

# Weekly POK News Digest

*(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)*

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## Political Developments

### **Photo exhibition at Pakistan Embassy in Belgium to highlight Indian brutalities in 'IIOJK'**

*Pakistan Observer, 24 October 2023*

Kashmir Black Day photo exhibition depicting 'India's crimes against humanity' in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) was inaugurated at the Embassy of Pakistan Belgium. Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union, Amna Baloch, inaugurated the event. Speaking on the occasion, she called upon the international community to intervene and stop the bloodshed of the voiceless and defenceless people of 'IIOJK' at the hands of Indian troops. The Ambassador said that such events underscored the need to hold India accountable for its crimes against humanity in the 'occupied' territory. She said that the exhibition would help visitors to understand the gravity of human rights abuses committed by 'Indian occupation forces', spanning over many decades. She said that Pakistan would continue to raise its voice for the Kashmiris on all platforms. Amna Baloch said Pakistan stands by their brothers and sisters of 'IIOJK' and will continue to extend moral, political, and diplomatic support to their just struggle till the realization of their right to self-determination and complete freedom from Indian subjugation.

<https://pakobserver.net/photo-exhibition-at-pakistan-embassy-in-belgium-to-highlight-indian-brutalities-in-iiojk/>

### **APHC urges Kashmiris to observe Black Day on the 27th**

*The Nation, 25 October 2023*

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has urged the people in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and around the world to observe Black Day on 27 October to convey to the world the urgency to resolve the Kashmir dispute to avert a global catastrophe. Jammu and Kashmir is surrounded by three nuclear powers. According to Kashmir Media Service, it was on 27th October 1947 when Indian troops 'invaded' Jammu and Kashmir and 'occupied' it in total violation of the Partition Plan of the subcontinent and against the Kashmiris' aspirations. The APHC senior vice Chairman Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar in a statement in Srinagar also appealed to all Kashmiris living across the globe to observe 27th October as Black Day.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/25-Oct-2023/aphc-urges-kashmiris-to-observe-black-day-on-27th>

### **India launches cultural offensive to reshape political history in 'IIOJK'**

*Pakistan Observer, 25 October 2023*

The fascist Indian government, led by Narendra Modi and driven by a Hindutva mindset, has launched a full-fledged cultural offensive in the 'Indian Illegal Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) by changing the names of historical places and institutions as part of its efforts to reshape the political history of the territory. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is hell-bent on

obliterating the Muslim identity of Kashmir and for this purpose, it has taken many initiatives to build Hindu temples, change the transcript of the Kashmiri language, obscure its history, link it with the Muslim world and change names of important places. The Jammu and Kashmir government approved the naming of 57 infrastructure assets, like schools, roads, bridges, and sports stadiums, after the Indian army, a latest Human Rights Report compiled by the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) revealed.

This renaming of schools, colleges, roads, and buildings in 'IIOJK' is similar to what the BJP has been doing in the rest of India since 2014, aiming to erase Mughal influences. For instance, in October 2019, the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel became the Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel. The Public Health Engineering, Irrigation, and Flood Control Department was changed to the Jal Shakti Department. The Sher-e-Kashmir police medals for gallantry and meritorious service were renamed the Jammu and Kashmir police medals for the same, as of 26 January 2020. In July 2021, the Divisional Commissioner's office in Jammu instructed Deputy Commissioners to identify government schools in villages and municipal wards that could be named after the Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and the police.

The report hinted that more changes were on the horizon, including renaming the Government College for

Women, Srinagar, after Prof Riyaz Punjabi, and the Boy's Higher Secondary School Jawahar Nagar after Prof Hamidi Kashmiri. The Government Degree College, Hyderpora, is proposed to be named after Padma Shri awardee Moti Lal Keemu, and Lal Mandi Road might be named after Sahitya Academy awardee poet Zinda Koul, or Masterji.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-launches-cultural-offensive-to-reshape-political-history-in-iiojk/>

### **India's persistent oppression root cause of the indigenous freedom movement in 'IIOJK'**

*The Express Tribune, 26 October 2023*

The 27th of October is observed as a black day all over the world by the people of Kashmir as 76 years ago on this day, India without legal justification, had 'forcibly occupied' the Muslims dominated state of Jammu and Kashmir by depriving its people of all rights and liberties. The unending repression, human rights abuses, and organised Indian 'state terrorism' that started from an illegal invasion were further intensified after the fascist Modi regime had unlawfully revoked the special status of the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) on 5 August 2019. Breaking all records of human rights abuses and war crimes in 'IIOJK', the 'India's apartheid' regime had deprived the oppressed Kashmiris of all civil, economic, constitutional, and political rights and liberties after abrogating Articles 370 and 35 A, thereby holding hostage millions of Kashmiris at gunpoint in the

held valley where life has become a nightmare for millions, especially children and women.

27 October 1947 and 5 August 2019 are the blackest days in the history of Kashmir as on these dates, India had hatched a deep-rooted conspiracy to rob Kashmiris of their history, language, and ethno-cultural identity, said Manzoorul Haq, former ambassador. He said the 'Indian occupation forces' continued oppression, human rights abuses, and reign of terror in 'IIOJK' were one of the root causes of an indigenous freedom movement in the held valley that was virtually turned into the world's largest jail in modern history. India can't change 'IIOJK' autonomous status unilaterally in the wake of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. The Indian government's illegal acts of 5 August 2019 were neither endorsed by the UNSC nor by any foreign country, he said.

A H Hilali, former Chairman Political Science Department at the University of Peshawar said that strategic stability has been threatened by India as it continues to receive an abundant supply of conventional and non-conventional weapons that put the peace of South Asia at stake. He said the unprecedented increase in India's military budget and expenditures in recent years have characterized the global security landscape as grim. Mushtaq Ahmed Shah, Vice Chairman, of Jammu and Kashmir People's League told the news agency that 27 October was the blackest day in the

history of Kashmir. After 5 August illegal actions, 'Indian occupation forces' had killed innocent Kashmiris in fake encounters, put Kashmiri leadership behind bars, imposed clampdown on media, and used rape as a weapon of war, he said. Even the mass rituals and funeral of great Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Gillani was not allowed and his body was forcefully snatched from the bereaved family and buried at night.

Similarly, great Hurriyat leader, Muhammad Yasin Malik was jailed for life in a fake case in a bid to silence his strong voice for Kashmir's freedom and terrorize other Kashmir leadership. Despite the brutal killing of freedom fighter Burhan Wani and other Kashmiri leadership in a fake encounter, he said India has failed to suppress the indigenous freedom movement in 'IIOJK.' The Kashmir leader claimed over six million illegal domicile certificates of 'IIOJK' have been provided to Hindus in a bid to bring about demographic change there. He said the gruesome violation of human rights including the forced disappearance of over 8,000 innocent Kashmiris, 8,652 unmarked mass graves, imposition of the longest curfew on some 10 million unarmed Kashmiris, extra-judicial killings, and human rights abuses especially against women and children exposed India's ugly secular face.

Citing media reports, he said that 13 innocent Kashmiris fell to Indian bullets in September last and around 96246 since January 1989 in the

occupied territory. The Kashmir leader while referring to the September 2021 Pakistani dossier said about 8,652 unmarked graves were identified in 89 villages of six districts in the held valley while the bodies of 37 Kashmiris burnt alive by Indian forces were beyond recognition. Since 1989, he said over 96,000 cases of extrajudicial killings, around 162,000 cases of arbitrary arrests and torture, over 25,000 pellet gun injuries, 11,250 women raped, 23,000 women widowed, and over 108,000 children orphaned by the Indian army.

Mushtaq Ahmed said excessive use of snipers and cluster ammunition by India to target innocent Kashmiris along the Line of Control (LoC), the use of children and women as human shields by the Indian army during encounters and making them sleep at military camps forcing them to dig out minefields and tying youth on military jeeps had testified Modi government's direct involvement in war crimes and genocide of Kashmiris. Hussain Khateeb, member of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (Gillani Group) said the burning of mosques, houses, and shops belonging to Muslims at BJP-led Tripura state by Hindutva groups of RSS, VHP, and Bajrang Dal last year had exposed Modi's tyranny against minorities.

Ejaz Khan, former Chairman of, the International Relations Department, University of Peshawar said India's 27 October 1947 and 5 August 5, 2019, illegal acts were a complete violation of international human rights laws

including the 4th Geneva Convention and UN Security Resolutions. He said the international community should look beyond trade and business interests and step forward with collective action to stop the genocide of oppressed Kashmiris besides pressurize Modi government to reverse all its illegal actions of 5 August 2019 and give the right of self-determination to them lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Oct-2023/india-s-persistent-oppression-root-cause-of-indigenous-freedom-movement-in-iiojk>

### **'IIOJK' reels under 'forced silence' after India's controversial actions of August 5**

*Pakistan Observer, 26 October 2023*

Miseries of the people of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) have exacerbated manifold due to the unprecedented ferocity of the 'fascist Indian government' especially after the revocation of Kashmir's special status on 5 August 2019. This relentless suppression and its grave consequences have unfolded largely under an unnoticed 'forced silence,' painting a grim picture of the ongoing turmoil in the territory, which India invaded on 27 October 1947. Forced silence, a neglected dimension of the post-August 2019 developments, is the biggest danger Kashmiris have been facing right now, according to the latest report released by the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR).



While the indigenous population continued to live under heavy surveillance, it was reported that phone-cracking tools and techniques used by India's law enforcers were increasingly raising privacy concerns. Cell phones are being taped by the agencies and every individual's actions and activities are being monitored. The majority of Kashmiris are smeared and censored as 'rabid fanatics' by the Hindu supremacist regime that takes pride and derives pleasure in caging humiliating and torturing Kashmiris. The report revealed that people were not allowed to express themselves, besides journalists, civil society activists, and even ordinary netizens were taken to custody for merely expressing their opinions on social media.

A fake narrative is being promoted under the supervision of government vigilantes who continue to monitor the media. Under this censorship regime, ordinary citizens' Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts have been persistently censored by the government since August 2019 to ensure that there is no voice contrary to its claims. In a further escalation of the war on Kashmiri dissent, the report said Indian authorities suspended the passports of up to 200 Kashmiris, including students, lawyers, and journalists. Those targeted received notices that their passports had been 'impounded' allegedly because they were deemed a 'national security threat.'

<https://pakobserver.net/iiojk-reels-under-forced-silence-after-indias-controversial-actions-of-august-5/>

## **Pakistan thwarts India fire along Working Boundary**

*The Express Tribune, 26 October 2023*

In a swift and decisive response, Pakistani security forces reacted to unprovoked firing from Indian forces along the Working Boundary in the Zafarwal sector of Sialkot. This is the second time that Indian forces have resorted to violating the existing ceasefire terms along the Line of Control (LoC) and Working Boundary jointly agreed by both Islamabad and New Delhi in February 2021. The situation escalated when Indian forces attempted to breach the Pakistani border, employing quadcopter drones in an apparent effort to surveil the activities of security personnel stationed along the Working Boundary. Pakistan's security forces effectively thwarted the Indian incursion, prompting the Indian side to resort to unprovoked firing at Pakistani checkposts. In a timely and resolute countermeasure, Pakistan responded firmly to the unwarranted aggression from the Indian forces.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2443102/india-resorts-to-unprovoked-firing-along-working-boundary>

## **Pakistan reaffirms support for Kashmiris' right to self-determination**

*Dawn, 27 October 2023*

As the nation observes 'Kashmir Black Day' today, marking the 76 years of the Indian armed forces 'illegal occupation' in Kashmir, President Dr. Arif Alvi and caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar have assured the Kashmiri

people of Pakistan's unwavering support for their 'legitimate struggle' for the right to self-determination. Meanwhile, the Foreign Office spokesperson, at a weekly press briefing, said that the people of Kashmir have never accepted, nor will they ever accept, the 'illegal occupation' of their land or India's systematic campaign to suppress them through force, turning them into a disempowered minority in their homeland. The spokesperson reaffirmed that Pakistan will continue to provide political, moral, and diplomatic support to 'our Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they realize their inherent right to self-determination as per the UNSC resolutions.'

She said the script being enacted by Israeli occupation forces in Palestine was being replicated by India in held Kashmir. She said that 'like the Palestinian people, the people of Jammu and Kashmir continue to wait for the UN Security Council to ensure the implementation of its resolutions that recognise their right to self-determination.' Rooted in the colonial past, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, like the Palestine question has been on the UN Security Council's agenda for over seven decades, she pointed out.

#### *Most militarized region*

PM Kakar, in his message, noted that over the last 76 years, India has employed various methods to perpetuate its illegal rule over Kashmir. However, since 5 August 2019, there has been an intensified campaign to 'Indianise' Kashmir and disempower

the Kashmiri people in their land. The 'Indian occupation' has taken several measures to achieve these nefarious designs, including gerrymandering electoral constituencies, adding non-Kashmiris to voter rolls, issuing domicile certificates to outsiders, and introducing new laws on land and property ownership. These undemocratic and illegal actions directly violate relevant UNSC resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, he said. Today, he claimed, held Kashmir remains one of the most militarised regions in the world. The PM emphasised that recent developments in the Middle East have shown that long-standing disputes should not be allowed to persist.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1784075/pakistan-reaffirms-support-for-kashmiris-right-to-self-determination>

#### **Kashmir resolution adopted in Senate without discussion**

*Dawn, 28 October 2023*

The Senate in its first sitting since the installation of the caretaker set-up in the country on Friday unanimously passed a resolution 'condemning India over brutal state terrorism' in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir', but without holding a debate on the matter after the senators decided not to take up any agenda item to pay homage to two colleagues, who died recently. The upper house of parliament had been requisitioned to discuss the Gaza situation after the government showed reluctance in calling the regular



session, but Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani at the outset announced that members would only be allowed to deliver speeches to pay tribute to the late PML-N Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed and former Senator S.M. Zafar. The chairman declared that the house would formally begin a debate on the Gaza situation on Monday. A couple of senators regretted that they were 'powerless' and could do nothing, except pass resolutions condemning Israel and India. Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JI) said they had called the Senate session to discuss the Gaza situation two weeks after the Israeli assault on Palestinians.

#### *Resolution on Kashmir*

As soon as Mr Agha finished reading the resolution on S.M. Zafar, the chairman asked him to also table the resolution on Kashmir as the session coincided with the observance of Black Day in the country to mark India's occupation of the Valley in 1947. Your voice should reach New Delhi, said Mr Sanjrani while asking Mr Agha to read out the resolution loudly. Through the resolution, the senators asked the international community for the expedited formation of a commission of inquiry to investigate 'gross human rights violations' in India-held Kashmir. The resolution rejected the conduct of 'fake elections' in India-held Kashmir, adding these actions violated the UN Security Council resolutions which stipulate that the final disposition of the dispute would be

made by the will of local people through a free and impartial plebiscite to be conducted under the UN auspices.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1784358/kashmir-resolution-adopted-in-senate-without-discussion>

### **Economic Developments**

#### **Norwegian enterprise to make investments in Solar and Hydropower generation in GB**

*The Nation, 24 October 2023*

Norwegian enterprise, NorHydro, is to make investments in Solar and Hydropower generation in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). An agreement to this effect was signed between NorHydro and the GB government in Islamabad. An amount of seven million dollars will be invested in the initial phase during which the Norwegian company will spearhead the development of a cutting-edge 4.5 MW solar power project and embark on the rehabilitation of powerhouses. In addition, the Norwegian company will also develop low-head hydropower projects on rivers in GB.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Oct-2023/norwegian-enterprise-to-make-investments-in-solar-hydropower-generation-in-gb>

#### **PSDP projects in GB will soon see progress: Federal secretary of Kashmir and GB affairs**

*Dailyk2, 25 October 2023*

Federal Secretary Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) affairs, Jawad Rafique Malik attended a GB Council meeting

presided over by the Chairman Standing Committee GB Council, Ayub Shah, GB Council members Sheikh Ahmed Ali Noori, and others. During the meeting, members of the GB Council decided to place a tender for Public Sector Development Programmes (PSDP) projects and they also voiced grave concern about continuous delays and requested that work on PSDP projects such as Astor Shagharthing Road, Skardu, and other projects should begin immediately.

The members of the council also stressed the importance of the federal secretary of Kashmir and GB affairs playing their roles in releasing the council's development budget as soon as possible. On this occasion, federal secretary of Kashmir and GB affairs, Jawad Rafiq Malik informed the members of the council that he would shortly meet with interim Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar to urge the federal government to immediately begin work on the PSDP projects in GB and to release the council's development fund.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/17847>

### **The budget will be embezzled in the guise of solar power: Sheikh Mirza Ali**

*Dailyk2, 25 October 2023*

Sheikh Mirza Ali, the leader of the Islamic Movement Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Coordination Committee, said that the absence of a constitutional system in GB has not only affected the region's reputation but it also led to the

deterioration of the law and order and that there are crises everywhere, and the local administration and government are operating independently. People cannot decide between the two entities. He said that the Chief Secretary of GB views himself as the mother and father of the region and that there is a power struggle among the bureaucracy that prevents problems from being solved. He noted that currently the people of GB have been engulfed by a food crisis, an administrative crisis, an energy crisis, a drinking water crisis, an economic crisis, and other problems, and while looking for the underlying cause of these issues, constitutional status has become unavoidable. We will not be able to tackle these difficulties until we have a constitutional system, he added.

He stated that the government is also helpless at this time, as the budget will now be looted in the name of solar energy and those who are talking about solar energy are all looking for a method to reward themselves. He said that if we truly wish to supply electricity to the people, power projects should be erected on the river, and the people of GB should be supplied power through the Diamer Bhasha Dam (DBD). He emphasized that owing to a lack of a constitutional framework, the people of GB's share of the DBD is not mentioned. As a result, he stressed, our focus will be on addressing the underlying issues that are causing these crises, so that whatever government is formed will be guided by laws and a constitution that will

address the issues facing the people and advance GB's development.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/17844>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

**The end of India's 'illegitimate, unlawful, and immoral occupation' of Kashmir would be true independence: PM of 'Azad Kashmir'**

*Urdu point, 24 October 2023*

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar Haq said on the 76th anniversary of 'Azad Kashmir,' 'I congratulate Kashmiris living on both sides of the notorious borderline with the determination that our true freedom will be on the day when Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal rule of India are free and the Kashmiris will reach their goal, which is their integration with Pakistan.' He stressed that the only solution to the Kashmir problem is to execute UN resolutions following the demands of the Kashmiri people. He claimed that the Kashmiri people have not backed down from winning their right to self-determination and that no power in the world can deviate from our goal as long as a single Kashmiri remains alive.

While congratulating the nation, he said that the day was not far away when the people of Kashmir, after achieving freedom from the 'Indian occupation', would fulfill their ancestors' pledge to join Pakistan. While referring to the 76th foundation day of 'Azad Kashmir', he said that the day reminds us of the supreme

sacrifices our forefathers made during the independence struggle. The territory of 'AJK' was liberated by our ancestors after great struggle and sacrifices and now we must protect it in letter and spirit, he added.

While lauding the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders for their unwavering commitment and indomitable role in the freedom struggle, he said, I salute the determination and courage of all Hurriyat leaders including Yasin Malik, Shabir Shah, Musrat Alam Butt, Asia Andarabi, Nahida Nasreen, Fahmida Sufi and other leaders who devoted their lives to the noble cause. He said that Kashmiris have rightly rejected India's unconstitutional move it had taken on 5th August 2019. He said that abolishing Article 370 and 35A was a conspiracy aimed at changing the region's demography. He alleged that since 5th August, Indian authorities have issued more than 42 lakh domiciles to non-Kashmiri people. He claimed that under the guise of establishing industry, Kashmir's prime land was being allotted to outsiders. He said that the Indian army was given a free hand to establish cantonments and declare any piece of land at any place in Kashmir as strategic and that colonies were being built for ex-Indian soldiers on the Israeli pattern.

Reiterating his government's all-out support for the Kashmir cause, the PM said that the 'AJK' government's main objective was to provide support to the Kashmiri brothers on the other side of the Line of Control so that they could

achieve the goal of freedom. The PM also thanked the government and the people of Pakistan for their consistent support of Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination. He also paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their precious lives to liberate 'Azad Kashmir.' I also pay great tribute to the armed forces of Pakistan who are sacrificing their lives to protect us on the Line of Control, he said.

While expressing solidarity with the people of Palestine, the PM said, that the people of Kashmir stand in support and solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and share their suffering equally. Solving the long-standing Palestine problem, he said, was the responsibility of the United Nations. He said that it was quite unfortunate that the UN has failed to resolve the Palestine and Kashmir conflicts which happened to be the oldest issues pending on the UN agenda.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-3779615.html>

### **India has emerged as a worldwide terrorist state as a result of Modi's extremist policies: 'AJK' President**

*Urdupoint, 25 October 2023*

The president of 'Azad Kashmir', Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry claimed that due to Mr. Modi's 'extremist policies' India is quickly becoming a 'terrorist state' on the global stage. While addressing a ceremony commemorating 'Azad Kashmir's 76th foundation day, the president said that

despite the BJP's divisive policies, Modi would prove to be 'Gorbachev for India and that the day is not far when India will disintegrate.' He praised Kashmiris' decades-long resistance against India's 'belligerent occupation', saying that Kashmiris have never accepted Indian authority or dominance over the area. He said that our elders struggled hard to liberate the territory from the clutches of Dogra under the leadership of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan. While paying tribute to the Kashmiri martyrs who laid down their precious lives to liberate the territory of 'AJK', he said that our predecessors conducted a protracted war against the Maharaja, and on 24 October 1947, a revolutionary government led by Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan was created.

He said that history bears witness to the fact that the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir have always struggled against oppression and tyranny and that the Kashmiri people fought a historic struggle. While highlighting the main objectives of the establishment of the revolutionary government in 'AJK', he said that liberating 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK) was the main purpose of the base camp government. We assure our brethren in 'occupied Kashmir' that the government and people of 'Azad Kashmir' are by their side in their struggle, the president said, adding that the government would utilize all its resources to highlight the issue of Kashmir at the global level. Denouncing India's 'state

repression' against the Kashmiris, he said that more than 96,000 Kashmiris have been martyred, 8,000 mass graves have been discovered, 10,000 people have forcibly disappeared whereas 22,000 women have been widowed, tens of thousands of children have been orphaned during the past three decades. The president also strongly condemned Israel's bombing of innocent Palestinians in Gaza and added that the international community should stop Israel from bombing the Palestinians.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3781334.html>

### **The presence of nine lakh Indian soldiers in 'occupied Kashmir' is proof of their 'illegal occupation:' GB CM Gulbar Khan**

*Dailyk2, 26 October 2023*

Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Haji Gulbar Khan said in his speech on 27 October, Kashmir Black Day, that a free and fair referendum that takes into account the wishes of the local populace, as well as resolutions from the UN Security Council, is the only way to put an end to the conflict in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite India's atrocities against the oppressed people of Kashmir, he claimed that brave Kashmiris are thwarting Indian invasion by making historically significant sacrifices. On 27 October 1947, India started its 'armed occupation' of Jammu and Kashmir, and it has stayed there ever since. The Chief Minister remarked that India has

sent more than 900,000 armed soldiers to Jammu and Kashmir to maintain its forceful control of the region.

The harsh occupation of Kashmir by India is evident in several forms such as torture, wrongful detentions, false accusations, indiscriminate use of force under the black laws, and concerted efforts to undermine the unique cultural and religious identity of the Kashmiri people, he added. Since 5 August 2019, when India unilaterally and illegally abolished the special status of 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (OJK), the situation has gotten worse. India altered state assembly seats for places with a majority of Hindus, changed constituencies, issued fictitious domiciles, amended property rules, and altered the population distribution in 'OJK' by adding non-Kashmiri names to the electoral records. He said that despite India's despicable actions, brave Kashmiris are defying Indian aggression and refusing to submit in the face of insurmountable difficulties by making unparalleled sacrifices.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/17866>

### **Kashmiris on both sides of the LoC and around the world are commemorating Black Day in defiance of 'Indian occupation'**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 27 October 2023*

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and around the world are commemorating Kashmir Black



Day to remind the world that India 'illegally' took their motherland on 27 October 1947. On 27 October 1947, Indian troops 'invaded and illegally occupied' Jammu and Kashmir against the will of the Kashmiri people, completely violating the spirit of the subcontinent's Partition Plan. The day will be observed with complete closure in 'Indian-occupied' Jammu and Kashmir, and protest marches, rallies, seminars will be held across Pakistan, including 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), and around the world to condemn the Indian Army's 27 October 1947 invasion, as well as the Modi-led fascist government's revocation of 'occupied Kashmir's special status on 5 August 2019.

In addition to protest rallies, seminars, and symposiums to be held throughout the liberated territory, Pakistan embassies and diplomatic missions will hold seminars, talks, and discussions in major world capitals to expose India's 'belligerent military occupation of 'Indian Occupied Kashmir' (IOK) and its expansionist designs in the region. Indian 'occupying forces' in the region have been involved in grave breaches of human rights. The Indian government, which has traditionally utilised anti-Muslim rhetoric to please its supporters, has once again escalated human rights violations in 'Occupied Kashmir' to maintain its vote bank to win the upcoming elections.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-27.jpg>

## **No force on Earth can halt the liberation struggle in Kashmir: Murtaza Solangi**

*Jasarat, 27 October 2023*

The interim federal information minister, Murtaza Solangi, has said that no amount of force will be able to halt the independence movement in Kashmir. Participating in a protest against India's 'illegal occupation' and human rights abuses against the Kashmiri people on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, Solangi declared that India had 'illegally occupied' Jammu and Kashmir on 27 October 1947 and that the people of Kashmir had suffered decades of oppression under India's military occupation. He claimed that Kashmiris' longing for freedom has grown despite India's tyranny and that this spirit of freedom will not be suppressed by force, and it will only develop as long as oppression persists. He declared that there will be justice, no power can thwart the liberation struggle of Kashmiris, and that India has gravely violated both the Security Council and its constitution by disobeying the decisions about Kashmiris.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/10/27/no-power-in-the-world-can-stop-kashmirs-freedom-movement-murtaza-solangi/>

### **Social Media (tweets)**

**Ali Qureshi @iAliQ\_**

*22 October 2023*

As per UN resolution 47, Kashmir can either be part of India or Pakistan after



plebiscite. There is no third option. India has already annexed its Kashmir into India in 2019 & divided it in separate states.

Secondly, both India & Pakistan have spent trillions on their Kashmirs. India has resolved & closed the Kashmir matter. They are now after Pakistan held Kashmir which they claim as their own. Musharraf & khurshid kasuri formula will have to be applied, & Pak will have to annex the AJK & GB as provinces it already has, just like India has annexed.

<https://twitter.com/iAliQ/status/1716064714776547628>

**Institute of Strategic Studies  
Islamabad @ISSIslamabad**

27 October 2023

Hosted Seminar marking 'Kashmir Black Day.' Speakers incl academics, lawyers, diplomats, practitioners & Kashmiri leaders. Legal, human rights & peace & security dimensions highlighted. Stressing Kashmiri right to self-determination, K's abiding commitment to Kashmir cause reaffirmed.

<https://twitter.com/ISSIslamabad/status/1717871533765570717>

**Walayat Malik @WalayatMalik1**

28 October 2023

The best path for the prosperity of Pakistan is Resolution of Kashmir dispute. Indian leaders are talking about taking AK & GB by force. Pakistan can't take an inch of IOK by

force. Make LOC the International Border.

Enemies of Pakistan want to keep enmity with India forever!

<https://twitter.com/WalayyatMalik1/status/1718024546052132914>

**The Daily CPEC @TheDailyCPEC**

29 October 2023

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar highlighted that the newly established agreements between #Pakistan and #China are set to create fresh prospects for employment and #economic progress in the #GilgitBaltistan region.

<https://twitter.com/TheDailyCPEC/status/1718561457884029271>

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**Disclaimer**

*PoK weekly News Digest is a collection of news reports and press releases published in various newspapers and local media related to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), referred to as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit Baltistan' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been edited and abridged to provide clarity. MP-IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.*



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