the FO said. Explore: The UN Kashmir report is an opportunity for Pakistan to take the higher moral ground over India Sub-committee Chair Pier Antonio Panzeri in his opening remarks expressed the EU's commitment to uphold and protect human rights throughout the world. The EU, he said, had never shied away from discussing human rights, even when it involved complex political issues. He pointed out that the issue of Kashmir was the longest unresolved issue on the agenda of the United Nations, and that the EU believes that dialogue among nations is necessary to resolve such issues. He, however, pointed out that the event was focused on the human rights situation in Kashmir and the plight of Kashmiris. Read more: Kashmiris living in India facing threats, evictions Besides Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider and Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, the European Union and Luxembourg Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi, the debate was attended by a large number of MEPs, human rights representatives and civil society organisations, think tanks, diplomats from various countries and members of Kashmiri diaspora across Europe. The MEPs who attended the event included Wajid Khan, Julie Ward, Baroness Nosheena Mubarik, Amjad Bashir, David Martin, Jordi Sole, Sion Simon, Jean Lambert, Richard

Corbett, Theresa Griffin and Jo Leinen. The overwhelming majority of these members rallied behind the recommendations of the OHCHR report and called for their full implementation. They called on India to immediately put a halt to its atrocities in occupied Kashmir and carry out investigations into the incidents of grave human rights violations. The MEPs also highlighted the need for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue through dialogue between Pakistan and India, and with full participation of Kashmiri people. The event is a huge diplomatic success for Pakistan as it is the first time in more than a decade that the EU has officially organised an event on Kashmir, where Islamabad's concerns regarding India's human rights violations in occupied Kashmir have been discussed. The public nature of the event also added to its value in generating awareness about the situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir. The official nature of the event in one the most prestigious bodies of the European Parliament, the sub-committee on human rights, will also provide a solid ground for other EU institutions to raise the issue of Kashmir with the Indian government during their bilateral interactions, the FO press release said. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Maleeha Lodhi called on United Nations Secretary General Antonio

Guterres at the UN on Wednesday, Radio Pakistan reported. During the meeting, she briefed Guterres about the latest developments and the situation in occupied Kashmir and asked him to play a role in de-escalating tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pulwama attack. India has alleged that those who planned the attacks had links with the Pakistani state a charge that Pakistan has vigorously denied. Prime Minister Imran Khan extended an olive branch to Delhi yesterday, promising to take action on actionable intelligence provided by the Indian government, but Delhi spurned the gesture. A Voice of America correspondent tweeted that Lodhi told VoA she had asked Guterres to make a public call for deescalation "because we are perilously close to something that could spin out of control". Lodhi also told VoA that India's 'no talks' posture is "hugely irresponsible". "We think dialogue is the only way to resolve our differences," she had said. Read more: India spurns PM Khan's olive branch, says offer to investigate is 'lame excuse' Lodhi also called on UN Security Council President Antonio Guterres and briefed him about the situation in the region and the premier's offer to India. I met the Security Council President, Antonio Guterres to brief him about the situation in our region as well as Prime Minister Imran Khan's public statement in which he offered

dialogue to India but also said that Pakistan will respond if India embarks on any misadventure. British delegation calls on PM Khan. A British delegation headed by Pakistani-origin cabinet minister Sayeeda Warsi called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad today to discuss the regional situation, Radio Pakistan reported. Prime Minister Khan highlighted atrocities being committed by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir and the jingoism and war hysteria being fanned by the Indian government in the wake of the Pulwama attack. The delegation appreciated the steps being taken by the government in tackling various challenges including economic, good governance and eradication of corruption. Baroness Warsi also appreciated the vision and leadership of the prime minister. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Zulfi Bukhari was also present in the meeting.

PM AJK calls for timely action on human rights violations in IOK

BRUSSELS: (Kashmir Today) The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider has called upon international community for initiating timely response to check human rights violations in the Indian occupied Kashmir adding that India has given license to its security forces under special Acts for massive genocide of people of Kashmir. He said that Human Rights must be given

precedence over economic interests with India. He was addressing a gathering of Members of European and Belgian Parliaments, Members of Friends of Kashmir Group in the European and British Parliaments and Kashmiri leaders and community based in Europe at a dinner hosted by Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Mrs. Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi at her residence. Raja Farooq Haider said that unfortunately the worst kind of human rights violations by the Indian Forces of Occupations were being overlooked by the world because of economic interests with India. He said as flag bearer of Human Rights, European Union must take up the issue of human rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir and help people of Kashmir in securing their right to self determination. Member British Parliament Mr. Afzal Khan who also heads Friends of Kashmir Group said that peace in the region was most important for the progress of people in India and Pakistan. He said that in India more than 360 million people were living below the poverty line whereas India was spending huge amounts on arms. The key conflict between India and Pakistan remains Kashmir. The participants expressed grave concerns over the situation of Human rights in Indian occupied Kashmir and re-iterated to render full support to suppressed people of Indian Occupied Kashmir.

Human rights committee will focus on the UN report condemning the human rights abuses in IOK, Wajid Khan

Brussels (PID,AJK)As another sign of international community's attention towards the Kashmir dispute, the European Parliament is going to hold an historic hearing on the human rights abuses in occupied Kashmir in Brussels, later today. The hearing will be led by a UN expert. The exchange of views will take place in the human rights committee and will focus on the UN report condemning the human rights abuses in IOK. Wajid Khan, a British Member of the European Parliament who was instrumental in securing the hearing said: "Today is monumental. For too long the world has ignored the most militarised zone in the world. The Kashmiris have suffered brutal attacks, including sexual violence and forced disappearances." He further said, "Today's hearing will not change that overnight, but finally the international community is taking note. The world is watching, and hopefully together we can achieve peace." He said at one point, peace in Northern Ireland seemed distant and near impossible, but now it is hard to believe that the troubles happened in Europe only 20 years ago. This, he added, could also happen in Jammu and Kashmir in case everyone worked towards establishing peace and prosperity in the region. Earlier, Pakistan's Ambassador to the EU, Belgium and Luxembourg Mrs. Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi hosted a dinner in the honour of the Prime

Minister of Azad Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider Khan and the Members of European Parliament at the Pakistan House in Brussels, Monday night. Raja Farooq Haider Khan, speaking to media on the occasion, said the Pakistanis expect that the Indian policy makers will not make such statements that will further aggravate the already tense situation existing between Pakistan and India. He said in such a case the situation would get out of control and the world would be left to rue only. Besides the AJK PM, the dinner was also attended by Wajid Khan MEP, Sajjad Karim MEP, Julie Ward MEP, Afzal Khan MP, Raja Javed Iqbal MLA, Jean Lambert MEP, Baroness Nosheena Mubarak MEP, Raja Najabat Hussain Chairman JKSDMI, Cllr Yasmine Dar Chairperson, Sardar Sadique Khan, Ali Raza Syed Chairman European Kashmir Council and local politicians.

Raja Farooq Haider Khan played a significant role in highlighting the Human Rights violations in IOK by Indian army, at European Parliament, Ali Raza Syed

Brussels (PID,AJK)AJ&K Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan played a significant role in highlighting the Human Rights violations in occupied Kashmir by Indian army, at European Parliament. This was asserted by Chairman of Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU), Ali Raza Syed who attended the function. In a statement in Brussels, he described it as a significant development in the context of Kashmir dispute. He said, this historic gathering on human rights violations of the Kashmiris at the EU

Parliament would have a great impact in Europe in the context of rights of the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir. Ali Raza Syed also highly appreciated the efforts of member of European parliament (MEP) Mr Wajid Khan for effectively raising Kashmir issue in Europe. He said the meeting on the human rights violations in Kashmir at EU's parliament human rights committee is an international recognition of rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Ms. Christine Chung, one of the authors of the report, who was specially invited for the occasion by the sub-committee, in her comments, highlighted the terrible human rights situation in the Indian-occupied Kashmir and reiterated the OHCHR's recommendations for establishing a commission of inquiry to conduct a comprehensive and independent international investigation of human rights violations in Kashmir. Participants of the gathering praised the report and emphasized for implementation of its recommendations. Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan was also among the speakers. A seminar was also hosted by MEP Mr Wajid Khan at EU parliament on Tuesday during which he appreciated the efforts of AJK's PM Raja Farooq Haider Khan and Kashmir Council EU on Kashmir dispute. Ali Raza Syed urged the international community to take necessary measures to stop human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. The world community especially the United Nation and EU should come forward and take step for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

Julie Ward MEP @julie4nw · Feb 20
Pleased to have had 1-to-1 discussion with @PM_AJK in my office following #FriendsOfKashmir meeting where I spoke of my experiences travelling in Azad Kashmir to hear testimonies of half-widows in Muffazabad - women & children always pay price of conflict

Theresa Griffin MEP @TheresaMEP
Replying to @alexlmayer
Such an honour to welcome @PM_AJK, president of Azad Kashmir, to the European Parliament. @Afzal4Gorton, ...



Theresa Griffin MEP @Ther... · Feb 20
We need to give the space for the young people of Kashmir to help shape the peace process. I'm so proud to be invited to speak at the inaugural meeting of the Network of Kashmiri Youth here in the European Parliament.



Julie Ward MEP and Frank Schwalba-Hoth

Theresa Griffin MEP @Ther... · Feb 19
Now at long awaited exchange of views with the Office of the High Commissioner on the human rights issue in #Kashmir - well done @WajidKhanMEP & @AntonioPanzeri



Amo naghmana hashimi retweeted

Dr Mohammad Faisal @For... · Feb 19
Exchange of views on Jammu & Kashmir, inside European Parliament, today. MEPs say that gross human rights violations in IoK must stop forthwith. #KashmirBleeds



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PM AJK calls for timely action on human rights violations in IoK - Daily Parliament Times

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I have never seen the human rights committee at the European Parliament so busy as we have a special hearing on the situation in #Kashmir.



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Alex Mayer MEP @alexIma... · Feb 19
As tensions rise in Kashmir, I just spoke at the European Friends of Kashmir meeting ahead of the historic hearing of the EU human rights committee later today.



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Wajid Khan MEP @WajidKh... · Feb 19
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EconomicWingPak @Economi... · Feb 19
PM of Azad Jammu & [#Kashmir](#) Mr Raja Farooq Haider called upon international community to initiate timely response to check [#HumanRights](#) violations in the IOK, during dinner hosted by [@AmbNaghmanaHash](#) for Members of European & Belgian Parliaments & Kashmiri leaders



Cynthia D. Ritchie @CynthiaD... · 16h
Good to see [@Afzal4Gorton](#) and [@Yasmine_Dar](#) in action. Thank you for your tireless work for [#Kashmir](#). Hope to visit with you both soon.

Afzal Khan MP @Afzal4Gorton

Pleasure to return back to the @Europarl_EN for historic exchange of views on [#Kashmir](#) & an honour to ...



Theresa Griffin MEP @Ther... · Feb 20
We need to give the space for the young people of Kashmir to help shape the peace process. I'm so proud to be invited to speak at the inaugural meeting of the Network of Kashmiri Youth here in the European Parliament.



Julie Ward MEP and Frank Schwalba-Hoth

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EuroLabour @EuroLabour · Feb 20
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Wajid Khan MEP and 4 others



Govt of Pakistan @pid_gov · Feb 20
[#Pakistan](#) succeeds in bringing human rights situation in [#Kashmir](#) officially on EU Forum. The sub-committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament hosted an official exchange of views on the situation of human rights in Kashmir at the European Parliament



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[#Pakistan](#) succeeds in bringing human rights situation in [#Kashmir](#) officially on EU Forum. The sub-committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament hosted an official exchange of views on the situation of human rights in Kashmir at the European Parliament



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Theresa Griffin MEP @Ther... · Feb 20
After 11 years an exchange of views on human rights atrocities in Kashmir - we have to have a political solution to achieve lasting peace. Unimaginable suffering & human rights abuses have to stop - great to have [@Afzal4Gorton](#) & [@Yasmine_Dar](#) @Europarl_EN - intense media interest



DROI Committee Press @E... · Feb 19
The afternoon meeting session in @EP_HumanRights will start at 15.30. MEPs will debate a range of issues, including the human rights situation in Kashmir. Full agenda -> [bit.ly/2SHyb3z](#). FOLLOW LIVE



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PM of Azad Jammu & [#Kashmir](#) Mr Raja Farooq Haider called upon international community to initiate timely response to check [#HumanRights](#) violations in the IOK, during dinner hosted by [@AmbNaghmanaHash](#) for Members of European & Belgian Parliaments & Kashmiri leaders



Afzal Khan MP @Afzal4Gorton · 17h
Pleasure to return back to the @Europarl_EN for historic exchange of views on #Kashmir & an honour to welcome @PM_AJK, @Yasmine_Dar, @RCorbettMEP, @alexmayer & I stand united in condemning the escalation of violence in the region. Thank u @wajidkhanmp for organising #humanrights



EconomicWingPak @Economi... · Feb 19
PM of Azad Jammu & #Kashmir Mr Raja Farooq Haider called upon international community to initiate timely response to check #HumanRights violations in the IoK, during dinner hosted by @AmbNaghmanaHash for Members of European & Belgian Parliaments & Kashmiri leaders



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Pakistan in Brussels @Em... · Feb 19
Rep of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Ms. Chung presenting findings and recommendations of OHCHR report on Indian atrocities in IoK, including the need for establishment of Commission of Inquiry to investigate Indian HR violations @ForeignOfficePk



Nauman Bhatti @NaumanMFA · Feb 20
MEP Amjad Bashir speaking @ EU Parl HR Committee meeting in Brussels condemned Indian atrocities & use of pellet guns against Kashmiris. Supported establishment of independent Commission of Inquiry for investigation #KashmirBleeds @AmbNaghmanaHash@LodhiMaleeha



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A huge diplomatic success for Pakistan as EU organized an official meeting on Kashmir for the first time in a decade. Indian atrocities and brutal use of force against the innocent Kashmiri people were widely condemned during HR Committee meeting of EU Parliament #KashmirBleeds



Nauman Bhatti @NaumanMFA · Feb 20
MEP Amjad Bashir speaking @ EU Parl HR Committee meeting in Brussels condemned Indian atrocities & use of pellet guns against Kashmiris. Supported establishment of independent Commission of Inquiry for investigation #KashmirBleeds @AmbNaghmanaHash@LodhiMaleeha



Theresa Griffin MEP @Ther... · Feb 20
After 11 years an exchange of views on human rights atrocities in Kashmir - we have to have a political solution to achieve lasting peace. Unimaginable suffering & human rights abuses have to stop - great to have @Afzal4Gorton & @Yasmine_Dar @Europarl_EN - intense media interest



John Howarth MEP #FBPE ... · Feb 19
"If Governments have nothing to hide they allow international inspectors to visit their territory. Simple." - I tell the media after the @Europarl_EN Human Rights Committee hearing on #Kashmir



Pakistan in Brussels @Em... · Feb 20
A huge diplomatic success for Pakistan as EU organized an official meeting on Kashmir for the first time in a decade. Indian atrocities and brutal use of force against the innocent Kashmiri people were widely condemned during HR Committee meeting of EU Parliament #KashmirBleeds



Ali Raza Syed shared a link.
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Cynthia D. Ritchie @Cynthi... · Feb 21
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Members of European Parliament called on India to immediately put a halt to its atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir and...



KashmirCouncil Eu is with **Ali Raza Syed**.
20 Feb at 8:18 pm
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برسلز (پ.د)

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Julie Ward MEP @julie4nw · Feb 20
Pleased to have had 1-to-1 discussion with **@PM_AJK** in my office following **#FriendsOfKashmir** meeting where I spoke of my experiences travelling in Azad Kashmir to hear testimonies of half-widows in Muffazerabad - women & children always pay price of conflict

Theresa Griffin MEP @TheresaMEP

Replying to @alexlmayer

Such an honour to welcome **@PM_AJK**, president of Azad Kashmir, to the European Parliament. **@Afzal4Gorton**, ...



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Members of European Parliament called on India to immediately put a halt to its atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir and...



Sajjad Haider Karim is with **Ali Raza Syed**.
19 Feb at 8:19 pm

A pleasure to meet with the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, **Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider khan**, who called on my office today.

Updates on the situation on the ground in Kashmir are always welcome.

Kashmir Council-EU



Kashmir Council-EU
19 Feb at 9:44 pm

Exchange of views with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Kashmir.

Live streaming:

<http://europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/video?event=20190219-1430-COMMITTEE-DROI>



Ali Raza Syed is at **European Parliament**.

20 Feb at 12:11 am · Brussels, Belgium

Historical event today Human Rights sub committee of European Parliament holding an exchange of view in Jammu & Kashmir



News Section

India's despotic attitude over Pulwama attack adding fuel to fire: AJK president

Muzaffarabad: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan on Tuesday endorsed



Prime Minister Imran Khan's views over baseless allegations hurled by the Indian government over

the Pulwama incident. The premier, while addressing the nation earlier in the day, had offered India an olive branch, saying Islamabad is willing to act upon 'actionable intelligence' after sections of the Indian government and media accused the country of being involved in the Pulwama suicide attack in the Indian-occupied Kashmir that killed 44 paramilitary personnel on February 14. However, the prime minister also warned the government in New Delhi of retaliation in the event of any aggressive military measures by India. "Pakistan will not think about retaliation, we will retaliate. You will leave us with no other option," said the premier as he referred to growing voices in the Indian government and media asking for 'punitive military measures' against Islamabad. he AJK president, in his statement, said that India in the interest of peace and stability in the region should act responsibly and refrain from issuing provocative statements. "The hype and fanatic frenzy whipped up in India by the ruling party and extremist groups is a systematic incitement to hatred which is a serious violation of international law, national laws and human norms," he said. Without any shred of evidence, Masood Khan said, India had accused Pakistan of being behind the attack. "People of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan, in good faith, are ready for any fair, impartial and independent international investigation into the incident." President Khan added: "Trumped up and fabricated accusations of terrorism should not be used to demonise Kashmiris, who are suffering under Indian

oppression, slander Pakistan and suppress the Kashmiris' movement for self-determination."

He said Kashmiris firmly believe that the dispute cannot be resolved through oppression and state terrorism. "It requires diplomatic tools and political mechanisms." The AJK president went on to say that India has adopted a despotic attitude towards Kashmiris for the past 71 years and now it is extending the same to Indian Muslims and Pakistan. "This is adding fuel to the fire," he added. He made an appeal to the Indian civil society to not be led by 'religious zealots and violent extremists' who want to plunge the whole region into communal strife. The Indian civil society, he said, should counsel the Indian government to defuse and deescalate the situation, promote dialogue and encourage diplomatic overtures and communication between the two sides.

India pushing South Asia to military confrontation: Masood Khan

Doha: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that India is playing with fire by stoking religious hatred, xenophobia and intolerance in the wake of the Pulwama incident. "India's extremist government supported by violent extremist groups is pushing South Asia to military confrontation and war and is making a futile attempt to hide its own gruesome crimes against humanity in the Indian Occupied Kashmir", he made



these remarks during his various speaking engagements and interactive sessions at Georgetown University Doha, Qatar University and the Brookings Institution-Doha Centre. Instead of adopting a path of diplomacy on Kashmir, he said, India is threatening Pakistan with

military aggression. "In its own interest, India must not commit this mistake because if India goes down this dangerous and treacherous path, Pakistan would retaliate instantly with dire consequences for India", said the President. The President applauded the role of Qatar for promoting peace in Afghanistan despite heavy odds and insurmountable difficulties. A similar process, he said, could be started in Kashmir and Doha could play the role of a facilitator. Such a process should be conceived within the framework of the United Nations Charter and the Security Council resolutions on Kashmir in which the will and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been put at the centre, said President Masood. The President said that empowered by black laws - Armed Forces Special Powers Act and Public Safety Act - India has been brutalizing the people of Jammu and Kashmir with impunity for the past several decades. "It (India) is so emboldened that now it thinks it can attack Pakistan with the same impunity and go scot-free. This is not going to happen and India would be made to pay a heavy price for any misadventure", he said. The President said that the people of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan are ready for an independent and impartial international investigation into the Pulwama incident. He, however, added that such an investigation, should include in its remit the horrendous human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed by Indian occupation forces in IOK, which include excessive and disproportionate use of force, massive killings, blinding of over 6000 people, sexual violence, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary arrests, detentions and torture, as well as curbs on freedom of expression and rights to health and education. "This is the bigger reality of Kashmir which cannot be brushed under the carpet or eclipsed by India's incitement to hatred against Kashmiris, Indian Muslims and Pakistan", he said. Sardar Masood Khan said that empirical evidence over the past 71 years suggests that there is no military solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Had it been possible, he said, India would have long ago subjugated the occupied territory and annexed it to the Indian Union

through state terrorism, but it has not succeeded and it will never succeed. The President stressed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan believe in the path of diplomacy, dialogue and negotiations - all political and peaceful means - under the auspices of the United Nations or through structured engagement between the parties of the dispute Pakistan, India and the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The President also appealed to the international community to step forward to avert a war in South Asia which would be detrimental to Pakistan and India as well as to the entire neighborhood of South Asia. Stability in Kashmir, he said, can only be brought about by putting an end to the relentless repression of the Kashmiris by occupation forces seen day in and day out. India must stop beating the drums of war and pushing the region to the precipice of destruction and self-annihilation. "The permanent members of the UN Security Council China, Russia, United States of America, United Kingdom and France must play their role in the maintenance of global peace and security, counsel restraint and responsibility and activate multilateral diplomacy for de-escalation and resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Responding to a question, the President said, track-two diplomacy in regard to Jammu and Kashmir is dead and it would be good to revive it. The AJK President said that India was in denial of the overwhelming reality of Kashmir and was trying to hide its own crimes through a false narrative. "Now it was trying to justify its occupation and atrocities in Kashmir by whipping up Hindu Fundamentalism and communal intolerance", he said. The President also interacted with the diaspora Pakistani Kashmir community in Doha and responded to their questions in regard to the efforts of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir in dealing with the current situation created by India, the status of Gilgit-Baltistan, the role of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the 13th Amendment, Kashmiri refugees, as well as AJK Government's priorities regarding the rule of law, good governance, and accelerated economic development.

If India did not realize the gravity of the situation and stopped brutalities against Kashmiris, attacks like Pulwama would continue happening in Indian Occupied Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider Khan

BRUSSELS (PID,AJK) The AJK Prime Minister said if India did not realize the gravity of the situation and stopped brutalities against Kashmiris, attacks like Pulwama would continue happening in Indian Occupied Kashmir. Addressing Pakistani, Kashmiri community here on Tuesday he questioned Modi government what was it expecting from Kashmiris after its crossing all limits of atrocities and tyrannies in the held valley. He said clearly there was reason why people of Kashmir had so much



in the held valley. He said peace could not be established in the region in the face of Indian forces atrocities and state terrorism. 600,000 Indian militaries have killed thousands of Kashmiris and disabled thousands others. A large number of Kashmiris have been disappeared while



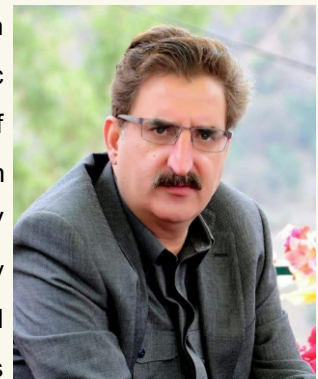
hatred in their hearts against Indian forces and one of the Kashmiris killed 44 Indian soldiers in a suicide bomb. Almost every youth in Kashmir who lost his family members in Indian soldiers shooting today want to carry out attacks like Pulwama, he added. He said India out of frustration of its failures in the held valley is targeting people of Jammu and Kashmir where ever they are in India. In such a situation India was only augmenting hatred of Kashmiri people against it. "If India thought of a misadventure against Pakistan people of Kashmir would fight along with its armed forces in the front lines" he affirmed. The Premier emphasized overseas Pakistanis and Kashmiris to let the people and governments they are working with know the ground realities of Kashmir issue to garner their support. You are ambassadors of your countries and it is your obligation to highlight Kashmir issue over the globe, he remarked. He said Modi has overshadowed the policies of Chankia especially against people of Kashmir. Should Kashmiris present flowers to Indian forces when the forces are engaged in their massacring, he quizzed. Mr. Haider asked world power to take notice of the reign of terror Indian forces had let loose

thousands of them are languishing in jails without any charge against them, he maintained.

Minhas expressed satisfaction that world was acknowledging the stance of Pakistan and AJK on Kashmir issue now

Muzaffarabad (PID,AJK) The AJK Information Minister Mushtaq Ahmed Minhas has termed the debate on

Kashmir in European Parliament a big diplomatic achievement of people of Pakistan and Kashmir. In an interview to a private TV station here on Thursday Minhas expressed



satisfaction that world was acknowledging the stance of Pakistan and AJK on Kashmir issue now. He said PML-N government under the leadership of Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan prioritizing the Kashmir issue. He appreciated the efforts of the Premier that he made in Brussels in persuading the members European Parliament that India was engaged in horrific atrocities and human rights

abuses in Indian Occupied Kashmir. He said when it comes to Kashmir all political parties shun their differences and get on same page to do as much as they can for the struggling people of the held valley. This is the political strength of our institutions and beauty of democracy, he added. He was of the view that we need to continuously push the international community towards state-sponsored terrorism and brutalities being committed by Indian forces in IOK. The follow up efforts should always be persistent, he remarked. The minister paid rich tributes to the people of Kashmir whose sacrifices have drawn the world attention to the pestering issue of Kashmir. He also urged people of all shades of life including media, writers, intellectuals, and lawyers to double their efforts in highlighting Kashmir issue over the globe.

Hundreds of AJK families relocate as Indian ceasefire violations continue along LoC, Ahmed Raza Qadri

Hundreds of families living in the most vulnerable areas



along the restive Line of Control (LoC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir were reported to have moved to the rear areas, officials and residents said, as three more civilians were wounded on Wednesday amid unrelenting ceasefire violations by Indian troops.

Samina Bibi, 25, and her 3-year-old daughter Kanwal were injured in Manda village and Nasreen Bibi was injured and a mosque was damaged in Ghee Kot village of Khilana sector in the early hours of Wednesday, said Ahmed Raza Qadri, AJK minister for civil defence. Khilana is located towards the right of Chakothi-Uri crossing point at the heavily militarised LoC that splits the disputed Himalayan region between Pakistan and India. Residents said the exchange of heavy fire continued in Khilana, Chakothi and adjoining areas throughout the night and also on Wednesday in intervals. Shabbir

Ahmed, a resident of Chakothi, said his was among many families from the town which had moved to Hattian Bala or Muzaffarabad. He said only those families had stayed back which had concrete bunkers built within or along their houses. Officials said the federal government had sanctioned a scheme for construction of community protection bunkers in the vulnerable areas along LoC. In 2018, a total of 678 such bunkers were built under the supervision of the Pakistan Army out of the planned 926. Work on the rest is under progress, officials said. Qadri claimed that the morale of the people living along the LoC was very high and a vast majority of them did not want to leave their homes. "However, we have requested the people inhabiting the most exposed areas to move back until the situation improves," he said. According to him, as many as 61 families from different villages of Chakothi had quit their homes and 21 of them had been accommodated in the buildings of two educational institutions in Hattian Bala. Elsewhere, he said, 18 families in Bhimber district and 12 families in Kotli district had also been relocated in government buildings. "The rest are staying with their relatives," he said. However, some officials and residents claimed that many families had moved to the rear areas on their own without getting themselves registered with the authorities concerned. "More than 2,000 people are reported to have already moved to the rear areas in Khuiratta, Charhoi and Tattapani sectors while many in Nakyal sector are also planning relocation," said Dr Umer Azam, deputy commissioner of Kotli, where these sectors are located. Most of these families either owned houses or had close relatives in the urban areas, he said. On Tuesday, four people were killed and 11 others wounded in Kotli district in "indiscriminate" shelling by Indian troops. Qadri said all educational institutions in the "highly vulnerable" areas along the dividing line had been closed for an "indefinite period" to avert any "untoward incident." "Since Indian troops have targeted school vans and school buildings in many areas in the past, we could not take any chances," he said, recalling at least two incidents in Poonch and

Kotli districts in 2016 and 2018 when school vans were directly hit by Indian troops, causing casualties. The minister said the educational institutions in the urban areas had also been closed for two days for the time being. "We needed the buildings of educational institutions in some areas to accommodate the displaced persons," he said. "If need be, we can extend the holidays." In response to a question, the minister asserted that the official machinery was fully prepared to meet any situation. "We don't want to create the impression that we are panicked or overwrought ... we are vigilant and on hand," he maintained. He said holidays of all emergency staff had been cancelled and control rooms of the disaster management authority had been established in all districts. "Everyone is playing their role according to their full capacity." AJK teenager dead, 3 injured in shelling by Indian troops across LoC A teenager was killed and three other civilians injured in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) as "ruthless shelling" by Indian troops from across the restive Line of Control (LoC) continued on Friday, officials said. The casualties occurred in Kotli district where the LoC was calm since the morning but became "hot" in the afternoon after Indian troops resorted to heavy mortar and artillery shelling, they added. The shelling comes as Pakistan and India reel from a week of high escalation which had raised fears of an all-out war after the Pakistan Air Force shot down two Indian aircraft for violating Pakistani airspace. Analysts expected the situation to de-escalate Friday evening as Prime Minister Imran Khan released a captured Indian pilot, in an overture towards New Delhi. 'Intense shelling' "The shelling was so intense that two to three mortar shells also fell in the main market of tehsil headquarters Nakyal," said Dr Umer Azam, the deputy commissioner of Kotli. According to residents, the last time Nakyal bazaar was hit by Indian shelling was in 2002, a year before the truce agreement between the rival troops. Azam said splinters of a shell pierced a 19-year-old man, Muhammad Sudhir, who was standing at Parawa Chowk in the bazaar, and killed him on the spot. Elsewhere in the district, Asjad

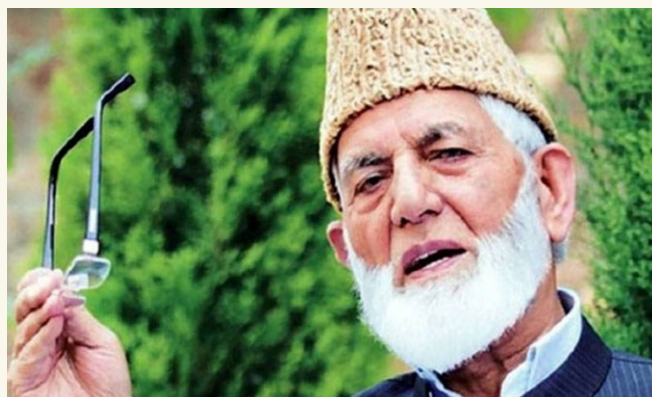
Akbar, 22, Noreen Akhtar, 30, and Hafza, 14, were injured in Tatta Pani and Goi sectors, he added. Imran Shaheen, the deputy commissioner of Jhelum Valley district, told Dawn that there had been heavy shelling in Pandu sector after [Thursday-Friday] midnight, causing severe damage to at least eight houses and a shop. Fortunately, inhabitants of these houses had already been evacuated or else there might have been casualties, he said. Ghulam Raza Kazmi, a resident of Pahal village in Pandu sector said shelling had started again in his area on Friday evening. "People are scared, particularly those who do not have protection bunkers in or along their houses," he said. Pandu sector runs parallel to Chakothi sector, which is home to one of the three crossing points for trans-LoC travel and trade. Exchange of mortar shelling was also reported from Samahni sector of Bhimber district, where the Pakistan Air Force had shot down two Indian jets on Wednesday. "The shelling is intermittent ... It has so far caused damage to one house but there are no casualties," said Bhimber Deputy Commissioner Sardar Khalid Mahmood. On Thursday, a school building and eleven houses were partially damaged in Bhimber district, apart from damage caused to two vehicles. According to Shaheen, some 142 families had already fled their homes in the forward locations of Jhelum Valley district and of them, 52 families, comprising 307 people, had been rehabilitated in a government building. They were being provided cooked food and other necessities by the administration from its own resources, he said. He said 25 more families had informed them that they too would leave their homes in the vulnerable areas. "We have made arrangements for their habitation in the same building," he added. Saeed Qureshi, a senior officer at the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), said 255 families in Kotli and 18 families in Bhimber had also moved backwards. However, residents said the actual number of displaced families was much higher as many of them had not got themselves registered with the authorities. The SDMA official said Friday's casualties had pushed the number of the deceased and injured AJK

civilians since the start of 2019 to 7 and 39, respectively. The number of partially or completely damaged houses and other buildings was more than 50, he added. Cash grant for LoC families In a related development, the AJK government has asked the federal government to sanction a special relief package under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for the population along the LoC in view of their plight in the face of ceasefire violations by Indian troops. "Everyday shelling has [a] direct bearing on the livelihood of the LoC residents, as it is damaging their houses, shops, fruit trees and crops ... Though the AJK government is taking steps for their welfare, its meagre resources are a big impediment to provision of these services to the entire affected population," an official handout quoted AJK Chief Secretary Mathar Niaz Rana as saying in a letter to the federal Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan. According to the handout, the chief secretary had pointed out that of the 4.2 million total AJK population, around 503,000 people from 79,992 families were residing along the LoC and were directly exposed to Indian shelling. At the moment, 13,982 of these families are enrolled as BISP beneficiaries but since all LoC residents deserve special treatment, it would be a welcome gesture by the federal government to add the remaining 66,010 families on the list of the beneficiaries of BISP's cash grant scheme, the chief secretary wrote.

Gilani fears full-fledged war if escalation not checked

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, the Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Syed Ali Gilani has expressed his serious concern over the escalating tension between India and Pakistan. Syed Ali Gilani in a statement issued in Srinagar, today, said that if not checked a full-fledged war was knocking the doors of the South Asian region. He hailed the mature and repeated peace appeals by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and said that such statements could only come from a person with human heart. Here is full text of the statement issued by the office of Syed Ali Gilani: The APHC

chairman has expressed his serious concern and anguish on the escalating tension between India and Pakistan and said that although borders were never calm, but for the last couple of days they are roaring with thunders of bombs and guns threatening the whole population and if it continues, a full-fledged war is knocking the doors of sub-continent. "Citing the Pulwama incident, strategists and manufacturers, have created war madness in whole India, justifying their cross border violations and then celebrating this jingoism and sense of winning the first round just to milk the situation in favor of its political ambitions, but after the surprising response from the other side celebrations and jubilations faded away. One gunned down the war planes other claiming to kill more than 300 people, the claims and counter claims will have no end and it is immaterial, who kills how many



and who bleeds more, one thing is sure that humanity and human race is threatened on both sides." Gilani hailed the mature and repeated peace appeals by Pakistan premier and said that such statements can only come through a person with human heart. In response to the persistent provocation by the so-called world's largest democracy, the press briefing from across are focused, sensible and responsible and they should be taken as a peace narratives rather than weakness, inability or incapability. Pro-freedom leader said that if the war mongers and media generals continue to guide their political masters, a widespread disaster and a massive human devastation is eminent and then neither the media war rooms will thunder nor the jingoism and ultra-nationalism echo will be heard. APHC Chairman said that sane and good sense should prevail on the architectures and escalators

of this man made tragedy, they need to shun the denial veil and stop parroting the “Integral Part” rhetoric. Get to the root cause of this catastrophe in waiting, as the poor soldiers cannot always afford to offer their blood to satisfy power lust of their arrogant politicians. Hailing the free accommodation offer of the Kashmiri Hotels for the stranded passengers and tourists because of prevailing circumstances, pro-freedom leader said that this is a difference between a human and a beast.

Mirwaiz urges India, Pakistan to de-escalate tension

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, the Chairman of Hurriyat forum, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has urged India and



Pakistan to de-escalate tension and not resort to war as escalation and war can never resolve the issues. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a statement issued in Srinagar said that the present dispensation at New Delhi was using Kashmir as a whipping boy for electoral gains as general elections in India are round the corner. He said there is a threatening and grave atmosphere created by India across Kashmir and people are being psychologically intimidated. Only talking to each other is the way forward, he added. He said that keeping in view this wave of repression and intimidation coercive raids were conducted at the residences of resistance leadership including Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai and Naseem Gilani by the infamous National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday. He said, “The NIA team also raided my house from 8:00am to 6:00pm. A cordon was laid around my house by a large number of paramilitary forces.” He said

around 15 to 20 people from the NIA, accompanied by two local policemen, entered his house and office and thoroughly searched it. He said “The houses of my relatives who live around me were also searched. After these thorough coercive searches, certain items were confiscated by the NIA team including my laptop and phones, hard drives from my office computers, press releases of Hurriyat and Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid letterheads and records of Kashmiri students studying in Pakistani medical colleges recommended by Hurriyat forum.” He said the threats of removing Articles 370 and 35 A which grant special status to Jammu and Kashmir are kept hanging over our heads like a Damocles sword to be used as and when the electoral situation for them demands”. Meanwhile, the Chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai in a statement in Srinagar urged India and Pakistan to shun war as history is a witness that nations even after fighting costly wars, have still to sit on a negotiating table for a solution. He said that Kashmiris were always against war and destruction. “We are only asking for resolution of the dispute by peaceful and political means for which comprehensive and serious dialogue is the only way forward,” he added.

JKLF condemns arrest of Yasin Malik, JI leaders, members

Srinagar: In occupied Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) has condemned the illegal arrest of party Chairman, Muhammad Yasin Malik and scores of JI activists including its Chairman, Dr Abdul Hameed Fayaz. A spokesman of JKLF in a statement issued in



Srinagar said crackdown on political and religious leadership won't yield anything but add to anarchy and

chaos in the territory. He said, “Choking political space is undemocratic and caging peaceful political leadership is like suppressing voices.” Yasin Malik was arrested and shifted to police station Kothi-Bagh on Friday night. Police have also arrested JKLF Ganderbal district president, Bashir Ahmad Rather (Boya) along with Fayaz Ahmad and it raided the houses of party zonal president Noor Muhammad Kalwal and senior zonal vice president Muhammad Yasin Butt. Terming spree of arrests and raids as arbitrary and most undemocratic act under the garb of democracy and security, the spokesman said when voices of political dissent suppressed it was only violence that gets glorified putting every other civilized means in total jeopardy.

As India beats its war drums over Pulwama, its occupation of Kashmir is being ignored

Hafsa Kanjwal :is an assistant professor in South Asian history at Lafayette College. Her PhD, from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, was on the social history of modern Kashmir. Last Thursday, a 20-year-old Kashmiri by the name of Adil Ahmed Dar blew up a convoy of 45 Indian soldiers in the area of Pulwama, located in the Jammu and Kashmir region. It was the heaviest loss encountered by India in the region since the armed rebellion began in 1988. Battle cries are mounting; Kashmiris are simultaneously being targeted and punished in a number of Indian cities. In the midst of jingoistic fervor in India, the root cause of violence in Kashmir the Indian occupation is being completely overlooked. Dar had joined the militancy in March 2018, under the Jaish-e-Muhammad, whose leader, Masood Azhar, is based in Pakistan. He was part of a generation that grew up during the Kashmiri “intifada,” a mass movement for freedom that emerged in 2008 and was repeatedly quashed by India. India immediately blamed the attack on Pakistan, which denied any involvement. There has been a huge outcry from all sections of the Indian population politicians, celebrities, journalists and the common masses to avenge the attack, demanding a

war against Pakistan and collective punishment for Kashmiris, including calls for genocide. Since the attack on the convoy, Kashmiri Muslims living and studying in India have been targeted by mobs; students in Indian colleges have been beaten up and forced to evacuate, while others are in hiding; landlords are kicking Kashmiris out of their homes; and traders have had their shops ransacked. In the Hindu-majority province of Jammu, a curfew was declared as Hindutva mobs attacked Kashmiri homes and businesses and set their cars on fire. If there was any doubt that most Indians do not consider Kashmiris as their own, and only lay claims on the land, that doubt has been effectively quashed. Meanwhile, in an attempt to gain political mileage out of the horrific attack, Indian politicians and political commentators like Barkha Dutt have blatantly misrepresented and obfuscated the realities on the ground in Kashmir, painting simplistic pictures of “Islamic radicalization.” Any understanding of what is happening in Kashmir today must account for the Indian state's belligerent policies and the rampant Hindu nationalism that has gripped India. The trope of Islamic radicalization fails to account for the structural violence that is embedded in the day-to-day lives of Kashmiris living under a military occupation. Despite Indian assertions that Kashmir is an “integral part” of India, Kashmir is an occupied territory, and has been disputed between India and Pakistan since 1947. Over 700,000 Indian forces are stationed in the region, ostensibly to rid the area of a few hundred militants that it believes are sponsored by Pakistan, but primarily to hold the population, which adamantly rejects Indian rule, completely captive. Most Kashmiris prefer to remain independent, while some seek merger with Pakistan. Since 1947, Kashmiris have been resisting nonviolently against Indian rule. In 1988, this peaceful movement demanding self-determination evolved into an armed uprising, and over 80,000 Kashmiris have been killed, 8,000 disappeared, and countless more arrested, tortured and raped. If you ask many Kashmiris, they would tell you the Indian army is at war with the Kashmiri

i people. Since 2008, India has regularly unleashed live ammunition and lead pellets on protests, leading to massacres of Kashmiri civilians as well as an “epidemic of dead eyes.” These acts of Indian state violence on Kashmiri civilians, unfortunately, never result in international condemnations, marking the kind of erasure that occurs in situations of structural violence. As tragic as the attack was, it was directed against Indian armed combatants, not against Indian civilians. However, India does not make any distinctions between Kashmiri rebels and civilians: Indian generals and politicians call unarmed protesters “over-ground workers” and give the army a free hand to treat protesters as rebels. In the past three years alone, over a thousand civilians and rebels have been killed. India repeatedly flouts international norms when it comes to Kashmir, targeting protesters above the waist, attacking hospitals and ambulances an action that amounts to war crimes using human shields, targeting journalists in the line of duty, and placing restrictions on freedom of speech and movement. The mob-like fervor that continues to grip India has never been replicated in Kashmir. In the past three decades of massacres and

human rights violations against Kashmiri civilians committed by Indian forces, Kashmiris have never turned against Indian civilians and tourists in their midst. The Joint Resistance Leadership in Kashmir issued a statement saying that the “people and leadership of Kashmir regret every killing that happens in Kashmir.” It will not be Pakistan that bears the brunt of the attack, it will be innocent Kashmiris. Yet, amid the warmongering, many in Kashmir are also asking why the attack occurred now, weeks before the Indian election, and why the massive intelligence infrastructure was not able to prevent it. It is clear that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose government has failed to provide jobs and engaged in a number of economic and political blunders, would use these attacks to usher in popular support before the elections. Kashmir has always been a way for the Indian state to assert itself in moments of crisis. The time has come for an honest conversation about the root causes of the “problem of Kashmir”: the Indian occupation and the historical denial of Kashmiri self-determination. Until then, we will continue to count the bodies of those who are killed both Kashmiri and Indian.

KHURSHID HASSAN KHURSHID

Khurshid Hassan Khurshid, commonly known as K. H. Khurshid, died in a road accident on March 11, 1988, while travelling in a public transport vehicle as an ordinary passenger. He is buried in the heart of Muzaffarabad.

Mr Khurshid was just 20 years old when Mr Jinnah anticipated his abilities during a visit to Srinagar in 1944 and chose him as his private secretary, a position he held till the death of the founder of Pakistan. Mr Jinnah was once believed to have said that “Pakistan was made by him, his private secretary and his type writer.”

On May 1, 1959, Mr Khurshid was appointed by President Ayub Khan as AJK President, an office he accepted on the insistence of Fatima Jinnah who treated him as her son and had also financially supported him earn the bar-at-law degree from Lincoln's Inn.

In 1961, Mr Khurshid conducted the first ever (basic democracy) elections in AJK and also won presidential election. In the following year, he founded a political party, Jammu Kashmir Liberation League (JKLL), which called for recognition of AJK government as a 'revolutionary provisional successor government' of deposed Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir with a freehand to take the freedom movement to its logical end. Mr Khurshid resigned from the office of AJK president on August 5, 1964. he led a very clean life.

A person who had remained very close to the founder of Pakistan, had held the highest office of AJK for five years and also headed a popular political party died in such a condition that he did not own any property anywhere in AJK and Pakistan and was in possession of just 37 rupees at the time of his tragic death.

Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Mathar Niaz Rana, Chief Secretary Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir visit to the LoC in Chokithi sector.

Muzaffarabad (PID,AJK) Mathar Niaz Rana, Chief Secretary (CS) Azad government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday paid visit to the Line of Control (LoC) in Chokithi sector. Commanding Officer Colonel Usman briefed the CS on situation prevailing along the LoC. CS met with the soldiers and assured them of full support of the all civilian institutions for the defense of the homeland. He said every person of the country is soldier of Pakistan Army. People living other side of the LoC are fighting a battle of Pakistan's stability and competition. Heart of everybody in Jammu and Kashmir beats with the Pakistan Army, he said. CS paid homage to the martyrs

who sacrificed their lives for their homeland. CS directed to district administration to look after the people living along the LoC as these citizens are the defence



line of the country. He assured that government is taking effective steps for the provision of the facilities of health, education and communications to the population settled along with the Loc. He also directed the administration for the payment of financial support to the persons injured by Indian firing. Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Valley Imran Shaheen and SSP Arshid Naqvi were also present on the occasion.



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IOK

(From Jan 1989 till Feb 28, 2019)

Total Killings *	95,310
Custodial Killings	7,121
Civilian arrested	146,278
Structures Arsoned/Destroyed	109,247
Women Widowed	22,899
Children Orphaned	107,758
Women gang-raped / Molested	11,113

