

Message from Dr Arif Alvi
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(On the occasion of Yum-e-Istehsal on 05 August 2022)

While marking three years of India's illegal and unilateral actions on 5 August 2019, we honour the sacrifices of the Kashmiris in their just struggle for their right to self-determination. Three successive generations of Kashmiris have rendered innumerable sacrifices in the face of India's relentless campaign of brutalization using every inhuman tactic to perpetuate illegal Indian occupation.

India's actions of 5 August 2019 contravene several United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions which stipulate that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people through a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. India is implementing a brutal campaign of military occupation, land confiscation, and the influx of non-Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in violation of the UNSC resolutions and International Law, including the 4th Geneva Convention.

The unabated Indian state-terrorism includes the extra-judicial killing of more than 650 innocent Kashmiris since 5 August 2019, unprecedented restrictions on freedom of speech, fake encounters, 'cordon-and-search' operations, custodial torture and deaths, enforced disappearances, incarceration of senior Kashmiri leadership and young boys, use of pellet guns especially targeting the Kashmiri youth, destruction and burning of houses to inflict 'collective punishment' on the Kashmiris, and other methods of subjugation. But the occupation forces' ruthlessness has not been able to break the will of the Kashmiri people. Indian actions have been rejected by the Kashmiris, Pakistan, and the international community.

The dire situation in IIOJK has been taken up by the UNSC three times since 5 August 2019, reaffirming that this is an internationally recognized dispute and its solution is firmly anchored in the implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions.

India's refusal to grant the Kashmiris' right to self-determination has serious implications for South Asia and beyond. More than 1.5 billion people of the region deserve to see the dawn of peace and prosperity, which has been held hostage by India in IIOJK.

Like always, Pakistan will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just struggle. We call upon the international community to take practical steps to hold India accountable for its gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK and to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this long-standing dispute.

The resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people is the only way to ensure durable peace and stability in the region.

Message by the Prime Minister of Pakistan
Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Youm-e-Istehsal (5 August 2022)

It has been three years since India unleashed its illegal and unilateral actions on 5 August 2019 in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), with continuing inhuman military siege and callous disregard to the unspeakable sufferings of the Kashmiri people.

The Indian government, under the hold of the BJP-RSS combine, is unabashedly pushing its 'Hindutva' agenda to alter the demographic structure of IIOJK in blatant violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention. India's settler-colonialism mindset is driven by its quest to permanently occupy the disputed territory and to obliterate its distinct Kashmiri identity.

By deploying additional troops and imposing unprecedented media restrictions, since 5 August 2019, the Indian occupation forces have turned IIOJK into the largest prison on the planet. The human rights situation in IIOJK has seriously deteriorated over the last three years. The Kashmiri people remain under military siege, their senior leadership remains incarcerated and their youth continue to be prime targets of Indian occupation forces' indiscriminate extra-judicial killings through staged 'cordon-and-search' operations. In fact, the Kashmiris continue to be deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

As expected, the Kashmiri people have valiantly defied the Indian campaign of brutalization against them. Pakistan has lent all possible support to the Kashmiris in pursuit of their just cause. Parliamentarians, journalists, humanitarian workers, international human rights organizations, and members of the international community have consistently raised their voice on the continuing grave human rights violations in IIOJK. India stands exposed before the world, yet again, as an aggressor and oppressor.

It is deplorable that in IIOJK, India continues to flagrantly violate the universal ideals of human dignity, fairness and justice with complete impunity. The just struggle of the people of IIOJK to realize their right of self-determination, guaranteed under several resolutions of the UN Security Council, is being suppressed through brutal use of force by the Indian occupation forces.

It is the indomitable will and courage of the Kashmiri people that has enabled them to withstand every Indian attempt to terrorize and subjugate them. India has failed, despite all its massive coercive methods, to extinguish their yearning for freedom and to crush their indigenous and legitimate resistance.

The Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been on the United Nations agenda for over seven decades. This long-standing dispute must be addressed and resolved with a sense of urgency and responsibility.

As the siege of IIOJK enters its fourth year, the people of Kashmir look towards those who espouse the cause of fundamental rights and freedoms as well as human dignity worldwide for practical steps by them to bring an end to India's atrocities. In fact, the world community must press India to halt its human rights abuses, reverse demographic changes and India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019 in IIOJK, to enable the Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination through the immediate implementation of relevant UNSC Resolutions.

For its part, Pakistan will continue to be the voice of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters, who continue to render invaluable sacrifices, and extend all possible support for the fullest realization of their legitimate rights. We have no doubt that durable peace and stability in South Asia can be achieved only through peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Message from Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on
Youm-e-Istehsal (5 August 2022)

On 5 August 2019, India took illegal and unilateral steps in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in a bid to change its internationally recognized disputed status and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory.

Developments in the last three years have made it amply clear that India has been relentlessly pursuing its nefarious design of furthering demographic changes in IIOJK. It is doing so through repressive measures including outrageous gerrymandering to create Hindu-dominated constituencies at the expense of Muslim majorities, the issuance of millions of fake domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris, and modifying laws on ownership of land and property.

These measures constitute nothing but an Indian attempt to obliterate the distinct Kashmiri identity in violation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention.

The presence of 900,000 troops has turned IIOJK into the most militarized zone in the world. The human suffering of Kashmiris, inflicted through extra-judicial killings, arbitrary detentions, incarceration of the true Kashmiri leadership, and harassment and other gross violations of human rights, are well-documented and have been condemned worldwide. More than 650 Kashmiris have been martyred since 5 August 2019, including over 130 in the year 2022 alone.

India's reprehensible treatment of Kashmiri journalists and human rights defenders has revealed that it would not hesitate to go to any extent for the perpetuation of its illegal occupation.

India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 and those taken afterwards demonstrate sheer disregard of the international law, views of the international community, and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Indian state-terrorism against the Kashmiris has been extensively documented through numerous reports and video evidence recorded and presented by human rights and humanitarian organizations as well as the international media.

Over the past seven decades, three generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world community and the United Nations to honor their solemn commitments made to the Kashmiris. The United Nations must live up to its promise of granting the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan has always desired peaceful relations with its neighbors, including India. Unfortunately, India's actions and its subsequent machinations have vitiated the peace and security environment in South Asia. The onus remains on India to create a conducive environment for result-oriented engagement. This is essential for durable peace and stability in the region.

The international community must demand an end to India's gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK; reversal of its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019; repeal of draconian laws; and implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

On its part, Pakistan's ultimate objective remains the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and wishes of the Kashmiri people. In this just cause, Pakistan will always remain in strong support and solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren till the full realization of their legitimate rights.