

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 39

25 September - 01 October 2023

Babusar Tunnel **Karakoram Highway**
POK tourism **NLC**
Gilgit-Baltistan **G**
power **CPEC** **D**
bill protests **S**



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

Ashrafi highlights Kashmir and Palestine issues in Mauritania

The Express Tribune, 25 September 2023

Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi highlighted the issues of Kashmir and Palestine in a 'resounding manner' while addressing an international conference held in Mauritania. The conference, attended by delegates from 65 Islamic countries, included the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani and Muslim World League Secretary-General Dr Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa. Ashrafi highlighted that the issues of Palestine and Kashmir were concerns for the Muslim Ummah (community), and unity was essential to resolve them. He expressed faith in peaceful negotiations, stating that the Muslim Ummah valued dialogue but could not tolerate the desecration of its sacred scriptures. He pledged unwavering support for the 'oppressed Kashmiri' and Palestinian brethren, vowing to raise their voices on every international platform. He stressed that Pakistan was not alone in this struggle as the entire Islamic world stood by it. He said the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia share Pakistan's stance on Kashmir.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2437643/ashrafi-highlights-kashmir-palestine-issues-in-mauritania>

Protest in Kashmir on Indian EAM speech at UNGA

Pakistan Today, 26 September 2023

A 'massive' protest was organized by Pasban-e-Hurriyat-Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar's speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The protest was held in front of the United Nations Mission Observer Office in Muzaffarabad. Protestants carried black flags and banners stating slogans against Indian atrocities in 'Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). Speakers on the occasion claimed that India has become a country known for spreading terrorism around the globe and that in such an environment, Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar's speech at the world forum was a failed attempt to mislead the world. Speakers alleged that BJP-led government by Narendra Modi is creating unrest and instability, particularly in South Asia.

Indian Foreign Minister has tried to hide their heinous war crimes by misleading the world in the UN, the country that has been involved in the massacre of civilians, the worst violations of human rights, and the atmosphere of war in the region should not be allowed to speak at UNGA prestigious forum, Speakers stated. They said that Narendra Modi, Ajit Duval, Rajnath Singh, and Amit Shah are responsible for killing political opponents in 'Azad Kashmir',

Pakistan, Canada, and other countries through its spy agency 'RAW.' They further said that India continues to ignore the UN resolutions on the Kashmir issue and under these circumstances, the speech of the Indian foreign minister at the international forum is nothing but to hide the importance and sensitivity of the Kashmir issue from the eyes of the world. The speakers demanded the implementation of the resolutions on the right of self-determination passed on the issue of Kashmir by the UNSC.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/09/26/protest-in-kashmir-on-indian-eam-speech-at-ungal>

British parliamentarians condemn human rights abuses in 'occupied Kashmir'

Pakistan Observer, 28 September 2023

Speakers including some 'prominent members' of the British Parliament while shedding light on various dimensions of the Kashmir dispute have called for an immediate cessation of human rights violations by Indian troops in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' While addressing a seminar organized jointly by the University of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (UAJK) and the UK-based Rights to Self-Determination Movement (International) in Muzaffarabad. The speakers strongly condemned the 'grave' human rights abuses in 'occupied Kashmir' and pledged support to the Kashmiri people's fundamental rights and their

right to self-determination. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Minister of State for Human Rights, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, addressed the audience and highlighted that 'occupied Kashmir' represents the world's largest military concentration. She claimed that the Indian army's actions in 'occupied Kashmir' have surpassed the atrocities witnessed in numerous military conflicts in the world.

Mullick alleged that Kashmir stands as the only region in the world where 'sexual violence' against women, children, and even men is systematically used as a weapon of war. She further expressed concern about the potential use of nuclear weapons by the RSS-led Indian government to further their agenda. She drew the attention of the world to the 'plight' of Muhammad Yasin Malik and the atrocities committed against him in the Indian Jail. She emphasized that the Modi-led government in India might go as far as the judicial murder of Yasin Malik in a bid to solicit the support of extremist Hindus in the upcoming elections. Andrew Gwynne, Member of the British Parliament, emphasized the British Parliament's strong commitment to supporting the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and addressing human rights violations in the disputed region. He highlighted the efforts of both the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir and Friends of Kashmir from the Labour Party in advocating for

Kashmiris' rights and the protection of human rights.

<https://pakobserver.net/british-parliamentarians-condemn-human-rights-abuses-in-occupied-kashmir/>

Front workers protest in front of the press club against Police attack on JKLF convoy

Daily Parliament Times, 30 September 2023

The Police of the Bagh district of 'Azad Kashmir' attacked on Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) convoy. Many workers were tortured and arrested. Bagh Police stopped JKLF workers from participating in the Rawalkot Convention. Front workers started protesting in front of the press club. Addressing the protestors, Sardar Jahangir Mirza, zonal president of the Liberation Front, said that according to our schedule, we had set the date of the convention in Rawalkot four months ago and with the permission of the administration, we will hold our convention in Rawalkot. The program of the student wing is going on and we were going according to the scheduled program when the DC and SP stopped our convoy near the brigade and the police stormed the procession. Some associates were arrested and all the vehicles were blocked. We strongly condemn this and demand an investigation into the incident.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/30/front-workers-protest-in-front-of-the-press-club-against-police-attack-on-jklf-convoy/>

Muzaffarabad police baton-charge supporters of power bill protests

Dawn, 30 September 2023

The Muzaffarabad police baton-charged protesters gathered to condemn the arrests of civil society activists protesting against inflated power bills and other issues. A Dawn correspondent reported that a large number of people were heading towards their sit-in camp at the city's Central Press Club (CPC) when police contingents intercepted and lobbed tear gas shells at them a few yards before their destination. The police also resorted to baton-charging the demonstrators and were pelted with stones in retaliation. In Muzaffarabad, a sit-in camp has been established by the people's action committee since 20 September, initially at a roundabout in front of the Press Club and later on the club premises facing the main thoroughfare, with an appeal to the people that they should not pay their electricity bills. Participants of the sit-in, who included traders, lawyers, students and vendors, would daily attend the activity from 9am to 4pm every day, during which they would collect electricity bills from consumers visiting them from different city neighbourhoods.

Interestingly, local police had also booked a civil society activist under a sound system law introduced under the National Action Programme against terrorism for using mosque

loudspeakers to persuade people not to pay their electricity bills. For the past few days, participants of the sit-in were seen making boats and aeroplanes of electricity bills which they had announced would be thrown into Neelum River on 28 September. Similar demonstrations also took place in the Poonch and Mirpur divisions of the region, where a huge number of power bills were torched. In a surprise development, it had emerged that police had lodged first information reports (FIRs) against dozens of trader leaders, councillors and other prominent civil society activists in different parts of the state for 'destroying' electricity bills and 'provoking the public against the government.'

While the police attempted to make the traders reopen their shops, all of them refused to do so and took to the streets along with other members of civil society in different parts of 'AJK' in condemnation. In several city neighbourhoods, angry protesters blocked roads with obstructions, chanted slogans against the government and administration, and also clashed with the police. The police resorted to baton-charging in Muzaffarabad and were pelted with stones in return. A Dawn.com correspondent present at the scene saw that a deputy superintendent of police, a constable and scores of protesters received injuries due to incidents of baton-charge, tear gas shelling and

stone-pelting in various areas of the city. Shaukat Nawaz Mir, the elected president of the traders of Muzaffarabad said the combined core committee of people's action committees has convened its meeting on 2 October to decide on a collective charter of demands to be placed before 'AJK' Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq.

Protests in Poonch division

Meanwhile, in Poonch division's Rawalakot, footage showed thousands of people took out a rally amid a shutter-down strike, chanting slogans against the government and the local administration. The demonstrators re-established the sit-in camp that the police had uprooted last night. In Abbaspur, hundreds of people cordoned off a police station after the police had allegedly resorted to violence. In Neelum Valley, hundreds of electricity bills were set on fire at the close of a rally amid a shutter-down strike, following which local police booked some 13 nominated and 15 unknown persons in a case.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1778576/muzaffarabad-police-baton-charge-supporters-of-power-bill-protests>

Kashmiris firm to resist Indian 'occupation'

Pakistan Observer, 1 October 2023

Modi-led BJP came into power in 2014 after a considerable majority in the general election rooting out the United

Progressive Alliance. For the subsequent elections in 2019 BJP's manifesto explicitly called for the revocation of semi-autonomous status of 'Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK). On 5th August 2019, the BJP implemented their thought and pre-meditated strategies to ensure the annexation of the 'occupied' territory into the Indian Union. The implementation of controversial policies intended to subjugate the people of Jammu and Kashmir through fear, denial of their basic human rights, and excessive use of force. The Modi-led central government believes that the implementation of such type of policies will lead to an end of the long-standing international dispute, and to perpetrate demographic transformation of Muslim majority states into minorities.

Moreover, he claimed that one of the brazen actions in 'IOJK' that has been termed as a violation of fundamental rights is property attachment. Indian authorities are attaching properties of pro-resistance leadership, human rights defenders, journalists, academics, and members of civil society. Indian authorities label them that their property is being used for anti-national activities and have falsely framed them in money laundering and terror financing charges. This policy has spread fear and tension among the masses of Jammu and Kashmir and has affected the Kashmiri diaspora too, those people who are struggling for the

right of self-determination and were either forced to leave or left due to the fear of being killed or jailed. The central Government backed by the 'Hindu extremist lobby' is following Israel's model of occupation that has been implemented in Palestine, they have initiated the process to establish settler colonies in the 'IOJK' to ensure exclusive Hindu settlements in the region.

India, despite being a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and a signatory to multiple international treaties and conventions related to human rights is flagrantly violating the international standards and principles daily. The process of attachment of properties is being done as per section 2(g) & 25 of the ULP Act [Unlawful Activities Prevention Act]. So far several hundreds of properties have been attached through this section and the process is going on mostly in all districts of 'IOJK.' Moreover, the seizure of property is being done through the orders of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of India. The Indian authorities have also listed several houses that will be attached or seized very soon. All these actions are being carried out by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) of India. In addition, Police and paramilitary forces have been given a free hand to demolish the houses where the armed freedom fighters are taking refuge after taking up arms in self-

defense against India's 900000 occupying forces personnel.

The police, paramilitary forces, and state agencies including NIA and SIA have widened the unlawful framework of counterinsurgency against the pro-freedom and pro-resistance people of 'IOJK.' They are operating under a host of repressive laws, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) is one of those repressive laws that is frequently used after the revocation of the semi-autonomous status of 'IOJK' to suppress and silence dissent. The Modi-led central government has been trying to establish its legitimacy in the 'IOJK' and is trying very hard to portray to the international community a false image of normalcy in the 'occupied' region. But in reality, implementing brutal policies and strategies, and hosting international events in disputed regions under the shadow of 'occupying forces' will not restore peace and security or real normalcy in the region. The ground realities of Kashmir are not hidden from the international community while the government backed by a 'Hindu extremist' lobby is altering the demography of the Muslim-majority state.

[Views expressed by APHC- 'AJK' General Secretary, Sheikh Abdul Mateen]

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-firm-to-resist-indian-occupation-2/>

'IIOJK' witnesses surge in assaults, reprisals against journalists, human rights activists: Advocate Parvez

Pakistan Observer, 1 October 2023

Kashmiri representative, Advocate Parvez Ahmad, has said that assaults and reprisals against journalists and groups engaged with the UN in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) have increased over the year. According to Kashmir Media Service, Advocate Parvez Ahmad speaking during the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) session in Geneva said the right to engage with the UN mechanisms is a basic exercise of fundamental freedoms and human rights of all and must be respected and protected. He said former UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, David Kaye, had highlighted the state repression and high-handedness against the local journalists in 'IIOJK.' For over a decade now, the international journalists remain barred from entering and reporting from the disputed territory.

Moreover, he claimed that the internet and other communication services are often snapped or throttled at a very low speed denying people any meaningful way of communicating. Political dissent is criminalized by draconian laws, pushing journalists and newspapers into near total submission while continually perpetuating an

atmosphere of fear, he claimed. Parvez deplored that the newspapers that tried to highlight the state repression have been targeted through various crude ways to deter others from speaking. He said The Kashmir Walla, a news site that covered the Kashmir conflict and its effects on people's lives, is one of the most recent victims of this repression. The Kashmir Walla's website and social media accounts were shut down by the authorities on 19 August 2023 because they were 'glorifying terrorism' and 'spreading fake news', he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/iiojk-witnesses-surge-in-assaults-reprisals-against-journalists-hr-activists-advocate-parvez/>

Economic Developments

United Nations Organization hosts dialogue about sustainable development in Mirpur 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 28 September 2023

A representative of the United Nations Organization (UNO) revealed that the 11th in a series of 12 dialogues on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was held in Mirpur, 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK). The dialogue was jointly organized by the UN and the Planning and Development Department of the 'AJK' administration. More than 1,000 local leaders from twelve major cities across six provinces of Pakistan have met to discuss the development challenges

across the country, and how they impede economic and social progress in their districts. The dialogues, the first of which took place on 23 August, were held in the different languages spoken across Pakistan. These dialogues bring the UN closer to the people and the local governments that we serve, said Mio Sato, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Chief of Mission in Pakistan and acting UN Resident Coordinator.

He further said that the organizer of the meetings has actively listened to the people's concerns and their ideas. With the help of the UN and the locals, efforts to accelerate progress to bridge inequalities and reduce poverty will be made. He stressed that we will share their suggestions with the Federal Government as we focus on achieving sustainable development goals.

In Mirpur, the discussions focused on four topics chosen by the participants ahead of the event: water, sanitation, and hygiene; education; youth employment; and efficient Governance. Nearly 100 local leaders, women, including youths participated together with senior Mirpur officials, the IOM Chief of Mission and acting UN Resident Coordinator, and other UN staff. The twelve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) dialogues series intended to engage local leaders around development issues such as access to basic social services; gender equality and women's empowerment;

climate change; sustainable development, inclusive economic growth and decent work; and governance. All are key to Pakistan's progress towards the achievement of the global SDGs. The remaining ten SDG dialogues series have already taken place in Quetta, Balochistan; in Mardan and Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; in Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Multan, Rawalpindi and Sialkot, Punjab; and Hyderabad and Sukkur, Sindh.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/28/united-nations-organization-hosts-dialogue-about-sustainable-development-in-mirpur-ajki/>

PM 'AJK' says a mega development package for the Poonch Division will be announced soon

Daily Parliament Times, 28 September 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that a mega development package for Poonch Division would be announced soon. While addressing a public gathering at Hajeera, the PM said that the issue of inflated electricity bills and shortage of subsidized flour has been resolved amicably. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that the government was giving a subsidy of about 1500 rupees on a 20 kg bag of flour. He said it was for the first time that the government suspended the notification and withdrew additional taxes imposed on

the electricity bills. The PM said that the incumbent coalition government had increased the salaries of government employees despite facing financial constraints. He said that the government bore a burden of 19 billion rupees in this regard. He also directed the officials of the Department of Highways to prepare the feasibility report for the Hajira Bypass. Praising the people of the Poonch division for their resilience and courage to fight for their rights, he said that raising their voice for their rights was good, but while demanding their rights, people should not forget their duties and obligations towards the state. He further said that the 'AJK' assembly would complete its full five-year term and added that he was a strong proponent of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/28/pm-ajk-says-a-mega-development-package-for-poonch-division-would-be-announced-soon/>

Machinery mobilized to start construction of 40km long Shahrah-e-Nagar

Pamir Times, 29 September 2023

Construction of Shahrah-e-Nagar, a strategic road passing through the upper reaches of the Nagar district, has started. The contractor, NLC, has mobilized machinery to the region to commence the construction work. Costing around four billion rupees, the road will start at Pisan (Minapin) and

end at Hoper, according to a press statement issued by the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) govt. The 45ft wide road and 40 kilometers long road will have four bridges. The road will also function as an alternative to the Karakoram Highway. Shahrah-e-Nagar, while providing better connectivity between different villages of Nagar, will also boost tourism and other economic activities in the district. Federal secretary for Kashmir Affairs and GB, Babar Hayat Tarrar, visited the project site and was briefed about the project details.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/09/28/machinery-mobilized-to-start-construction-of-40km-long-shahrah-e-nagar/>

SSC on Kashmir Affairs and GB met under the Chairmanship of Senator Prof. Sajid Mir at the Parliament House

Daily Parliament Times, 2 October 2023

The Senate Standing Committee (SSC) on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) met today under the Chairmanship of Senator Prof. Sajid Mir here at the Parliament House. While discussing the committee recommendations on the release of sufficient funds for the timely completion of projects meant to increase energy supply to GB by the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Government of GB, it was argued that the Ministry is not trusted in matters between the two

governments. The secretary of the ministry said that the Interim Constitution of Kashmir and the GB Order are not being followed according to the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Karachi Agreement. The Secretary Ministry said that the salary of the Chief Secretary of GB and Kashmir is paid by the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs.

The secretary's ministry said that the Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP) projects need reviewing and that the design and the execution of projects are faulty. He further said that they have budget restrictions and that the fiscal space does not allow all the projects to be executed and added that only doable projects will be released while the rest will be taken up later on. The chairman committee stressed that the Ministry's relations with GB and the Kashmir government should be further improved. The committee also argued that the GB and Kashmir need generators for power projects. The Government of GB has extended a request to the State Bank of Pakistan urging them to facilitate the opening of letters of Credit (LCS) for banks. This initiative is aimed at expediting the procurement of Turbo Generating Sets (TG sets) for completed hydropower projects in anticipating the upcoming winter season

The committee also received a briefing on the new phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in GB. The

committee was briefed on the infrastructure projects in the region. The project improvement and widening of the Gilgit-Shandur road (N-140) is a Rs 49.946 Billion project at a length of 216 Km. It was briefed that this road is declared as a part of the CPEC alternate route, thus connecting the KPK with other regions. It was further briefed that the expected date of completion of the project is 4 November 2024. Similarly, the committee was briefed on re-alignment of KKH phase –II (Thakot – Raikot Section) and the Babusar Tunnel project on N-15. The committee also took a briefing on the socioeconomic development projects. The meeting was attended by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Senator Shahadat Awan, and other senior officers of the attached departments.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/10/02/ssc-on-kashmir-affairs-gb-met-under-the-chairmanship-of-senator-prof-sajid-mir-at-the-ph/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Pakistan has consistently exposed the Indian army's war crimes in 'occupied Kashmir:' APHC-'AJK'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 25 September 2023

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter has thanked the Pakistani government and Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar for strongly highlighting the atrocities committed

by Indian soldiers against innocent Kashmiris in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir as well as the Kashmir dispute in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and at the international level. Imtiaz Wani, the information secretary for the APHC-'AJK', said in a statement that Pakistan has always made known the 'war crimes' committed by Indian soldiers in the 'occupied territory' of Jammu and Kashmir. He demanded that the UN agencies take immediate action on the war crimes committed by the Indian troops in the 'occupied territory.' He claimed India has turned Jammu and Kashmir into a military garrison and the Indian soldiers are killing innocent people in the territory daily.

He claimed India is violating international laws and regulations in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' but the Kashmiri people will continue their struggle until the Kashmir dispute is resolved according to the resolutions of the World Body and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Wani also praised the members of the Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on Kashmir, who raised their voices against the ongoing Indian atrocities in the 'occupied territory.' He also thanked Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for highlighting the Kashmir issue in the UNGA.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-25.jpg>

Pakistan will make the world aware of Indian terrorism: Mushaal Hussein Mullick

Jasarat, 25 September 2023

Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the prime minister's special assistant, announced that Pakistan will expose 'Indian terrorism' to the world, and added that recently the Prime Minister of Canada has exposed India's 'state terrorism' to the international community. She said that Kashmiris are pleading with Indian civil society to condemn the 'war crimes' being committed by its army in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' as well as the daily atrocities executed by the Modi government. She claimed that the RSS is a 'terrorist group' and that the brutality of India is being seen first-hand by the people of 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' She claimed that Justin Trudeau is today supported by Europe, America, and the rest of the Western world, and that 'India's terrorist network' has finally come to light for the entire world to see.

She claimed that the Indian government was carrying out terrible activities and that there had been martyrdoms at mosques and churches in Pakistan. She alleged that India is involved in terrorism both within and beyond Pakistan's borders, as highlighted by Pakistan for a long time. She said that we stand shoulder to shoulder with our Sikh brethren, whom India has threatened to kill. She further claimed that the Kashmiris' blood is

being spilled by the Indian government and that the Indian intelligence agency 'RAW' has also conducted operations in Pakistan. In this difficult time, Pakistan, she underlined, should be sympathetic to its Sikh brothers.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/09/25/mashal-malik-8/>

Europe needs to assist in settling the Kashmir dispute: 'AJK' President

Nawaiwaqt, 28 September 2023

The President of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that Belgium should engage with other European nations to assist India and Pakistan in reaching a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir problem. In a meeting with Belgium's ambassador to Pakistan, Charles Delogne, the president stated that Belgium, as a friend of both parties (India and Pakistan), can act as a mediator to help find a resolution to the ongoing dispute. While referring to the political and human rights situation, he stressed to Ambassador Delogne that India had broken all records of cruelty and brutality in the 'Indian-occupied' territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He suggested that Belgium, which has a strong reputation when it comes to protecting human rights, needs to step up its efforts to put an end to the abuses in Kashmir.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2023-09-29/page-1>

‘Azad Kashmir’ Bar Council announces support for the anti-inflation movement and sets a three-day deadline for the release of jailed lawyers and citizens

Urdupoint, 2 October 2023

The national bar associations and bar council of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), while declaring their full support to the ongoing anti-inflation movement, issued a three-day deadline to the government for the release of the civilians and lawyers who had been detained by the local administration. The Vice Chairman of the Bar Council, Raja Muhammad Nadeem Khan, during a news conference where he was joined by other members of the Bar Council and representatives of the Supreme Court, High Court, Central Bar Association, and District Bar said that we will organize a movement across the ‘AJK’ cities against the administration cruel policies including the inflation and electricity taxes. The ‘Azad Kashmir’ Bar Council, he claimed, supports the people’s ongoing anti-inflation movement and denounces the use of violence and immoral methods to silence people’s voices by the state. He said that the Bar Council will offer free legal representation to those who have been illegally arrested. He suggested that the Prime Minister immediately issue an executive order suspending the FIR and releasing the citizens who have been detained and added that the

government needs to reduce taxes and offer electricity at a reasonable price to the protesting civilians.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3751226.html>

Social Media (tweets)

Mehtab Ahmed @mehtabahmed2

30 September 2023

Protests are being held in Rawalakot & different parts of so called Azad Kashmir against illegal arrests of peaceful political activists by police.

Political temperature in AJK is very high at the moment. Police has used baton charge & tear gas in Muzaffarabad.

#RightsMovementAJK.

<https://twitter.com/mehtabahmed2/status/1708015911590916273>

Husnain Bhatti @Husnain62643787

1 October 2023

These scenes are not from ‘occupied’ Kashmir but from ‘Azad Kashmir.’ A mother saves her child from tear gas ❤️ the situation is tense in ‘AJK’ after the civilians arrest and tear gas. People on the streets against inflation!

#AJKProtests #PakistanUnderFascism

Images link:

<https://twitter.com/Husnain62643787/status/1708333881743515784>

Tariq Naqash @TariqNaqash*02 October 2023*

'AJK's Central Police Office asks regional #police chiefs (DIGs) to specify their needs & priorities regarding deployment of #FrontierConstabulary, #PunjabConstabulary & #PakistanRangers in their areas to effectively handle the ongoing protest movement against high #power tariff.

<https://twitter.com/TariqNaqash/status/1708695735473143918>

Basharat Issa@ BasharatIssa*02 October 2023*

Without fundamental rights, political participation & representation & accountability, all "development" projects in GB r just bubbles with no long term results & benefitting a small alrly privileged group. Such projects create further alienation, depoliticisation & disenfranchisement.

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1708902954806177881>

Gilgit-Baltistan Civil Service Association (GBCSA) @gbcivilservice*02 October 2023*

Gilgit-Baltistan Civil Service Association (GBCSA) & GB Civil Secretariat Employees Welfare Association jointly held a meeting today and decided:

1. To observe complete strike soon if GB Cabinet delays action on GBCSA demands

2. GBCSA Cabinet to be re-shuffled in days
3. Anti-abortionists drive to be accelerated
4. Heightened efforts to reverse Illegal transfer against cadre posts

<https://twitter.com/gbcivilservice/status/1708883427620196744>

Mehtab Ahmed @mehtabahmed2*02 October 2023*

It's been five months since this movement started. Unprecedented huge protests have taken place without causing any damage to property by protesters and yet @AnwarulHaq_PMAJK talks about anarchy. We know you derive this foolish rhetoric from your masters.

#RightsMovementAJK

<https://twitter.com/mehtabahmed2/status/1708884548468285643>

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Compiled by

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Edited By

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Disclaimer

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