

Message from Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani,
Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
on 'Kashmir Black Day' - 27 October 2023

27th October marks the beginning of a dark chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, seventy-six years ago, the Indian forces landed in Srinagar to occupy this territory.

In the subsequent years, the United Nations Security Council, through several of its resolutions, upheld the fundamental right of the Kashmiri people to decide their own future through a fair and impartial plebiscite. However, reneging on its repeated commitments to implement these resolutions, India continues to deny the Kashmiri people their inalienable right to self-determination.

Since 5 August 2019, India has triggered a process to further consolidate its occupation of Jammu and Kashmir, and to disempower the Kashmiri people in their own land. To achieve these goals, multi-faceted attempts to change the demographic structure and political landscape of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) are being made.

The Indian Occupation is bent upon suppressing any form of dissent. Extreme restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly are in place. Thousands of political leaders and activists remain incarcerated.

Jammu and Kashmir's brave sons and daughters have valiantly resisted all Indian attempts at coercion and control. I avail this opportunity to pay homage to the martyrs for the Kashmir Cause and victims of the Indian brutalities. India has failed to subjugate the Kashmiri people because of their selfless sacrifices.

Peace in South Asia remains a high priority for Pakistan. It desires peaceful ties with all its neighbors, including India. However, for a durable peace in the region, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute needs to be resolved in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In the last seven decades and a half, successive generations of Kashmiris have waited for the United Nations to deliver on its commitments. The international community must urge India to stop the ongoing human rights violations in IIOJK; reverse the unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019; and implement the UN Security Council Resolutions.

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