

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

Volume 3 | Issue 52

25 December - 31 December 2023

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## Political Developments

### **Pakistan condemns custodial killing of 3 Kashmiris in 'IIOJK'**

*The Nation, 25 December 2023*

Pakistan strongly condemned the barbaric custodial killing of three Kashmiri civilians in Baffliaz, Poonch district of the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). The slain civilians were tortured to death at a camp of the 'Indian Occupation Army.' A purported video clip of the Indian personnel stripping three men and sprinkling chili powder on them is viral on social media. The incident, once again, exposes India's relentless 'state-terrorism' in 'IIOJK.' The perpetrators of these custodial killings must be held accountable, said a Foreign Office statement. It further added that 'India's brutal occupation' is the root cause of all major issues in 'IIOJK.' The Kashmiri people must realize their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/25-Dec-2023/pakistan-condemns-custodial-killing-of-3-kashmiris-in-iiojk>

### **Attique lauds COAS for projecting Kashmir, Palestine in US visit**

*Daily Times, 27 December 2023*

Former Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu Kashmir' (AJK) and President of All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has lauded the insightful projection of the Kashmir dispute and

Palestine caused by the Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir during his recent important visit to the United States. The people of Jammu and Kashmir express gratitude to the Army Chief for his bold reiteration of Kashmir and Palestine's causes at this critical phase of complex international history, he said in his congratulatory message to the Army Chief. At this phase, the reiteration of a moral stance on the Kashmir dispute and highlighting Palestine's cause by the Army Chief of a nuclear Pakistan is much weightier than several diplomatic overtures on the issue. 'Kashmiris have gained fresh courage and confidence by this multi-institutional projection of seriousness of Kashmir and Palestine struggles', Sardar Attique claimed in his message. It is recalled that both the Kashmir and the Palestine dispute listed by the United Nations Organization in 1948 relate to the restitution of the right of self-determination by the Kashmiris and the Palestinians.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1155202/attique-lauds-coas-for-projecting-kashmir-palestine-in-us-visit/>

### **JKLF expresses its concern over the deteriorating health of Yasin Malik in Tihar Jail**

*Daily Parliament Times, 27 December 2023*

The leaders of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) have expressed their concern over India making the imprisoned great national leader and chairman of JKLF Muhammad Yasin Malik the worst target of political

vendetta. In a statement issued by the JKLF Central Information Office, an important online meeting of the advisory council on Yasin Malik was held last night. The meeting was presided over by the head of the council, Muhammad Rafiq Dar and besides the council members Salim Haroon (Central Vice Chairman), Sabir Gul (Chief Organizer) and Khawaja Parvez Iqbal (Member Supreme Council), the Head of JKLF Diplomatic Bureau Professor Raja Zafar Khan, Sajid Siddiqui (President JKLF 'AJK'-GB), Liaqat Lone (President JKLF UK), Muhammad Haleem Khan (President JKLF North America), Malik Mushtaq Pasha (JKLF EU Zone), Sardar Muhammad Naseem Iqbal Khan Advocate (Head of Political Department UK Zone), Dr. Ishtiaq Khaliq (Head of Political Department Europe Zone) and Sardar Zaheer Zahid (General Secretary JKLF Europe Zone) also participated in the meeting.

While giving the details of the meeting, the spokesman in his statement said that the participants of the advisory council condemned the inhumane and undemocratic Indian behavior against the incarcerated JKLF chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik, who for the last five consecutive years has been imprisoned in the notorious Indian Tihar Jail. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his extremist party Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in pursuit of their political agenda, are making him the worst victim of political vendetta, he added.

Expressing deep concern over the unfair and unilateral court decisions on the dictates of the government of India in fictitious and fabricated cases filed against Yasin Malik by the government agencies, the JKLF leadership appealed to international human rights organizations to intervene and save the precious life of the most popular public leader the State of Jammu Kashmir. He said that the nefarious design of the government of India to convert the unfairly and unilaterally awarded life sentence of Yasin Malik into the death sentence is a great cause of concern for his family, the people of the State, and the JKLF members all over the world. Solitary confinement and ill-treatment of the ailing Yasin Malik by the jail authorities are the cause of the deterioration of his health, the spokesman added.

According to the statement, the participants of the meeting praised Yasin Malik for his unflinching struggle and paid him salutations for withstanding the Indian tyranny bravely in safeguarding the national freedom movement, the national dignity, and the protection of the eternal sacrifices made by the freedom-loving people of the state. The spokesman said that the advisory council is considering a proposal to hold an international conference on Yasin Malik in Europe to expose the undemocratic behavior of the Indian government towards Yasin Malik and to bring into the limelight, especially the concerned people the facts of the concocted cases and the unilateral

judicial decisions against him. To highlight the plight of all political prisoners languishing in Indian jails including Yasin Malik, the participants of the council decided to make their access to international human rights organizations, especially; the offices of the Human Rights Council, the Human Rights Commissioner, and other human rights organizations including the International Red Cross (IRC).

The meeting appreciated the display of billboards of Yasin Malik with the slogans of delivery of justice and release of Yasin Malik on the famous highways of London during the 'Release Yasin Malik' campaign by the London branch of JKLF UK Zone. In continuation of the campaign, it was also decided to write a comprehensive report with the mention of the unprecedented role played by Yasin Malik in the freedom struggle of Jammu Kashmir, the details of the bogus cases against him, the government attitude, and their intentions behind the influenced and unilateral court decisions.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/12/27/klf-expresses-its-concern-over-the-deteriorating-health-of-yasin-malik-in-tihar-jail/>

### **India made 'IIOJK' a hell for Kashmiris in 2023**

*The Nation, 28 December 2023*

The outgoing year of 2023 witnessed high waves of repression and brutality against innocent people of 'Indian occupied Kashmir' (IOK) at the hands of barbaric Indian security forces. In the 'Indian occupied' territory of Jammu

and Kashmir, over a hundred thousand Kashmiris have been martyred since the beginning of the freedom struggle in 1989 and countless others continue to endure unlawful imprisonment, with more than 23,000 widows and over a hundred thousand orphaned children due to the unprecedented Indian atrocities. In February 2023, former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir faced inhuman violence, marking a distressing turn of events in the occupied valley. On 2 February 2023, freedom advocate Judge Yaser's home and shops were ruthlessly vandalized, and demolished adding to the grim atmosphere. Only in 2023, 27 Kashmiris lost their lives in 9 staged encounters by Indian security forces in different parts of 'IIOJK.'

Omer Abdullah and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi have called for the restoration of political autonomy in 'occupied Kashmir.' The revocation of Kashmir's special status was under scrutiny in the Indian Supreme Court on 8 July 2023. On 7 August 2023, Kashmiri freedom fighter Yasin Malik's daughter, Razia Sultana, through a letter appealed to the UN Secretary-General to spare her father from the death penalty.

Students at the University of East Anglia organized global seminars on 7 August advocating for the freedom of Kashmir, which got global media attention. India was jolted when multiple global human rights organizations jointly appealed to the G20 nations on 24 August, urging them to address human rights violations in

Kashmir. On 23 September, freedom leader Mirwaiz Omar Farooq was released from prison but still not allowed political activities. The drama of the Indian government scholarship scheme unfolded on 12 October, met with rejection by Kashmiri students. Massive protests against India erupted in Kargil and Ladakh on 13 November and on 11 December witnessed social media branding criticism against the Indian oppression in Kashmir as an act of cruelty.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/28-Dec-2023/india-made-iiojk-a-hell-for-kashmiris-in-2023>

### **Modi regime misleading the world about the situation in 'IIOJK:' APHC**

*Pakistan Observer, 28 December 2023*

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that the RSS-backed Narendra Modi-led Indian government is misleading the world by falsely propagating that peace is returning to occupied Jammu and Kashmir after its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the Modi regime has intensified its efforts to brutalize the Kashmiris and colonize Kashmir since its 5 August move, which further aggravated the already volatile situation in the territory. However, he said, the Indian militaristic approach cannot suppress the Kashmiris' passion for freedom. The APHC spokesman paying tribute to the Kashmiri martyrs including the recent victims of custodial killing in Poonch said that their sacrifices would never be allowed to go

in vain. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of all those injured due to the torture by Indian troops in custody in Poonch. The spokesman urged the United Nations to take cognizance of Indian state terrorism in 'occupied Kashmir' and impress upon New Delhi to take steps for holding of plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir to enable the Kashmiris to decide their political future by themselves.

<https://pakobserver.net/modi-regime-misleading-world-about-situation-in-iiojk-aphc/>

### **Sagar, Mateen condemns ban on Muslim League**

*Pakistan Observer, 28 December 2023*

All Parties Hurriyat Conference-'Azad Jammu Kashmir' (AJK) chapter Convener Mahmood Ahmad Sagar and General Secretary Sheikh Abdul Mateen have strongly condemned the ban on Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League by the 'fascist Modi government.' Mahmood Ahmad Sagar and Sheikh Abdul Mateen in a joint statement issued in Islamabad said that banning a political organization on fabricated charges has exposed the real face of 'fascist India under Modi.'

<https://pakobserver.net/sagar-mateen-condemn-ban-on-muslim-league/>

### **JKLF Acting Chief Condemns torture, killing of Civilians by Indian Army in 'occupied' Poonch District**

*Daily Parliament Times, 28 December 2023*

The United States (US) based acting Chairman of Jammu Kashmir

Liberation Front (JKLF-Yaseen Malik faction) and human rights activist, Raja Muzaffar strongly condemned the inhumane actions of the 'occupying Indian Army' following reports of the torture and killing of civilians in the Poonch district of 'Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). The news, published by Voice of America, detailed the detention of eight individuals from Topa Pir village by troops from the 48 Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian army, he underlined. According to residents and family members of the detained individuals, all eight civilians were subjected to torture, resulting in the deaths of Safeer Hussain, Mohammad Showkat, and Shabir Ahmed while in military custody. The circulation of videos showcasing the alleged torture on social media has ignited anger and resentment among the local population.

Raja Muzaffar, in a statement released from Dallas, Texas, expressed his deep concern and demanded an impartial and speedy investigation into the reported acts of violence committed by Indian Army personnel in Poonch. Muzaffar emphasized the need for those responsible for the torture and killings to be held accountable for their actions. The disturbing incidents have not only violated the principles of humanity but have also strained the relationship between the armed forces and the local community. He expressed his solidarity with the people of the Poonch district and urged the authorities to conduct a transparent

investigation to uncover the truth behind these tragic events.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/12/28/jklf-acting-chief-condemns-torture-killing-of-civilians-by-indian-army-in-occupied-poonch-district/>

### **Indian brutalities taking heavy toll on Kashmiris' health: Experts**

*Pakistan Observer, 28 December 2023*

The health experts based in Srinagar have said that the atrocities of Indian troops have badly affected the physical and mental health of the people of 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). As per the Kashmir Media Service, the health experts in their interviews and statements said the decades-long Kashmir dispute has taken a heavy toll on the Kashmiris physically and mentally. They said 'occupied Kashmir' is witnessing a massive rise in symptoms of psychological distress due to brutal Indian militarization. They said the 'occupied' territory is going through the worst and darkest phase of the mental health situation and the people are battling mental health challenges due to inhuman military and police siege.

The health experts maintained that 'occupied Kashmir' is witnessing an alarming increase in instances related to depression, anxiety, and psychotic disorders since 5 August 2019. Citing a study, they said 45% of Kashmir's adult population is suffering from some form of mental distress. They pointed out that the continued presence of Indian

troops on the streets and mass arrests of civilians has led to an increase in trauma and anxiety in 'IIOJK.'

The health experts said the Kashmiri people are facing the trauma of living without their loved ones, who have been martyred, jailed, or subjected to custodial disappearance by Indian troops and police. They said the majority of the pellet victims in Kashmir are now suffering from depressive and panic disorders. The experts said mental health issues are a very big concern in occupied Kashmir. The international community must take notice of the worsening mental crisis in the occupied territory, they said, adding that the only way to lessen the physical and mental pain of Kashmiris is to find a just resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

<https://pakobserver.net/indian-brutalities-taking-heavy-toll-on-kashmiris-health-experts/>

### **Kashmir killings**

*Dawn, 29 December 2023*

While India continues to push the fiction that it has brought normality to held Kashmir through the constitutional subterfuge of August 2019, periodic acts of violence perpetrated by its security forces in the disputed region point to a much darker reality. Over the past few days, the custodial killings of three Kashmiri men, apparently by the Indian military, have highlighted the state-sponsored violence that Kashmiris are being subjected to, while Indian officials have sought to 'pacify' the region in the

aftermath of these crimes. The killings occurred after Indian troops were ambushed by fighters, resulting in the deaths of at least four security men.

Following this episode, eight civilians were picked up for questioning in the Poonch region. A week ago, the families of three of these detained men received calls to collect their bodies. The families say their loved ones were tortured by Indian forces. A highly disturbing video circulating on social media appears to show Indian troops sprinkling chili powder on the exposed body parts of detained men.

The Indian military says it is investigating, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh traveled to 'Indian-occupied Kashmir' (IOK) to 'condole' with the families of the victims, promising them 'justice'. Sadly, justice has eluded the people of Kashmir since partition; their wishes have been ignored, and India has sought to create new facts on the ground to cement its illegal occupation of what remains an internationally disputed region. The Indian Supreme Court's recent validation of the BJP government's dubious decision to annul the region's limited autonomy has further emboldened those in New Delhi who wish to subjugate Kashmir like a conquered territory.

International human rights bodies have frequently been pointing to the use of torture and violence by Indian forces in the region. Unfortunately, the Indian state uses 'counterterrorism' as a convenient alibi to deny the Kashmiri



people their rights and inflict odious violence upon them. How many more Kashmiris will have to be tortured and killed for the international community to realise that India must be held to account for its cruel policies in the held territory? Instead of taking the path of dialogue and engaging Pakistan and the Kashmiris to arrive at a peaceful solution, India insists on flexing its muscles, and crushing the Kashmiri struggle through the use of gratuitous violence.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1801540/kashmir-killings>

### **India using worst military force to suppress Kashmiris' struggle: Ghazali**

*Pakistan Observer, 29 December 2023*

The Chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, has deplored that India is using the worst military force to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle to secure their right to self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, while addressing a press conference in Muzaffarabad, he said that the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle is a legal movement based on the resolutions passed by the United Nations. He appealed to the people across 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), which is the base camp of the Kashmir freedom struggle, to raise demand for the right to self-determination through public rallies and gatherings in their respective districts on 5 January 2024. Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over observe 05 January as the Right to Self-

determination Day. On 05 January 1949, the UN Security Council passed a resolution supporting the Kashmiris' right to decide their future by themselves through a plebiscite to be held under the supervision of the World Body.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-using-worst-military-force-to-suppress-kashmiris-struggle-ghazali/>

### **Pakistan condemns Indian decision to ban MLJK-MA**

*The Nation, 29 December 2023*

Pakistan condemned the decision of 'Indian occupation' authorities to declare Muslim League Jammu Kashmir-Masarrat Alam faction (MLJK-MA), as an 'unlawful association,' for five years. The party is led by a prominent Kashmiri leader Masarrat Alam Bhatt, who remains imprisoned for a period exceeding 20 years. The MLJK-MA is the fifth Kashmiri party banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir, Dukhtaraane-Millat, and Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party have already been outlawed. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at a weekly news briefing here that the leadership was being relentlessly persecuted through prolonged detention and confiscation of properties. The Office of All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Srinagar was also sealed, early this year, she remarked.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/29-Dec-2023/pakistan-condemns-indian-decision-to-ban-mljk-ma>

## Attendees engage in deliberations on developing situation in 'IIOJK'

*The Nation, 30 December 2023*

The Kashmir Advisory Committee formed under the leadership of Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM), Mushaal Hussein Mullick, held its first consultative meeting. The establishment of the Kashmir Advisory Committee is a key component of the 100-day plan initiated by the SAPM, said a press release here on Saturday. The consultative session was attended by dignitaries from diverse fields including Ms. Sabien Hussein Mullick (Focal Person of the SAPM), Syed Yousuf Naseem (APHC), Mr. Farooq Rehmani (APHC), Mehmood Ahmed Sagar (APHC), Sheikh Mateen (APHC), Rafiq Dar JKLF, Syed Faiz Naqashbandi (APHC), Prof Shahid Afridi National Defence University (NDU), Prof. Zafar Iqbal Advisor SAPM, Manzoor Masih (Human Rights Commission), Javed Jadoon (Director Radio101), Musaib Manzoor (Program Coordinator Legal Forum for Kashmir), Dr. Syed Mujahid Gilani (President of Kashmir Youth Alliance), Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Bhatti (Chairman Al-Ansar Welfare), Yasir Rehman (Senior Anchorperson PTV News), and various other dignitaries belonging to different forums.

The committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion concerning both immediate and long-term strategies for addressing the unlawful actions undertaken by India in the region of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). Members of the committee provided

valuable insights and recommendations about the situation in 'IIOJK', particularly in light of the recent Indian Supreme Court decision affirming the annulment of Kashmir's special status by the Indian Government. During the consultative session, Mushaal Hussein Mullick highlighted the influence of BJP and RSS ideologies on the Indian Judiciary. She raised questions regarding the timing of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Act brought by Amit Shah and Modi.

She observed that the amendment act introduction mere weeks before the Indian Supreme Court's verdict implied a foreknowledge within the Modi-led government regarding the outcome of the impending ISC decision. Mushaal emphasized that the concluding year presented the world with two formidable challenges: the situations in Palestine and 'IIOJK.' She underscored the imperative for collaborative efforts among the people of both regions underlining the shared struggle for their self-determination. She noted that the people of Palestine and 'IIOJK' are enduring the barbarism imposed by occupation forces in their quest for the fundamental right of self-determination. Urging the global community to pay attention to the escalating atrocities in these regions, she called for collective action to address the pressing human rights concerns in Palestine and 'IIOJK.'

<https://www.nation.com.pk/30-Dec-2023/attendees-engage-in-deliberations-on-developing-situation-in-iiojk>

## Economic Developments

### **Pakistan strives to secure \$1b for Bhasha Dam**

*The Express Tribune, 26 December 2023*

Pakistan is aggressively pursuing arrangements to secure \$1 billion promptly to progress towards achieving financial closure for the strategic Diamer Basha Dam project (DBDP). Sources indicate the country needs approximately \$3.5 billion for this purpose. During the recent visit of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar to Kuwait, Pakistan, and the Gulf state had signed an agreement to raise capital for the project. DBDP is a multi-purpose hydropower project which upon completion will provide a significant boost to the country's economy through the generation of around 18 billion units annually of environmentally clean and affordable electricity and a live storage capacity of 6.4 MAF of water.

Officials said the project is in its preliminary stages of construction and funds of around \$3.5 billion are required to achieve financial close, with a requirement of \$1 billion in the near future. Sources said an agreement with Kuwait on investment cooperation would help to raise the capital for the project through equity participation in the Ghazi Barotha Hydropower Project (GBHPP). Pakistan has been struggling to raise funding for the strategic Diamer Basha dam for a long. Multilateral donors had refused to give financing for this project due to lobbying by India that the project falls

in a disputed area. However, in recent years, Pakistan has been actively working on this project and now is nearing its financial close.

However, Pakistan requires immediate financing of \$1 billion soon to continue work on this dam. For decades, Pakistan had not been able to complete mega water projects like Diamer Basha. In addition to raising capital for the dam, Pakistan is also working on some other projects as well. During the visit of PM Kakar, Pakistan and the State of Kuwait signed different agreements for collaboration and investment in various sectors of the economy. The caretaker minister had recently informed the cabinet that Kuwait is a strategic partner of Pakistan and that there is tremendous potential for further strengthening economic relations between the two countries to the advantage of Pakistan.

So far the opportunities for collaboration with Kuwait have, regrettably, not been fully explored or availed, he added. He elaborated that since Kuwait is a capital-exporting country, Pakistan could benefit through Kuwaiti investment in many areas, especially hydropower, digital technology infrastructure, and climate change risk management. The cabinet was informed that after due deliberations between the two sides, seven non-binding agreements relating to the expansion of water reservoirs, mining, protection and expansion of mangroves, and investment projects in information technology and food security had matured for signing.

These agreements were also signed between Pakistan and Kuwait during the recent visit of the caretaker prime minister. These projects would be implemented at the federal level, and where clearance was required from the provincial governments for provincial projects, it would be done in due course.

It was also informed that continuous monitoring of the projects would be carried out for their timely and efficient implementation. The cabinet appreciated the efforts of the relevant ministries for their proactive efforts and further directed the authorities concerned to ensure effective coordination and cooperation with the provinces, where necessary, for the smooth implementation of the projects under these agreements.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2451170/pakistan-strives-to-secure-1b-for-bhasha-dam>

### **GB raises subsidised wheat prices amid protests**

*Dawn, 29 December 2023*

Amid protest demonstrations, the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) government has raised the subsidised wheat price from Rs 20 to Rs 36 per kilogram. As per a notification issued by the GB food department, the new rate will come into effect from 1 January 2024. Earlier, the GB government had initially planned to increase the subsidised wheat rate to Rs 52/kg. At a presser, GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan said the federal government had requested a 70 percent increase in the subsidised

wheat rate and advocated for targeted subsidies, benefitting only those enrolled in the Benazir Income Support Programme.

He explained that despite the initial decision to raise the subsidised wheat rate to Rs52 per kg, the GB government opted for a more moderate increase to Rs36. He outlined that each individual would receive 7kg per month, with 75 pc Pakistani and 25 pc Ukrainian wheat supplied to GB by Islamabad. To ensure transparency, ration cards will be issued for the distribution of subsidised wheat in the province, according to GB Minister of Food Ghulam Muhammad. He refuted claims that the decision was made solely by the current government, asserting that the previous administration, led by former GB chief minister Khalid Khurshid Khan, had also agreed to increase the subsidised wheat rate to Rs52. He emphasised that the federal government has been providing wheat transportation subsidies since 1974, and adjustments are made based on fluctuating transportation rates.

Despite the government's explanations, protest demonstrations, organised by the Awami Action Committee (ACC), continued across GB. Protests were held at Yadgar Chowk in Skardu, where people from various political, religious, and civil society groups participated, chanting slogans against the government and expressing their demands. The protesters warned of extended demonstrations if the government

proceeded with the rate increase without public consent. Khawaja Muddasir, a member of the ACC Coordination Committee, revealed that negotiations with government representatives had taken place, and the committee demanded a suspension of the subsidised wheat rate increase until the formation of a political government in Islamabad.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1801504/gb-raises-subsidised-wheat-prices-amid-protests>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **A protest demonstration in Jhelum Valley over the killings of Kashmiris in captivity in the Surankote district of 'Occupied Kashmir'**

*UrduPoint, 26 December 2023*

The student branch of Tehreek-e-Shabab-ul-Muslimeen (TSM) held a protest march in Jhelum Valley against the gruesome killing of three Kashmiri civilians in the custody of the Indian Army in the Surankote area of Poonch district in 'Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the march was headed by Hurriyat leader and Vice Chairman of TSM Mushtaq Ahmed Butt and accompanied by Riaz Ahmed Awan, Imtiaz Awan, and hundreds of other leaders and civilian participants. While speaking to the protesters, Mushtaq Ahmad Butt stated that the Indian Army had martyred over one lakh Kashmiris during their detention over the previous three decades. He claimed that the Surankote incident is also the latest and worst example of Indian war

crimes in 'IOJK.' He claimed that nearly one million Indian forces stationed in 'Occupied Kashmir' have created an atmosphere of dread and terror throughout the occupied area and that the Kashmiri people's basic rights have been denied.

He stressed Kashmiris' desire to see their freedom movement through to the end. Butt urged the international community and international human rights organisations to take immediate action in response to the custodial killings of Kashmiri civilians in Surankote and to increase pressure for an impartial investigation and harsh punishment of the Indian soldiers involved. Participants at the demonstration chanted anti-India and pro-independence slogans at the conclusion of the demonstration.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3859237.html>

#### **Kashmiris would continue to fight for 'occupied Kashmir's independence: Former 'AJK' PM**

*UrduPoint, 27 December 2023*

Former Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), and president of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan, claimed that India is subjecting Kashmiris to horrific terrors in response to their demand for the right to self-determination and that Kashmiris' lives are at the mercy of Indian military. While addressing a delegation of the Muslim Conference, he said that the daily lives of Kashmiris

have become extremely difficult as a result of Indian crimes in 'occupied Kashmir' as Indian troops have unlimited powers under black laws and are martyring innocent Kashmiris during imprisonment and bogus encounters.

He stated that the Kashmiri people are fighting for their independence against Indian persecution and tyranny and that the situation in 'occupied Kashmir' is very concerning because India wants to put an end to the Kashmir issue and take over 'occupied Kashmir', and therefore, we must raise our voices to the international community, international human rights organisations, and major public forums around the world to stop Indian atrocities in 'occupied Kashmir.' He stressed that the Kashmiris and Pakistanis living all over the world need to expose India's deceptive propaganda and provide the world with the true face of India, which flaunts human rights in 'occupied Kashmir.' For the past seven decades, India has violated human rights in 'IOK', committing horrific atrocities against Kashmiris, particularly since India's unlawful decision to abolish the special status of 'occupied Kashmir' on 05 August 2019.

He further claimed that Kashmiris have been encroached upon on their land, and 'Indian occupation forces' are employing heinous techniques such as killing Kashmiri youth, raping elderly and young women, and deploying pellet guns including the staged encounters. India puts non-state

Hindus in 'occupied Kashmir' to alter the population ratio, and the constituencies are being changed as well so that India has a Hindu population in 'occupied Kashmir.' The Indian Supreme Court's (SC) support of the Modi government's intention to abolish 'occupied Kashmir's special status is a biased ruling that favours the continuation of Modi's Hindutva agenda. With this verdict, India's claims to be the world's largest democracy and so-called secular state have been exposed to the world. This ruling by the Indian SC not only breaches the Indian constitution but also violates United Nations resolutions because 'occupied Kashmir' is an internationally recognised disputed region and Kashmiris are not bound by any such decision. He claimed that Kashmiris are outraged by this decision and are protesting it vehemently. Let India know that coercion and crimes will not tame the liberation spirit of the Kashmiri people and that Kashmiris will fight until 'occupied Kashmir' is free.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3860325.html>

### **Army Chief Syed Asim Munir halted Indian propaganda on his visit to America: Abdul Majeed Khan**

*Urdupoint, 28 December 2023*

Abdul Majid Khan, spokesman for the 'Azad Kashmir' government and finance minister, stated that Pakistan Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir foiled Indian propaganda during his

visit to America and that India punishes the people of 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (OJK) for demanding the UN-recognized right to self-determination. India has violated UN resolutions by enabling non-Kashmiris to seek state citizenship, land, and property in 'occupied Kashmir.'

He claimed that India is using 'state terrorism' as an official policy in 'occupied Kashmir' and that after repealing Articles 370 and 35A, India is pursuing a 'deadly plan' to push the Hindutva agenda in the occupied region. He insisted that the Kashmir issue will only be resolved in accordance with UNSC resolutions and that the Pakistan Army acknowledges Kashmiri's sacrifices for the freedom of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He also said that India should cease fantasising about 'occupying Kashmir', and that we will not allow India to occupy even one inch of Kashmir. He said that following the recent ruling of the Indian Supreme Court, the Indian army has initiated appalling tactics to crush the freedom movement in 'Occupied Kashmir.' He said that 'notorious' Indian secret agencies are torturing and killing youths in torture cells.

He claimed that the Pakistani government has taken an active role in drawing world attention to Indian atrocities in 'occupied Kashmir.' During his recent visit to America, Pakistan's current Army chief, Syed Asim Munir, restated Pakistan's long-standing views on 'occupied Kashmir'

and that the people are grateful for his tough stance on the Kashmir issue on their behalf. He claimed that to destroy the independence struggle, the Indian army was committing horrendous war crimes such as forced disappearances, and extra-judicial killings in 'occupied Kashmir.' He predicted that India's war misdeeds in 'occupied Kashmir' would sooner haunt them. He made it clear that the current government, led by Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir', Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, will play a meaningful role in bringing the world's attention to the ongoing atrocities against the people of 'Occupied Kashmir.'

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3861423.html>

### **From Social Media**

**Basharat Issa @BasharatIssa**

*25 December 2023*

Literacy and education aren't the same and one shouldn't confuse the two. A good example of this is Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan. GB is known for the highest literacy rates while Baloch are highly educated. Hence, there is a clear difference in the collective consciousness.

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1739193343215886801>

**Athar Masud Wani @Kashmirstate**

*27 December 2023*

In response to India's actions in Kashmir, Article 1 of the Constitution of Pakistan should be amended to

make Gilgit-Baltistan a transitional province until the Kashmir issue is resolved and then 'Azad Kashmir' should also be made a transitional province of Pakistan.

Former Ambassador of Pakistan to India Shahid Malik.

<https://twitter.com/Kashmirstate/status/1739716674285396296>

**Shabbir Mayar** @ShabbirMayar

27 December 2023

Skardu: A brief address to the protestors on the first day of the series of protests on important issues including the latest increase in wheat prices and the worst load shedding of electricity.

*Video link:*

<https://twitter.com/ShabbirMayar/status/1739856295518417257>

**WAJAHAT ALI** @wajahatgilgiti

31 December 2023

Organized by Awami Coordination Committee Baltistan, the sixth day of protest continues in Skardu against increase in wheat price, Finance and Revenue Act and electricity load shedding.

#GilgitBaltistan #protest.

<https://twitter.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1741476078151954432>



# Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 3 | Issue 52

25 December - 31 December 2023

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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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