

# Weekly POK News Digest

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

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development **China**  
protest **ECNEC** tech  
**tourism** Hunza  
**POK** Gilgit-Baltistan



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

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## Political Developments

### **Protest for Yasin Malik's release**

*Daily Parliament Times, 29 May 2023*

A protest demonstration was staged under the aegis of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir against the appeal of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to convert the life sentence of the 'illegally imprisoned' Kashmiri 'resistance movement' leader Muhammad Yasin Malik to death. A large number of people gathered at Burhan Wani Chowk holding banners and placards besides chanting slogans against BJP led Indian government. Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Uzair Ahmed Ghazali has cautioned that the Indian government, NIA, and Indian judiciary should refrain from conspiracies against Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik. Ghazali appealed to the United Nations, OIC, and international human rights organizations to take notice of the reprisals against Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri freedom movement leaders. Usman Ali Hashim said that India's judiciary is being used by Narendra Modi as the worst war weapon against Kashmiri prisoners, and added that after Muhammad Afzal Guru, now Yasin Malik is being targeted for revenge. Mushtaq-ul-Islam, Khalid Mehmood Zaidi, and Hafiz Bilal Ahmad Farooqui among others also spoke on the occasion.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/05/29/protest-for-yasin-malik-release/>

### **Denial of the right to life and liberty**

*Editorial, Business Recorder, 30 May 2023*

Not content with jailing Yasin Malik, leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the Indian government now wants him dead. During his trial last year in a special court he had stayed firm on his right to 'resist occupation' pleading guilty to the charge of funding the separatist movement and refusing the government's offer to appoint a defense lawyer for him. The court had rejected the plea of India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) to award him the death sentence, maintaining that capital punishment is for a crime that 'shocks the collective conscience' of society. He was handed life imprisonment. A year later, ignoring the country's law under which an appeal against a court's decision can be filed within 90 days, the NIA approached the Delhi High Court, seeking a death sentence for Malik. How the case is to turn out is anybody's guess.

Malik has been in and out of jail since 1990 for his role in the Kashmiri people's armed struggle against Indian rule, changing strategy with changing circumstances but never making any compromise on his principled stance. In 1994, he gave up armed resistance announcing that he would peacefully campaign for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. In 2006, when the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had decided to find a way of

settling the issue, Malik held talks with him along with other leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella organization of several pro-independence groups. Meanwhile, completely alienated from India, a new generation of Kashmiris has kept asserting their right to freedom. Despite brutal repression their chants of 'Azadi' and 'Go India go' have grown louder and louder all these years.

In 2018, months before the Narendra Modi government's August 2019 illegal and immoral move to revoke the special status of 'Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) Yasin Malik was arrested yet again. It now wants one of the leading independence figures to go to the gallows. His distraught wife, British-born Mushaal Malik who lives in Islamabad along with their young daughter, has urged the Pakistan government to raise the issue at international forums. It can only be hoped the Delhi High Court or in the event the Supreme Court is involved at a later point will not allow themselves to be influenced by the prevailing political environment in that country, and take a lenient view of the case. The UN Charter recognizes a people's right to resist occupation. No one should be allowed to take away that right to liberty through resort to naked force or oppression.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40245129/denial-of-right-to-life-and-liberty>

## **Modi implementing 'supremacist agenda' of RSS in 'IIOJK', Manipur**

*Daily Parliament Times, 31 May 2023*

The Narendra Modi-led Indian government is pursuing the 'Hindutva agenda of the extremist Hindu organization' Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the same is visible in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and in India's Manipur state. India under 'communal' Narendra Modi is moving systematically with the RSS agenda to turn the country into a 'Hindu Rashtra.' Muslims in 'IIOJK' and Christian tribal communities in Manipur are victims of a 'Hindu supremacist' mindset. While the Hindu 'extremist forces' attacks on Muslims in 'occupied Kashmir' have intensified, the religious minorities in India have also witnessed an alarming increase in such attacks since Modi's rise to power in 2014. Political experts and analysts say that the world is watching as a mute spectator to the cruelties of Modi and other 'Hindu supremacists in IIOJK' and Manipur nowadays.

They say that the distinct identities of Muslims in 'IIOJK' and Christians in Manipur are under threat as they are facing 'systematic persecution' at the hands of Hindutva forces. The attacks on Christians, their churches, and properties in Manipur are unfolding exactly according to the RSS 'supremacist ideology.' The 'Nazi-inspired RSS ideology is both hate-ridden and supremacist.' India projects

itself as a secular country but the Hindutva forces treat Muslims, Christians, and other minorities as second-class citizens and the Modi-led BJP's politics thrives on hate campaigns against the minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians. Analysts maintain that the revocation of 'IIOJK's special status, stripping the citizenship of Assam Muslims, and attacks on Christians in the Manipur area are manifestations of Modi's supremacist mindset. The Hindu ideology being pursued by the RSS-backed Modi regime is a threat to regional peace and the international community must step in before it is too late.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/05/31/modi-implementing-supremacist-agenda-of-rss-in-iiojk-manipur/>

### **'AJK' president says India's Hindutva-influenced government plotting to hang Yasin Malik to win next elections**

*Daily Parliament Times, 31 May 2023*

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that India's 'Hindutva-influenced' government of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was plotting to hang Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman Yasin Malik to win the next elections. In a detailed meeting with the president of Kashmir Peace Forum International-United Kingdom (KPFI-UK) Barrister Karamat Hussain, Mehmood voiced his grave concern over the BJP

government's nefarious designs and termed it a well-thought-out plan to eliminate the Kashmiri leadership. He said that it was high time that the Kashmiri community settled in the UK and other countries should play their due role to expose Modi's 'dangerous designs' and sensitize the global community about the threats involving the life of Muhammad Yasin Malik, who has already been awarded a life sentence by an Indian court a couple of years ago. The president said that a committee comprised of well-reputed legal experts has already been working in the UK to explore ways and means to help secure the release of the Kashmiri leader, added that I have also asked the British Parliamentarians to raise this issue in the British Parliament. He further claimed that Kashmiri leaders languishing in different jails were being subjected to third-degree torture and that the Kashmiri leaders have dedicated their entire lives to the freedom movement and have fearlessly advocated the Kashmiris' political and democratic rights despite going through trials and tribulations.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/05/31/ajk-president-says-indias-hindutva-influenced-government-of-bharatiya-janata-party-was-plotting-to-hang-jammu-and-klf-chairman/>

### **India allows two lakhs more houses on Kashmiris' land to outsiders**

*Daily Parliament Times, 1 June 2023*

The Modi-led Indian government has allotted 1,99,550 more houses on

Kashmiris' land to 'non-Kashmiri residents' in 'Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) to upset the Muslim majority status of the territory on the fast track. This is deemed a major step towards a big demographic change in the territory. There is already growing resentment among the Jammu region people on the allocation of 300 flats and houses to non-locals in the Jammu district under India's Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna-Gramin (PMAY-G) scheme. The move triggered protests in Jammu in April. The allocation of new houses shall be sanctioned by the Rural Development Department headed by the Modi regime by 30 June 2023. The massive allocation is new 'anti-Kashmir agenda' being advanced by the Modi regime in the territory. In a tweet, the Lt Governor said allotting additional 1,99,550 houses in J&K will be a step towards achieving the objective, a reference to the settlement of the Indian army personnel, bureaucrats, and Indian employees in the territory.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/06/01/india-allots-2-lakhs-more-houses-on-kashmiris-land-to-outsiders/>

### **GB speaker resigns amid no-trust move**

*Dawn, 1 June 2023*

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Assembly Speaker Syed Amjad Ali Zaidi resigned from his post following the submission of a no-confidence motion against him. Mr. Zaidi has tendered his resignation to

Governor Syed Mehdi Shah after a parliamentary party meeting of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI). Deputy Speaker Nazir Ahmed has been nominated as the candidate for the speaker by the parliamentary party. A faction within the ruling PTI in GB had filed a no-confidence motion against the speaker for not honoring an agreement to step down after two and a half years. Reportedly, an agreement was reached in 2020 that Mr. Zaidi would step down after two and a half years. However, it was claimed that Mr. Zaidi refused to honour the pledge. The GB Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid Khan persuaded Mr. Zaidi to resign from his post to honour the split power decision and avoid a vote of no-confidence in the assembly.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1757181/gb-speaker-resigns-amid-no-trust-move>

### **APHC-'AJK' condemns shifting of APHC women leaders to Srinagar jail**

*Pakistan Observer, 4 June 2023*

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter has condemned the shifting of APHC women leaders from the Srinagar police station to the Central Jail on 'fake cases' and termed it a gross human rights violation. The APHC-'AJK' Convener Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement in Islamabad claimed that the authorities of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have lost all moral and ethical values and added that we strongly denounce the



shifting of Yasmeen Raja and Zamrooda Habib to Srinagar central jail. He lamented that Kashmir was the only place where the people were being kept under custody thousands of miles away from their homes and appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross and other human rights organizations to come to the rescue of the Kashmiri detainees and take notice of the lawlessness prevailing in the 'occupied territory.'

<https://pakobserver.net/aphc-ajk-condemns-shifting-of-aphc-women-leaders-to-srinagar-jail/>

### Economic Developments

#### **Hunza residents, including women and children, protested the shortage of flour**

*Dailyk2, 30 May 2023*

Due to the lack of flour in Hunza, mothers, and children were forced to take to the streets and organize a sit-in in front of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) office. The protesters which include women stressed that residents of Hunza, in especially Hyderabad, had not gotten flour for the previous two months as a result of which there had been famine in their homes. They also claimed that they lacked the resources to buy flour from the market and that Hunza is a rural district in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) where in addition to the flour crisis, other basic food items are also becoming unaffordable. The protesters continued by saying that the reason they had come to the DC office

was because they lacked a representative with whom they could speak about their concerns. The local Chief Security Officer (CSO) Salim Khan and the Magistrate went to the DC office to speak with the protesting women to learn about their issues. They reassured the women, led them to the appropriate vendor, and then examined the public flour distribution registry. By pulling the senior officers into confidence and assuring the women that they would receive the final May quota before the 5th of June, the women opted to delay their protest in response to the assurance.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/14574>

#### **Tourism Summit-2023: ICCI delegation reviews arrangements**

*The Nation, 31 May 2023*

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce (ICCI) delegation visited Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) to review the arrangements for the first ICC Tourism Summit 2023 scheduled for the promotion of tourism in the northern regions. The delegation headed by president ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari met with the GB government officials, security agencies, and administration officers. They also visited various tourist points and were briefed about the business activities in the area. The first ICC Tourism Summit 2023 was organized by Islamabad Chamber and is scheduled to be held in July this year. Provincial Minister of

Tourism Raja Nasir Ali Khan said that the GB government would provide full cooperation to the event and added that the Islamabad Chamber should cooperate for the improvement of the dry fruit industry in GB due to the lack of proper storage and supply system, dried fruit worth millions are lost every year. He urged that the GB hotel industry also needed the investment. The president of ICCI expressed his gratitude to the provincial government for its cooperation in organizing the summit and said Chamber is trying to promote tourism in the northern region. He said that the hotel industry, roads, and other facilities are necessary for the promotion of tourism.

He further added that the launching of international flights is indispensable in the promotion of tourism and that the government should develop Skardu Airport as per international standards. He emphasized that tourism is the most profitable industry in the world, but unfortunately, Pakistan is still far behind in this sector compared to its potential. We need branding of tourist destinations to attract foreign tourists and hoped that the Summit will improve the soft image of Pakistan. During the visit, Commandant Officer Airport Security Force (ASF) Syed Yasin Shah, Station Commander Skardu, DIG GB Flight Lieutenant (Rtd) Farrukh Rashid, and Assistant Commissioner Skardu also met the President ICCI. The officers of the security agencies assured him that all

the agencies will play their role as hosts for the summit and fool-proof security would be provided to the guests coming to attend the summit.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/31-May-2023/tourism-summit-2023-icci-delegation-reviews-arrangements>

### **ECNEC clears four projects worth Rs 120 Billion**

*Dawn, 1 June 2023*

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved four development projects in 'Azad Kashmir', Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with a total estimated cost of Rs 120.185 billion. Presided over by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, the meeting of the committee was also attended by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, federal secretaries, and other senior officers from federal ministries and provincial governments. The ECNEC approved a project of the 'AJK' government to be executed by the Power Development Organisation for the establishment of a 48-megawatt Shounter Hydropower Project in Neelam Valley District at an updated cost of Rs14.985bn including a Foreign Exchange Component (FEC) of Rs 12.737 billion. The project is to be financed 85 percent from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and 15 percent of the cost will be met through 'AJK's annual development plan. The meeting also approved in principle a project of the Ministry of Kashmir



Affairs and GB for the establishment of Regional Grids in GB Phase-I in Astore, Gilgit, Hunza, and Skardu Districts in GB at the revised cost of Rs17.425 billion with FEC of Rs1.824 billion. The ECNEC also approved another project of the GB government to be executed by the Water and Power Department GB of 26MW Shagharthang Hydro-power Project in District Skardu at the revised cost of Rs 18.374 billion including FEC of Rs 4.461 billion.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1757234/ecnec-clears-four-projects-worth-rs120bn>

### **GB, KP ideal for trout farming with Chinese tech**

*The Nation, 2 June 2023*

Training of Pakistani farmers by Chinese experts and transfer of technology can bring about a revolution in the trout farming sector, earning huge revenues for the state wallet, said Deputy Director of Fisheries, Planning, and Development, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Ikram Hussain. He said China excelled in all traits related to fish farming, value addition, and marketing, and the transfer of technology to Pakistan was badly required. He said that the Chinese trout farming techniques are much more viable for industrial purposes and that their farming seed is well-engineered genetically and this peculiarity is lacking in Pakistan. The environment for trout farming is equally ideal in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Ikram added. He

said trout was well-favored all over the world, with the Gulf countries making a huge market. He said that in 2019-2020, the GB government started a five-year project named 'Promotion of trout farming in GB,' under the Ministry of National Food Security.

He further said that productive projects related to trout farming and other fisheries-related projects can be planned/launched from Diamer District to the Khunjerab border along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He emphasized that joining hands with China for hatchery management, seed production, value addition, research, and development would be of great help to Pakistan. Development of all these aspects can transform the trout farming segment into a 'billion-dollar industry,' Ikram stressed. While advocating the promotion of trout farming in GB, aquaculture expert at the World Bank Aslam Jarwar said almost all over Pakistan, temperature, photoperiod, alkaline soil, and water were ideal for fish farming, including in Punjab (Potohar region), the whole Sindh and Balochistan provinces including the coastal belts. Besides these provinces, the hilly areas of GB and KP provinces have far more potential for aquaculture, especially for trout farming and hatchery establishment, he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/02-Jun-2023/gb-kp-ideal-for-trout-farming-with-chinese-tech>

## **Overseas Chinese in GB hail boycott of Srinagar moot**

*Dawn, 4 June 2023*

The Overseas Chinese Association Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) has appreciated China's boycott of a G20 meeting organized by India in 'held Kashmir' last month. It said the boycott from China, a key member of the bloc of 20 leading rich and developing nations, 'exposed India's hidden intentions.' The association said India wanted to assert its sovereignty over the disputed territory by holding a meeting that sparked controversy and diplomatic tensions, according to a press release issued on Saturday.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1757870/overseas-chinese-in-gb-hail-boycott-of-srinagar-moot>

## **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

### **All meetings, protests, and sit-ins are prohibited in GB**

*UrduPoint, 29 May 2023*

Rana Muhammad Saleem Afzal, Secretary of the Home and Jails Department of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), issued an order banning all forms of gatherings, including jalsa and sit-ins protests. According to the announcement, protests, gatherings, processions, rallies, and dharnas will be prohibited throughout GB for three months, and strict legal action will be taken against violators.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-3601094.html>

## **India wants to execute Hurriyat leaders to put an end to the 'Azadi' movement: Former PM of 'AJK'**

*Jasarat, 29 May 2023*

The former prime minister and president of the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (JKMC), Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan claims that India aims to assassinate the Hurriyat leaders through the legal system to put an end to the ongoing 'freedom movement.' While speaking with the JKMC leaders, he said that the Hindutva-led Indian government by the BJP has given its army free rein to 'kill, detain, torture', and injure unarmed civilians in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' He claimed that a significant amount of political retaliation was being directed at the Hurriyat leaders to force them to give up the fight for the right to self-determination. Yasin Malik, the head of the JKLF, he claimed, is being prosecuted on 'false charges', and has been imprisoned in New Delhi's notorious Tihar Jail.

The Indian National Investigation Agency (NIA) has petitioned the High Court in New Delhi to execute Malik, he continued, adding that Malik had already been given a death sentence. He received a life sentence from the court on 25 May 2017, as a result of a 'made-up case.' He asserted that despite India's brutality and repression, the activists and leaders who have been imprisoned have maintained their commitment to the

cause and their spirits have not been broken. Atiq pleaded with the UN to pay attention to the 'atrocities' committed by India in the 'occupied territory' and take action to ensure that Kashmiris receive their right to self-determination following the resolutions adopted by the UN. In addition, he called on the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, the President of the European Union (EU), the President of the European Parliament, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to ensure the release of Hurriyat leaders and activists who are being held 'illegally' in Indian prisons.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/05/28/sardar-atiq-ahmed-to-suppress-the-freedom-movement/>

### **A ceremony commemorating Pakistan-China Friendship Day was organized at KIU**

*Urdupoint, 30 May 2023*

A huge ceremony commemorating Pakistan-China Friendship Day was organized by the China Study Centre and International Office of Karakoram International University (KIU) to honour the friendship between the two countries. The ceremony was attended by a sizable number of students, including university administrators and faculty members. Dr. Tasawar Rahim Baig, associate dean for social sciences, and Dr. Sajjad Haider, director of the international office, both spoke at the event, stating that the

China Study Centre would be used to teach our students about the Chinese language, their culture, ecology, and values. Since our culture and their way of life are similar, we must comprehend one another's language and culture, Haider added.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/education/live-news-3601624.html>

### **Narendra Modi is fulfilling the agenda of RSS: JI leader**

*Jasarat, 30 May 2023*

Yasin Malik, an 'advocate of Kashmiri independence', was given the death penalty by a court in New Delhi, and Muhammad Javed Kasuri, the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) leader for Central Punjab, expressed his fury over the decision and declared that India had reached its breaking point in terms of oppression and crimes. According to Kasuri, the Indian government wants to assassinate the Kashmiri leaders, hence Pakistan's government must expose the 'terrorist India's repulsive face' to the outside world. He asserted that the Kashmiri people, fighting for the existence of Kashmir and the idea of Pakistan, have transformed into an iron wall in the face of India's 800,000-strong army. We respect their unwavering spirit and will keep supporting our courageous Kashmiri brothers and sisters on the moral, diplomatic, and political levels until their nation is freed from Indian rule, he added.

He claimed that while India continues to violate the human rights of people living in 'occupied Kashmir' and has intensified its brutality since 5 August 2019, he asserted that it has been completely unable to put an end to the liberation movement. International NGOs like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International as well as local human rights organizations like the Coalition for Civil Society have regularly brought to light serious human rights violations in 'Indian-occupied Kashmir', he continued. He claimed that India frequently engages in 'extrajudicial killings,' 'enforced disappearances,' the use of civilians as human shields, torture, 'staged encounters,' 'massacres of civilians,' burning of residential areas, destruction of businesses and homes, occupation of civilian buildings like schools by the army, and the destruction of schools and universities. He further said that neither the United Nations (UN) nor the so-called human rights defenders had spoken out against 'India's atrocities' in 'occupied Kashmir.' More than 100,000 people have been 'slain by India' in Kashmir, thousands of 'women have been violated', and this process is still ongoing. The double standards of the international community must be changed, he added.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/05/30/javed-qasoori-13/>

**A complete shutter down strike was held in protest against the hike in**

## **flour and energy costs in Poonch and Rawalkot Division**

*Urdu point, 1 June 2023*

Despite torrential rains, a complete shutdown strike was staged in all four districts of the Poonch division, including Rawalkot, to protest the rise in the price of flour and electricity. The protests, which were led by the union president, Umar Nazir, after the predetermined one-week period, which the local administration was given by the people, erupted and have grown in strength in support of the demand to roll back the price increase on flour because the government has not complied with the people's demands. The demonstrators want to keep the price of flour in 'Azad Kashmir' at the same level as Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and to end the increase in electricity bill prices.

The protestors demanded that a free load-shedding zone should be established in 'Azad Kashmir.' Protesters further said that although the government of 'Azad Kashmir' is meant to receive a subsidy comparable to that given to GB for the purchase of wheat, the rulers in Islamabad instead spend this money on their luxury and charge Kashmiri customers seven times as much for flour as they do in GB. The speakers stated that just 180 megawatts are being delivered to the residents of the area, although 'Azad Kashmir' requires 450 megawatts, and they added that 4000 megawatts of power are currently being transported from

'Azad Kashmir' to Islamabad. The demonstrators also vowed to march towards 'occupied Kashmir' during their rally to show the world that 'Azad Kashmir' and 'occupied Kashmir' are both under the same kind of tyranny.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/rawalakot/national-news/live-news-3604669.html>

### **UN must act quickly to stop the judicial execution of Yasin Malik**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 2 June 2023*

Altaf Hussain Wani, the head of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), has pleaded to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres to act quickly to stop the 'wrongful execution' of Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, who has been detained in India's Tihar prison. The KIIR chairman wrote to the head of the UN, outlining the 'evil plans' of the PM Modi-led Hindu nationalist government in India and accusing it of exploiting Kashmiris as scapegoats to achieve its political agenda and placate its support base.

He claimed that the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) plans to ask for Yasin Malik's execution was a component of the BJP government's strategy. Referring to the danger to Malik's life, he said, Malik, who is reckoned as one of the top rank campaigners of Kashmiris' right to self-determination, has already been sentenced to life imprisonment by an Indian court on 25th May 2022 on charges widely believed to be 'politically motivated.' The letter stated

that India is hell-bent on eliminating Malik by using its judiciary after depriving him of his fundamental right to defend himself in court after accusing him of being involved in a fabricated case and that India has a long history of using the judiciary and other state apparatus to suppress political and democratic dissent and legitimate political voices in 'occupied Kashmir.'

Terming Malik as an uncompromising campaigner for Kashmiris' political and diplomatic rights, Wani claimed that Malik is being targeted merely for his political beliefs. His only crime is that he refused to accept the Indian dictates on Kashmir. He further claimed that there is a genuine concern that the 'apartheid regime', which thrives on communal divide and 'anti-Muslim sentiment', could use the unlawful execution of Malik as a means to regain popularity and to bolster chances of retaining power in the upcoming Parliamentary Elections in 2024. He appealed to the UN secretary-general to take swift and decisive action by demanding the Indian government stop using its judiciary as a weapon to punish Kashmiri leaders who have been waging a peaceful struggle to achieve the fundamental rights guaranteed to Kashmiris by no less an authority than the UN. Wani said that the UN secretary general's urgent intervention in this matter would be instrumental in preventing the potential execution of Malik and upholding the principles of justice and human rights. Pertinently, similar



letters highlighting the plight of Malik and other Kashmiri prisoners have been dispatched to world human rights bodies and other UN special rapporteurs seeking their urgent attention towards the matter.

[http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Resize-of-Picsart\\_23-06-01\\_22-10-49-187.jpg](http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Resize-of-Picsart_23-06-01_22-10-49-187.jpg)

### Social Media (tweets)

**Israruddin Israr @israruddinisrar**

3 June 2023

Local people staged a protest while alleging the GB Govt. for violation of agreement between local people and Govt. regarding community forest rights in Diامر GB. Protestors blocked the road for several hours.

<https://twitter.com/israruddinisrar/status/1665035004093792256>

**Daily K2@Dailyk2\_GB**

03 June 2023

For the first time, a transit consignment was sent to Kazakhstan from the Sost border of Pakistan-China border. The shipment of cleaning supplies will reach Kazakhstan via China, and will have a positive impact on the economy of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

See images in the link.

[https://twitter.com/Dailyk2\\_GB/status/1664730339279765504](https://twitter.com/Dailyk2_GB/status/1664730339279765504)

**Zubair Torwali @zubairtorwali**

04 June 2023

Flour (Atta) crisis in Chitral, GB. Nobody pays any attention and everyone seems to have gone mad on the political maneuvering! Chitral should be provided Atta at subsidized rate; and immediately.

<https://twitter.com/zubairtorwali/status/1665155825541971970>

**Deedar karim @DK\_Hunzai**

04 June 2023

China opens Tashkurgan Khunjerab International Airport next to #Hunza, #GilgitBaltistan. \*Tashkurgan Khunjerab Airport\* is just an hour's drive (100+KM) from \*Hunza, Khunjerab Pass, Pak-China Border\* and opened on 23 December 2022.

See images in the link.

[https://twitter.com/DK\\_Hunzai/status/1665280500749959169](https://twitter.com/DK_Hunzai/status/1665280500749959169)

**Daily K2 @Dailyk2\_GB**

05 June 2023

Resigned to strengthen the party but the no-confidence motion was not withdrawn After going through the democratic and parliamentary principles and traditions, Nazir will be happy if he becomes the speaker, now the competition will be in the assembly, Amjad.

[https://twitter.com/Dailyk2\\_GB/status/1665659707862962177](https://twitter.com/Dailyk2_GB/status/1665659707862962177)



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*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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