

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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16 October - 22 October 2023

Local Gilgit-Baltistan
bodies hydropower
elections projects POK
child marriages land reform



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

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Political Developments

Indian troops martyred 85 Kashmiris this year

The Nation, 16 October 2023

Indian troops in their unabated acts of 'state terrorism' in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) have martyred 85 Kashmiris so far this year. According to Kashmir Media Service, of these Kashmiris, 22 were martyred in fake encounters or custody. The personnel of the Indian army, police paramilitary, and sleuths of the dreaded National Investigation Agency (NIA) and State Investigation Agency (SIA) have arrested over 3000 persons during violent cordon and search operations and house raids. The arrested persons include Hurriyat leaders, activists, and journalists. Most of them were booked under black law, the Public Safety Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Meanwhile, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar maintained that the 'Indian atrocities' have failed to subdue the Kashmiris' resolve for freedom in the past and will meet the same fate in the future as well. He said the Kashmiri people will continue their struggle till they achieve their UN-recognized right to self-determination. He urged the international community to play its role in resolving the Kashmir dispute following the Kashmiris' aspirations for ensuring durable peace in South Asia. The right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief, Mohan

Bhagwat, at a meeting in Jammu, asked the leaders of the extremist Hindu organization to step up their efforts to further the Hindutva ideology in 'occupied Kashmir.' He directed them to take the ideology of the organization to the grassroots level in the 'occupied' territory.

The RSS, the political mentor of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has intensified its attempts to impose its Hindutva agenda since the revocation of the special status of 'occupied Kashmir' on 05 August 2019. On the other hand, the Washington-based Indian American Muslim Council in its latest report said India is witnessing a distressing surge in communal violence, targeted attacks, and hate speeches directed against religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Oct-2023/indian-troops-martyred-85-kashmiris-this-year>

The double standard of the international community on the issue of Palestine and Kashmir is not acceptable: Muhammad Yaqoob Khan

Daily Parliament Times, 16 October 2023

Former President and Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Member Legislative Assembly Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan has said that the double standard of the international community on the issue of Palestine and Kashmir is not acceptable. He said that phosphorus and other bombs are being used on innocent Palestinian people, Israel is

flouting international laws, residential areas are being bombarded, and that innocent children, women, and innocent citizens are being massacred. Access to food and drink is not being given which is a slap in the face of the contractors of peace, he said.

The United Nations is keeping a double standard with Muslim countries. He said that on the one hand, youths, children, and women are being martyred, through an organized conspiracy and that the Hindus are 'occupying' Kashmir, and while on the other hand, the Jews in Palestine are being forcibly settled in Palestine, which is not acceptable in any way. He said that following the violation of human rights of people in Kashmir and Palestine, international human rights organizations, the United Nations, and OIC have to play their role in the resolution of both issues.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/10/16/double-standard-of-the-international-world-on-the-issue-of-pk-is-not-acceptable-muhammad-yaqoob-khan/>

Local bodies elections in GB after 18 years

Dawn, 17 October 2023

Preparations are in full swing for the long-awaited local bodies elections in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), marking the first time in 18 years that such elections would take place in the region. According to GB Chief Election Commissioner Raja Shahbaz Khan, elections are scheduled to be held in the last week of November. The

delimitation of constituencies is currently in progress, with the demarcation process already completed. The implementation of the Local Bodies Act, 2014 in GB took place on 23 July. Mr Khan further explained that following a comprehensive door-to-door verification of the voter list, a preliminary list has been compiled and will soon be made public.

Additionally, a delegation from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has conducted training sessions for government officials in the region. According to Mr. Khan, Pakistan's Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja responded to the request from the GB Election Commission by dispatching a specialized team of experts. This team organised a three-day workshop from 9-11 October. The workshop's primary objective was to provide training to commissioners, deputy commissioners, and assistant commissioners from the Gilgit, Diamer, and Baltistan divisions. GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan spoke at the closing ceremony of the training, making it clear that holding local bodies elections is the foremost priority of his government.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1781476/local-bodies-elections-in-gb-after-18-years>

Heavy losses to Indian forces in October raptures Modi regime's normalcy mantra

Pakistan Observer, 18 October 2023

India's Modi regime claims that normalcy has returned to 'illegally

occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK) since the abrogation of the special status of the territory on 5 August 2019, but the ground situation depicts quite an opposite story. A think tank, Kashmir Research Center, has proven with facts and figures that despite stringent measures by 'Indian occupation forces', Kashmiris are actively pursuing the freedom movement without any semblance of fatigue and tiredness. It cites the data of less than two weeks of the current month of October catering to the actions of mujahideen against Indian 'occupation forces' personnel to have exposed the Indian government's hollow claim of normalcy. A chronology of events of the month, as compiled by the think tank, is being given here to prove how much Indian forces had to suffer in men and material in the past two weeks:

On 2 October, mujahideen shot at and injured a staunch BJP supporter named Majid Rasheed in Srinagar downtown. On the same day, during an encounter in the Kalakote area of Rajouri, three Indian troops were shot and injured. Indian forces claimed to have martyred two youths, but no evidence was provided in this regard. On 3 October, mujahideen damaged a railway track near Bijbehara Railway Station in Islamabad district, making the railway track non-functional for several hours. Similarly, on 4 October, an informer of the Indian army was shot dead in the Dialgam area of Islamabad district. Two Indian troops were shot and injured by mujahideen during an

encounter in the Kujjar area of Kulgam on the same day. Two mujahideen Basit Amin Butt and Saqib Hussain were reportedly martyred in the encounter.

In another encounter, which took place in the Alshipora area of Shopian, two more mujahideen named Morifat Maqbool and Jazim Farooq embraced martyrdom. On 12 October, mujahideen shot at and injured a Police person in the Wanpoh area of Islamabad district. Having cited the above figures, the center said that the above activities of the Kashmiri mujahideen against 'Indian occupation forces' are a testimony that Kashmiri people have refused to accept India's 'illegal occupation' of their motherland despite extreme highhandedness and coercive measures being pursued by New Delhi to suppress the freedom movement. The fact is India has imposed a media blackout of the mujahideen's actions to downplay the worsened security situation and advance the false aura of normalcy in the occupied territory. If India's normalcy propaganda has any worth then why did a deadly fratricide incident take place on 5 October in the Thanamandi area of Rajouri, which claimed the lives of three Indian officers, and caused injuries to three others? This incident portrays the poor psychological and mental condition of 'Indian occupation forces' personnel present in the conflict zone of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir.

<https://pakobserver.net/heavy-losses-to-indian-forces-in-october-raptures-modi-regimes-normalcy-mantra/>

Global peace under threat due to unresolved disputes over Palestine, Kashmir

Daily Times, 20 October 2023

Global peace is under threat, today, primarily due to the Kashmir and Palestine issue, the world's two most long-pending UN-recognized disputes reeling under 'illegal occupation' of Israel and India. According to Kashmir Media Service, both, the Kashmir issue, a bone of contention in the South Asian region, and Palestine in the Middle East, involve denial of the right to self-determination promised by the United Nations Security Council in 1948. Both Kashmir and Palestine have shared the struggle for self-determination against colonial occupation for the past 75 years as they both await fulfillment of the UN resolutions. 'Occupiers' India and Israel are glaringly violating international laws in Kashmir and Palestine, witnessing the most vicious form of apartheid in modern history.

As per international law, both Kashmiris and Palestinians have the right to resist their foreign oppressors, but as and when they carry out an action against their oppressors under the UN Charter, the world's major powers side with the 'occupiers' in condemning the act, be it a raid by 'Indian occupation' troops in Kashmir or a daring attack of Hamas on Israelis in Palestine. Above all, close military cooperation between India and Israel is a growing danger to humanity and world peace. Both Kashmir and Palestine issues have deep historical

roots, with conflicts spanning over decades. The Kashmir conflict began in 1947 during the partition of India, and the Israel-Palestine conflict has its origins in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when the Britishers carved a new state in the heart of the Middle East on the soil of Palestine. These conflicts have attracted significant international attention and involvement with various countries and international organizations trying to mediate or influence the resolution of these disputes on different occasions. However, the obduracy of the 'occupier forces' has been a stumbling block in the resolution of these conflicts, which today pose a serious threat to global peace as a result of unending violence, wars, resistance, and border clashes in the Middle East and South Asia.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1141355/global-peace-under-threat-due-to-unresolved-disputes-over-palestine-kashmir/>

The plight of Kashmir: From 1947 to the present

Pakistan Observer, 21 October 2023

Kashmir is neither a territorial issue nor a bilateral dispute between India and Pakistan. It is an issue of self-determination of the people of Kashmir recognized by the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR). Kashmiris demand two things, reunion and self-determination. Kashmir needs conflict resolution but the immediate need is peace and respect for the human rights of the Kashmiri people especially in the 'Indian illegally occupied Kashmir' (IIOK). When

someone asks what Kashmir is, there are several answers, but the state of Kashmir is a geographical area that was a princely state from 1846 to the end of the Anglo-Sikh war and had a history of 101 years till 27 October 1947. On this date, Kashmir was 'forcefully occupied' by India due to the movement against the ruler (Maharaja) by the people of Jammu and Kashmir which had been suppressed by illegitimate force, Srinagar genocide is the proof of legitimacy that India had.

The marginalization of people in 'IIOJK' has happened slowly in the last seven decades but the atrocities of Indian forces have enormously increased after the emergence of BJP and the Hindutva ideology in India as well as in Kashmir. The governments in India have always controlled the regimes in Kashmir by lockdown, curfew, killing the people in the name of terrorism, by creating armed groups to divert the attention towards the so-called terrorism from the struggle of the Kashmir movement. Jammu and Kashmir is not just hostage to the forces of India but the systemic oppression and systemic suppression created over the last seven decades which include discrimination of Muslims in Kashmir based on religious hatred like Hindutva. There have been multiple attempts by political leaders to assert that Kashmir is an integral part of Indian Territory despite the UN resolutions on the matter.

The new attempt was made by the Modi government to revoke Article 370 of the Indian constitution on 5 August 2019

which gave Kashmir a special status within the Indian union. The aim of the Indianization of Kashmir and creating a dependency of Kashmir on mainland India was to subdue the people of Kashmir. This attempt also includes the demerit of Kashmir from state to union territory and division of 'Indian occupied Kashmir' (IOK) into two parts Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to control different ethnicities in Kashmir differently, some by stick and carrots while others by suppression and force. For the past four years, the Indian government has been forcefully integrating Kashmiri society into India, employing brutal and oppressive measures. These actions include the imposition of lengthy lockdowns, curfews, and bans on political activities, resulting in the deployment of around 0.9 million soldiers, the arrest of political activists, media censorship, enforced disappearances, forceful detentions, extrajudicial killings, and house arrest of political leaders.

There have been changes in domicile laws and the allocation of land to outsiders like Biharis, and external Hindu groups, as well as the construction of malls by elite Hindus to disrupt indigenous industries and create economic dependence on India. The Indian government has also sought to institutionalize demographic and cultural changes through central rule, new education policy, erasing Kashmiri language and Muslim history, media restrictions, and the suppression of freedom of expression in Kashmir. This strategy has involved

manipulating narratives, isolating the Kashmiri population, projecting a sense of normalcy through geo-economic initiatives, promoting tourism and religious pilgrimages, and even hosting a G-20 tourism session under tight security, all aimed at undermining Kashmiri identity and persuading certain factions to align with the Indian system. These actions are attributed to the broader plan of the Modi regime's Hindutva project.

Kashmir is becoming less important in the international arena due to the changing geopolitics and geoeconomics of South Asia. Also, the propaganda and Indian narrative sell in the international trend with schemes like disinfo labs which propagate the false narrative about the Kashmir movement by Indian print and electronic media and radical Hindu organization overseas. Kashmir is the unfinished agenda of the Partition and should be resolved with peaceful means of the UNSR. The 'IIOJK' has been the most impacted part of Kashmir over the last seven decades and the 27 October is the remembrance of the atrocities on the people of 'IIOJK' by the Indian regimes should be treated as a black day.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-plight-of-kashmir-from-1947-to-the-present/>

GB leaders and NCSW express concerns over child marriage

Dawn, 22 October 2023

Civil society representatives and the chairperson of the National

Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) have expressed reservations regarding the lack of constitutional rights and laws protecting women, including underage marriage in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). They demanded immediate legislation to empower women in GB. The NCSW, with the support of partners United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Unicef, and UN-Women, recently held a two-day National Consultation on Child Marriage, with the second round taking place in Gilgit on Friday. The participants included the Chairperson of NCSW Ms Nilofar Bakhtiar, GB Assembly Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate among others. The speakers expressed concerns about the absence of laws protecting women, including early child marriage, in the region. Ms Bakhtiar expressed concerns about the lack of rights for women in the region compared to other parts of the country. She highlighted that the Diamer district in GB has the highest rate of early marriage in the country and lamented the absence of access to law and judiciary for women to protect their rights.

She demanded legislation to ensure women's rights and noted that GB lacks women's shelters and separate jails. She emphasised that the protection of young girls from sexual and social exploitation could only be achieved through proper education. GB Assembly Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate announced that a bill to end child marriage would be presented in the GB assembly. He said, that in 2015,

a bill was submitted in the GB assembly to end child marriages; however, it has not been tabled so far. He pointed out that in our society, we do not allow anyone to drive, work, or enter into an agreement before reaching the age of majority, which is 18 years. However, we permit underage marriage, which is one of the most serious contracts in life. This is simply against common sense and it has no religious base.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1782743/gb-leaders-and-ncsw-express-concerns-over-child-marriage>

Kashmiris and Palestinians victims of the India-Israel evil nexus for decades

Pakistan Observer, 22 October 2023

Political experts and analysts in 'India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) have said that Kashmiris and Palestinians have been victims of India-Israel evil nexus for the last more than seven decades. According to Kashmir Media Service, the political experts and analysts in their interviews and statements in Srinagar said, the 'illegal occupations' of Muslim lands of Kashmir and Palestine are depictions of the anti-Islam bond between India and Israel. They said beyond economic cooperation, India and Israel are sharing racist, violent practices to demonize Islam and Muslims. They further claimed that anti-Islam bias is the common thread uniting Hindutva India and Zionist Israel and the biggest factor for growing relations between the two countries is their common hatred against Muslims. They claimed that India and Israel's alliance is a dangerous recipe for the worldwide

expansion of racism and Islamophobia as the two countries are brazen violators of international treaties and covenants.

The ideological bond between Hindutva and Zionism serves as the core of the India-Israel relationship and cooperation between the two countries has increased manifold since Narendra Modi came to power in India. They noted that most of the pro-Zionist statements on various social media platforms find wide support from Indian accounts in the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza. They maintained that the outpouring of online support by Hindutva accounts for Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza is the outcome of deeply entrenched anti-Muslim sentiment in Modi's India. They said, India-Israel's entire cooperation is in pursuit of their expansionist designs within and across their respective regions and both countries are furthering their settler-colonial projects in Kashmir and Palestine to legalize the eviction of indigenous communities. They added that India is copying Israel's techniques of oppression ranging from extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and surveillance to fortify its illegal hold on Kashmir.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-and-palestinians-victims-of-india-israel-evil-nexus-since-decades/>

Economic Developments

Being misled on the name of land reform: GB Action Committee

Dailyk2, 16 October 2023

Syed Yasabuddin Kazmi, Chairman of the Awami Action Committee, stated

that the environment in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) has deteriorated due to the government's inefficiency, and there is a crisis in every sector. He said that the people of GB are currently facing a financial crisis, that jobs are not being produced, and that people are being chased like sheep as a result of the political situation. He said that the people are being given harmful flour and that there is an administrative crisis in the health department. There are numerous educational issues, including the closure of Gilgit's sole university. He said that no government has done anything to enhance power generation, but instead has persecuted the public by passing laws that scratch the people. People are being duped in the name of land reforms, while land distribution is taking place with the help of the financial department, he added.

He said that the federal parties are fighting a war for their privileges and that the poor are suffering as a result of this conflict. He said that nobody knows who runs the government and that bureaucracy prevails, and our ministers stand suspiciously at its doors, an affront to the public mandate. He stated that in response to recent notices sent to hotel owners regarding solar systems, we urge that cheap and interest-free loans be made available and that the government lend a helping hand to the hotel industry to promote tourism. If the repression persists and the problems are not get handled, the public action committee will launch protests across the region.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/17593>

Arranging investment in 'AJK' via the private sector made it impossible

Daily Parliament Times, 17 October 2023

The private sector in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) has refused the execution of small hydropower projects of up to 50 MW. Even though all code formalities were met under the 2015 Power Policy, the federal government refused to consider a few projects, including Jhing-II Hydro Power, Jagran-III Hydro Power, Harighel Hydro Power, and Luat Hydro Power. The facilitation agreement agreed in 2017 between the government of 'AJK' and the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB), Ministry of Energy (Power Div), requires PPIB to give a Letter of Support (LOS) to 'AJK'-based private hydropower projects that are proposed by the government of 'AJK.' PPIB's LOS allows for the distribution of standardised security agreements (Energy Purchase Agreement and Implementation Agreement) to project developers, which are required by lenders for debt financing.

Following the aforementioned facilitation agreement, PPIB provided a Letter of Support (LOS) to two projects in 2019, namely Riali Hydro and Kathai Hydro. Riali Hydro is well advanced, while Kathai Hydro is currently under construction. The Riali - II Hydro Power Project has completed more than 70% of civil works on the site, with the firm investing approximately 2.8 billion rupees. NEPRA issued the tariff at Rs 8, and the Energy Purchase Agreement (EPA) was signed with the

Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) in April 2020, but the approval of security documents is still pending due to the non-cooperation / non-seriousness of the Ministry of Energy (MOE), particularly the sitting Secretary Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial. The Secretary is concerned that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) will contact him if he accepts the summary of Security Documents for minor hydropower projects. As a result, to avoid NAB, he has declined to transmit the Summary to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) for approval. This is an unfortunate country for foreign and local investors who are badly trapped through the different policies of the government of Pakistan and now the investors are knocking the different doors to avail their attention but unfortunately, nobody pays any heed to the genuine investors whose investment is in doldrums.

The sponsors of Riali-II had written many letters addressing the Chief of Army Staff/Prime Minister of Pakistan including the Secretary (Power Division) and Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) with zero response. The sponsors of small hydropower projects had high hopes that due to the presence of the Army in SIFC, their genuine issues would be taken up seriously and stern action would be taken against those bureaucrats who are responsible for discouraging the investment in green energy. Hydropower energy is still the cheapest of all other sources and the life

of a hydropower project is above 100 years. These projects help in boosting up the local economy and employment but unfortunately, the decision-makers in the Power Division are presumably acting as an agent of those who benefit from selling expensive fuel to the country.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/10/17/larranging-investment-in-ajk-via-the-private-sector-made-it-impossible/>

Chief Minister presented a plan to the Azerbaijan ambassador for trade between GB and Azerbaijan

Dailyk2, 18 October 2023

Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan stated that steps should be taken to facilitate the easy access of Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) dry fruits and minerals to Azerbaijan's markets as well as connections between the business communities of the two regions. He was speaking during the presentation of a plan for trade between GB and Azerbaijan. While speaking with Khizr Farhad, ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, he stressed the need to intensify mutual relations between the two brotherly regions. Gulzar Khan said that the three pillars of Pakistan's friendship and mutual relations with the Islamic brotherhood country are becoming stronger over time, as have their defence and diplomatic ties. He said that although GB, the northernmost province of Pakistan, is extremely cold and challenging, there are many physical similarities between the two geographies and they are both

incredibly beautiful. The cities of Ganja in Azerbaijan and Multan in Pakistan were designated as twin cities. Similarly, the designation of a city in GB as a twin city with a city in Azerbaijan will strengthen ties and foster other significant relationships between the two regions.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/17646>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Protest demonstration and rally in Muzaffarabad demanding the release of Kashmiri detainees

UrduPoint, 16 October 2023

A protest demonstration was staged in front of the Central Press Club Muzaffarabad by Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir for the release of Kashmiris leaders 'illegally' jailed in various jails in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). According to the Kashmir Media Service, a huge number of people attended the march, carrying black flags and placards in protest of India's revengeful actions against Kashmiri detainees and demands for their release. Protesters chanted slogans such as 'Release, release Kashmiri prisoners; India, leave occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' The march was led by Pasban-e-Hurriyat Chairman Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, among others. While addressing the protesters, Pasban Hurriyat leader Muhammad Ahsan stated that international human rights defenders are 'silent spectators' of the greatest breaches of human rights in 'occupied

Kashmir' today. He claimed that the basic human rights of millions of Kashmiris have been badly violated as a result of Narendra Modi's led regime's worst atrocities and that thousands of Kashmiri captives have been denied the basic legal right to prove their innocence.

He voiced concern about the fate of Kashmiris imprisoned in India's distant jails, alleging that, in addition to being denied proper food and medical care in Indian jails, they were also denied access to their parents and relatives. Other speakers stated that the Kashmiri women, children, youth, and elderly imprisoned in Indian jails are in the worst possible circumstances. He pleaded with international human rights organisations to expose India's brutality veiled under the carpet of democracy. The speakers also criticised Israel's aggression on Palestine and Gaza and urged the international community to perform its constitutional responsibility in establishing a fully independent Palestinian state. He praised the people of Gaza for their bravery and stated they would fight for their liberation against Israeli oppression indefinitely.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-3769715.html>

The 27th of October will be marked as Black Day in 'AJK' in protest against 'Indian military occupation'

UrduPoint, 19 October 2023

A black day will be observed and a protest demonstration starting from the

Burhan Wani Shaheed Chowk in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) will be held on 27 October to express opposition to the 'military occupation' of Jammu and Kashmir by India. While declaring the date and venue for the protests, Pasban-e-Hurriyat arranged a media debate, which was attended by representatives of various political parties and members of civil society. During the event, Pasban-e-Hurriyat head Uzair Ahmad Ghazali, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami District Muzaffarabad Raja Aftab Ahmad Khan, and leaders of the Pakistan People's Party-'Azad Kashmir', Shaukat Javed Mir among others call for a day of protests throughout the state against the 'illegitimate Indian military occupation' of the 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' The leaders asserted that the struggle for the freedom of Kashmir will continue and that the United Nations must keep its pledges to the people of the 'occupied' state about the right to self-determination.

While speaking to the media, the speakers stated that India had 'occupied' a big portion of the state against the will and intention of the Kashmiri people and that India currently rules over one crore and three million people forcefully. The leaders claimed that although the UN has already approved sixteen resolutions about referendums to settle the Kashmir dispute, this international body is unable to force India to carry out its decisions. They further claimed that the defenceless residents of 'Occupied Kashmir' have been fighting

India's 'military occupation' for seven decades. The leaders said that the four million citizens of 'Azad Kashmir' must take the lead in defending the integrity and cohesion of the 'occupied state.' They declared that an organised, active struggle against the 'Indian imperialist occupation' was a prerequisite for the independence of Kashmir. The leader expressed remorse for the 'Azad Kashmir' government's disregard for the Kashmir issue and claimed that for the past 20 years, the base camp government has not carried out its obligations. The leaders further urged citizens of the entire 'Azad Kashmir' to demonstrate on 27 October against 'Indian occupation' and to make a commitment to fight for the freedom of Kashmir. The leaders told the press conference that India must keep in mind that it cannot hold out its 'military occupation' of the disputed state for very long. He urged human rights organisations to investigate Indian 'war crimes' in 'occupied Kashmir' right now.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3773644.html>

The Security Council is failing to put a halt to the killings in Gaza and Kashmir: Munir Akram

Jasarat, 21 October 2023

Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (UN) has stated that the UN Security Council has failed to stop killings in Gaza and 'occupied Kashmir.' Akram emphasised the need for reforms in the UN Security

Council's 15-member membership, saying that the Security Council, whose mission is to promote international peace, has failed to stop India's 'illegally carried out killings' in 'India-occupied Kashmir' (IOK). It has failed not only to avert the atrocity in Kashmir but also failed to put an end to the atrocities and killings in Gaza. He informed Security Council members that, like Israel in occupied Palestine, India's 'occupying army' of 9 lakh personnel has tried to violently suppress Kashmiris' independence fight, which India's 'extremist' leaders refer to as the 'final solution to Kashmir.' Akram expressed hope that, following the Security Council's failure, the General Assembly will take action and demand an immediate ceasefire and unrestricted help to victims in Gaza.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/10/21/muneer-akram/>

[Social Media \(tweets\)](#)

Basharat Issa @BasharatIssa

17 October 2023

The "regime change" in Pakistan & the political situation unfolding after that is one of the best opportunities for Gilgit-Baltistan to get rid of mainstream Pakistani political parties and their influence in the region. But the region is too depoliticised or controlled for that.

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1714229846468079858>

Naveed Murtaza @NaveedMurtaza11

19 October 2023

#GilgitBaltistan's rights activist, Shabir Mayar, was arrested for advocating autonomy rights. He has fallen ill while in police custody. Known for his robust health, he is suspected of being tortured & deprived of basic facilities during his detention.

<https://twitter.com/NaveedMurtaza11/status/1714899966702109077>

Pakscience @paksciencepk

21 October 2023

Pakistan's Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar emphasized using China's Xinjiang province as a vital part of the economic corridor, aiming to strengthen ties between Gilgit Baltistan and Xinjiang.

<https://twitter.com/paksciencepk/status/1715687405276049666>

Dr Sughra Sadaf @Sughrasadafdr

22 October 2023

Solarisation of public schools in Gilgit-Baltistan is making great progress, approximately 100 solarised while all selected 280 schools equipped with solar power with in next six months. Other Provinces should follow GB.

More Power to you dear Wani Sab.

<https://twitter.com/Sughrasadafdr/status/1716006020869501217>

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Disclaimer

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