

Message from Dr. Arif Alvi
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(Kashmir Black Day 27th October, 2022)

This year 27th October marks the completion of seventy-five years of illegal occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). We observe Kashmir Black Day to remember the sacrifices of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just struggle for their right to self-determination by condemning the ongoing atrocities of Indian occupation forces over the last seven and a half decades. This day, the entire Pakistani nation reaffirms its unwavering support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just struggle for freedom.

Many generations of innocent Kashmiri men, women and children have known nothing but Indian brutality, bloodshed and torture. IIOJK remains under Indian military siege, exacerbated by draconian curbs on fundamental freedoms of the people of the occupied territory.

The situation has worsened considerably over the last three years with India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019 which stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special status under the Indian constitution. These actions violate the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions which stipulate that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir would be made in accordance with the will of the people of Kashmir through a free and impartial plebiscite to be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations.

Today, Jammu & Kashmir has been subjected to 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. Over 690 innocent Kashmiris have died in extra-judicial killings at the hands of Indian occupation forces since 5th August 2019.

For the last seven decades, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been a battle of hope against overwhelming odds, courage against fear, and sacrifice against tyranny. Our Kashmiri brothers and sisters have displayed exemplary courage and endurance braving the worst forms of persecution. We value the blood of thousands of Kashmiris who have sacrificed their lives for decades in the pursuit of freedom from India's illegal occupation. Kashmiri brothers and sisters will always find Pakistan voicing the cause of the Kashmir dispute at every available world forum.

Pakistan while demanding an immediate reversal of the Indian government's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019 also calls upon the international community to take practical steps to hold India accountable for its egregious human rights violations in IIOJK and play its part in facilitating a peaceful and just resolution of the long-standing dispute of Jammu & Kashmir in accordance with the relevant Security Council Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

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Message from H.E. Muhammad Shahbaz Shareef
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(Kashmir Black Day 27th October, 2022)

Today, with a heavy heart, we mark yet another Kashmir Black Day. On 27th October 1947, seventy-five years ago, India forcibly landed its troops in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and she continues to forcibly and illegally occupy this territory ever since.

To perpetuate its forcible occupation of the IIOJK, India has amassed more than 900,000 armed troops in the territory. Torture, illegal detentions, implication in fictitious cases, indiscriminate use of force under the impunity of draconian laws and systemized campaigns to rob the Kashmiris of their distinct cultural and religious identities mark the reality of India's brutal occupation of the occupied territory.

The situation has further worsened since India's illegal and unilateral revocation of the special status of IIOJK on 5th August 2019. Around 690 extra-judicial killings of innocent Kashmiris have taken place at the hands of the Indian occupation forces in the last three years. Prominent Hurriyat leaders have been detained illegally or placed under house arrest.

India is also making reprehensible attempts at bringing about demographic changes in IIOJK by issuing fake domiciles, changing property laws, gerrymandering electoral districts, creating new seats for Hindu-dominated regions in the state legislature, and adding non-Kashmiri residents to the electoral rolls. Despite all odds, the valiant Kashmiris continue to defy the Indian bayonets, by rendering invaluable sacrifices, and refusing to accept subjugation as their fate.

History is witness to the fact that solemn commitments made by the Government of India to the people of the IIOJK, to Pakistan, and to the international community to abide by and implement the relevant Security Council resolutions have been disowned by the occupying powers. History is also witness that India acted insincerely all along, and completely reneged on these solemn commitments.

The Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been on the United Nations' agenda for over seven and a half decades. Pakistan has remained faithful to its commitments to the Kashmiris and has also consistently raised its voice on the continuing grave human rights violations in IIOJK. It has also consistently called upon the international community to assume its role and responsibility with regards to IIOJK, raising our voice against the ongoing Indian atrocities in the occupied territory and demanding an immediate reversal of the Indian government's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019.

The only solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute lies in ensuring that the Kashmiris are allowed to exercise their right of self-determination, through the democratic process of holding a UN-mandated free and impartial plebiscite, as espoused in the relevant UNSC resolutions and as per the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan's rock-solid support to the Kashmir cause remains as steadfast as ever. Our greatest asset is the national consensus on this core issue. In fact, love for Kashmir and allegiance to this just cause remains an element of fact in every stratum of our society. This was the reason our beloved Quaid referred to Kashmir as Pakistan's 'Jugular vein'. It runs in our blood.

My message to all Kashmiri brothers and sisters on this sombre occasion is simple: Pakistan will always stand by you, no matter what the cost. We are your voice to the world. Our support and solidarity is abiding. We will not rest until you secure your legitimate right to self-determination. In Sha Allah, that day is not far away!



Message from H.E. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari
Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(Kashmir Black Day 27th October, 2022)

Today marks the 75th sombre anniversary of India's illegal occupation of the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) against their will. Seventy-five years ago on 27th October 1947, India forcibly landed its troops in IIOJK and continues to forcibly and illegally occupy this territory ever since.

For over seven decades, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been a battle of hope against overwhelming odds, of courage against fear, and of sacrifice against tyranny. Thousands of innocent Kashmiri men, women and children have lost their lives at the hands of Indian brutality. We pay rich tributes to all the martyrs for their ultimate sacrifice and to their families for their resolve and perseverance.

India's intensified campaign to force demographic changes in IIOJK is in full swing since 5th August 2019 when it revoked Article 370 and 35 A of its own constitution that had granted special status to IIOJK. The events of the last three years have included repressive measures such as outrageous gerrymandering to create Hindu-dominated constituencies in Muslim majority areas, issuance of millions of fake domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris, new laws on ownership of land and property, and expansion of voter rolls to include non-Kashmiri residents. These undemocratic and illegal measures are in direct contravention of UN resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention. They signify nothing but India's malicious campaign to change the distinct Kashmiri identity.

With 900,000 troops, IIOJK has become one of the most heavily militarized regions of the world. Nearly 690 Kashmiris have lost their lives in extra-judicial killings since 5th August 2019, including 170 just this year. The true representatives of the Kashmiri people have been arbitrarily detained for years. However, India's intransigence and brutality in the IIOJK cannot continue indefinitely.

To this day, India has failed to attain its objectives of subjugating the Kashmiri people. Kashmiris have yearned for freedom while confronting the most brutal forms of oppression at the hands of Indian occupation forces. The innumerable sacrifices and resilience of the people of Jammu & Kashmir have thwarted all Indian attempts of coercion and control. The resolute spirit of the people of Kashmir remains intact.

Three successive generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world and the United Nations to deliver. Pakistan calls upon the international community to take practical steps to hold India accountable and Indian Government must reverse the unilateral and illegal actions of 5th August 2019; stop its egregious human rights violations in IIOJK; repeal the draconian laws and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

I promise my Kashmiri brothers and sisters that their struggle and their sacrifices will not go in vain. The world can no more eschew its responsibility. We owe it to the Kashmiris.

