

Ambassador's speech for Kashmir Solidarity Day on 7th February 2017 at Pakistan Embassy College

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are gathered here to express our solidarity, unimpeded moral and diplomatic support to the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their heroic struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. The day has been observed for the last 26 years by the people of Pakistan and AJK not only to support the fair and impartial right of self-determination of Kashmiri people but to eulogize the sacrifices they are making every day by bearing brutality at the hands of Indian military.

The people of Pakistan have unbreakable historical, cultural and religious bond with the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir. The region of Jammu and Kashmir is indeed, as described by Quaid-e-Azam, through his visionary statement the “jugular vein of Pakistan”.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Jammu & Kashmir dispute is the unfinished agenda of partition. The Maharaja-Indo-British nexus at the time of independence conspired against the people of Kashmir and nascent state of Pakistan. This conspiracy deprived the Muslim majority Kashmir region from joining Pakistan and led to the occupation of Indian forces on almost two third of Jammu and Kashmir. The people of Kashmir rose against the occupied forces and started their historic struggle for right of self-determination, which continues till today.

The Kashmir issue remains as one of the oldest disputes in the UN Security Council. The decision taken by the UN Security Council to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir has never been realized due to the ill-intent of India. For the last seven decades, India has denied the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir this right of self-determination

and has resorted to vicious use of force against the unarmed civilian population.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

People of Indian Occupied Kashmir have never accepted this illegal occupation. All Indian brutalities have failed to deter the people of IoK from their rightful cause for freedom from Indian subjugation. Four generations of Kashmiris have suffered countless brutalities at the hands of occupying forces and have rendered unparalleled and unimaginable sacrifices. India is suppressing and muzzling Kashmiri men, women and children through massive presence of security forces under draconian law of “Armed Forces Special Powers Act”. Statistically last 26 years have witnessed 94,296 martyrdoms of innocent Kashmiris including 7,038 in custody, 10,167 women raped and 107,545 children orphaned. The universal principles of humanity, liberty, justice and equality are being mocked by India, the so called largest democracy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The consistent pattern of Indian barbarities has once again been repeated in the aftermath of the extra-judicial murder of the young icon of Kashmiri freedom struggle, Burhan Wani, on 8 July, 2016.

The barbaric actions and ruthless use of force by Indian Army and paramilitary forces have resulted in more than 120 deaths during the last six months and 20,000 critically injured.

The brutal use of pellet guns by the Indian occupation forces against the defenseless young Kashmiris is the worst form of oppression tactics used by any occupation force. More than 1,000 have sustained severe eye injuries due to pellet shots by the Indian occupation forces, while at least 150, including women and children, are now permanently blind. Even this reign of terror by the occupying Indian state has failed to deter the people of IoK from their struggle for freedom from Indian oppression.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India has lost permanently and irretrievably the hearts and minds of the people of Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir. It is high time that India should read the writing on the wall and implement the pending UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu & Kashmir for amicable resolution of this long outstanding dispute which is the only peaceful, plausible and logical solution to the Kashmir dispute.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The current government under the leadership of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has reiterated the commitment of People of Pakistan to the Kashmir cause on numerous occasions and fearlessly raised the Kashmir issue during the last UNGA Session. The Government has also sent Special Envoys on Kashmir all around the world to apprise them of ongoing Indian atrocities in IOK. These envoys also reminded international community of their commitment to Kashmiri people for implementing the UN resolutions. UN Secretary General has also been reminded of the commitment of international community to fulfill their pledge to the Kashmiri people.

Let there be no doubt: Pakistan will never back out from our just support to the people of Kashmir and their cause to right of self-determination and freedom from Indian occupation. We salute the People of Indian occupied Kashmir for their courage in braving the Indian oppression and our support will continue till the realization of the cherished dream for freedom of millions of Kashmiri people from draconian Indian occupation.

Thank you
