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President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Message on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day i.e., 5th February 2024

The people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have been struggling to realize their right to self-determination for the last seventy-six years. On this Kashmir Solidarity Day, the Government and people of Pakistan renew their unflinching support for their just and legitimate struggle.

The right to self-determination is a cardinal principle of international law. The UN General Assembly annually adopts a resolution expressing unequivocal support for the realization of the right to self-determination for people under foreign occupation. Regrettably, the Kashmiri people have not been able to exercise this inalienable right.

Today, IIOJK is one of the most-militarized zones in the world. Kashmiris are living in an environment of fear and intimidation. The Indian forces are engaged in indiscriminate use of force against civilians. Political activists and human rights defenders face arbitrary detention and confiscation of properties. The political parties, representing the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people, are being banned. These oppressive measures are aimed at crushing dissent in IIOJK.

India is also taking steps to consolidate its occupation of IIOJK. Following its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, India's efforts have been aimed at engineering demographic and political changes so that the Kashmiris transformed into a disempowered community in their own land. The Indian Supreme Court's judgement of 11 December 2023 is yet another manifestation of India's desire to undermine the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

India must end its gross human rights violations in IIOJK; reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019; repeal draconian laws; allow UN-mandated investigations into cases of human rights violations; and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

I wish to reiterate that seeking a just resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute will remain a key pillar of our foreign policy. Pakistan will continue to lend unstinted moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

**Message from Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
Mr. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, on the Occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day
(5 February 2024)**

The 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' is annually observed on the fifth of February to express Pakistan's unwavering support to the Kashmiri people's just struggle for realization of their right to self-determination. This is also an occasion to pay rich tribute to the sacrifices made by our Kashmiri brothers and sisters during the last seventy-six years.

The relevant UN Security Council Resolutions provide that the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. However, over the last seventy-six years, India has carried out a relentless campaign to intimidate and suppress the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In IIOJK, the iron-fisted Indian approach frequently manifests itself in extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions and custodial torture. India has muzzled the media and incarcerated the Kashmiri leadership and human rights defenders. These excesses have been well-documented by several human rights organizations and international media outlets.

India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in IIOJK were a blatant violation of international law including the UN Charter, Fourth Geneva Convention, and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. India has since been engaged in efforts to further entrench these illegal measures through a series of steps aimed at altering the demographic structure and political landscape of IIOJK.

The Indian Supreme Court's judgement of 11 December 2023 on the status of IIOJK is another step towards denial of the Kashmir people's right to self-determination. However, the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people cannot be undermined through such domestic legislation or judicial verdicts.

India must allow unrestricted access to the UN and OIC observers, international media and human rights organizations to IIOJK to obtain first-hand information about the situation there; and investigate and report human rights violations.

Pakistan has consistently maintained that a lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is possible only in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan will continue to extend its unstinted moral, diplomatic and political support for this just cause.

**Message from Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, on Kashmir Solidarity Day (5 February 2024)**

Every year, on the fifth of February, the people of Pakistan reaffirm their solidarity with the Kashmiri people's struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination. On this Kashmir Solidarity Day, we renew our unflinching support to this just cause.

The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is one of the oldest unresolved disputes on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council. Over the last seventy-six years, India has continued with its occupation of the large parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Thousands of Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives and suffered countless atrocities at the hands of the Indian forces. The situation took a turn for the worse, following India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, which are aimed at transforming Kashmiris into a disempowered community.

Today, India is bent on consolidating its occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The Indian Supreme Court's judgement of 11 December 2023 on the status of this internationally-recognized disputed territory is the latest step in this direction.

The human rights situation in IIOJK remains a source of grave concern to Pakistan and the rest of the world. India is denying the Kashmiris their fundamental rights and freedoms. There is an environment of fear in IIOJK. The true representatives of the Kashmiri people remain incarcerated. Political activists and human rights defenders are being victimized. Media has been silenced through coercion. However, no amount of oppression can break the will of the Kashmiris and undermine their legitimate struggle.

Today's commemoration is, *inter alia*, aimed at reminding the international community of its responsibility towards the oppressed Kashmiri people. The United Nations must honor the commitments it made 76 years ago and support the Kashmiri people's struggle for self-determination.

On its part, Pakistan will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the Kashmiri brothers and sisters. We will continue to lend our full moral, diplomatic and political support to their just struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.
