

Message from Asif Ali Zardari
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
On the occasion of "Kashmir Black Day", 27 October 2024

October 27, 1947, marks a dark chapter in South Asian history when India sent troops to occupy Jammu and Kashmir. For decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured brutal repression by Indian forces. Over the years, India has transformed IIOJK into one of the most militarised regions in the world. Thousands of innocent Kashmiris have been killed, while their legitimate leaders remain imprisoned, and local media is heavily censored.

The United Nations Security Council has repeatedly affirmed the right for the Kashmiri people to self-determination through a fair and impartial plebiscite. Yet, India continues to defy these resolutions and deny Kashmiris their fundamental rights. Since August 5, 2019, India has further escalated its occupation by stripping IIOJK of its special status and implementing measures to alter its demographic and political landscape. These actions are part of a broader strategy to consolidate control and suppress the Kashmiri Freedom Movement.

Despite these oppressive tactics, the resilient people of Kashmir remain steadfast in their struggle for freedom. We strongly condemn India's ongoing atrocities and reaffirm our unwavering moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiri people's just cause.

The recent developments in the Middle East are a stark reminder that long-standing disputes should not be allowed to fester. Violating international law and pushing disputes under the rug does not guarantee lasting peace. Three generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world, especially the United Nations, to deliver them their right to self-determination. The world can no longer ignore its responsibility.

We urge the international community to pressurise India to halt its human rights abuses in IIOJK, alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris, and implement UN Security Council resolutions. Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination.

Message from Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
On the occasion of "Kashmir Black Day", 27 October 2024

On this day, 77 years ago, Indian forces landed in Srinagar. India has since stifled the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people to determine their own destiny. It has failed to fulfill its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have suffered countless hardships during last seventy-seven years. However, their resolve to realize their inalienable right to self-determination remains as firm as it was in 1947.

This day, I pay my heartfelt tribute to the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their continued struggle for the right to self-determination. Undoubtedly, their sacrifices will not go in vain.

India has been taking successive steps to tighten its grip over IIOJK since 5 August 2019. India's nefarious designs are aimed at undermining the disputed status of IIOJK and denying the Kashmiri people their democratic right to decide their own future.

Today, the Kashmiri people are enduring the most egregious and painful curbs on their daily lives and livelihoods. The number of political prisoners remains in the thousands. The Indian occupation forces act with impunity under draconian counterterrorism laws. However, these oppressive measures cannot dampen the Kashmiri people's yearning for self-determination.

As I recently reaffirmed in my address to the United Nations General Assembly, Pakistan has consistently maintained that peace and stability in South Asia remain contingent upon peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiris. India must realize that it cannot suppress the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people by its coercive tactics.

Pakistan has always expressed its unwavering solidarity with Kashmiri brothers and sisters. It will continue to extend its full moral, diplomatic and political support to them until the final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Message from Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
On the occasion of "Kashmir Black Day", 27 October 2024

October 27th marks as somber turning point in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, seventy-seven years ago, Indian forces made their first landing in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and painful chapter for the region.

Over the past seven decades, India has employed various strategies to strengthen its control over Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). However, since August 5, 2019, we have witnessed an accelerated effort to undermine the internationally recognized disputed status of IIOJK and to marginalize the rights and voices of the Kashmiri people.

The actions taken by Indian authorities including attempts to alter the demographic and political landscape of the territory, stand in direct violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Despite these measures, the resolve of the Kashmiri people to achieve their right to self-determination remains undeterred.

Today, the region is witnessing an intensification of repression. Thousands of political leaders and activists remain behind bars, with 14 political parties effectively banned. Draconian emergency and counterterrorism laws grant Indian forces sweeping powers, enabling them to arrest or eliminate any individual and destroy property at will. Nonetheless, the spirit and determination of the Kashmiri people endure, as they continue their peaceful struggle for justice and self-determination.

While elections for the Legislative Assembly of IIOJK have recently been conducted, any such exercise, carried out under the framework of the Indian Constitution and amidst an overwhelming military presence, cannot be considered a substitute for the legitimate right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan remains committed to promoting peace in South Asia and seeks constructive relations with all its neighbors. However, lasting peace in the region cannot be realized without a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in line with the UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan stands in unwavering solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their just struggle and will continue to provide its full political, moral, and diplomatic support for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.
