

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 8

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Climate Resilience
Dasu project **Project**
Development Working
Solar Power Project Party
POK Indus Water
Gilgit-Baltistan Treaty



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

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Political Developments

Restrictions remain in Kashmir on International day of Social Justice

Daily Parliament Times, 20 February 2023

According to Pasban-e-Hurriyat Chairman Uzair Ahmad Ghazali, Kashmiris want the international community to pay attention to their plight on the International Day of Social Justice. He claimed in a statement that the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who were living under Indian rule, continued to be denied access to social justice and other fundamental rights. He claimed that since the International Day of Social Justice is observed around the globe, United Nations member states' need to uphold fundamental political, religious, and human rights, people in 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir', who are being denied their right to justice and freedom. He bemoaned that Kashmiri citizens' freedom of movement is curtailed in Kashmir under more than 1 million Indian military monitoring, and added that due to 'illegal Indian military occupation', the social system of Jammu and Kashmir is being badly destroyed. The 5th August 2019 act is one example of Indian usurpers, according to Ghazali, who also stated that the world must stop India from engaging in any further 'illegal operations' in Jammu and Kashmir. Ghazali warned that the economy and society of the Kashmiri people are on the verge of collapse in addition to the

destruction of their property and the detention of Kashmiri leaders.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/02/20/restrictions-remain-in-kashmir-on-international-day-of-social-justice/>

Secrecy over Kashmir letters

The Express Tribune, 21 February 2023

New reports suggest that the Indian government is blocking the declassification of several documents relating to its 'invasion' of Kashmir in 1947 and the subsequent ceasefire that led to the current status quo, with Pakistan supporting the formation of the self-governed territories of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), while India 'illegally occupied' the rest of the region. The Guardian says the documents- known as the 'Bucher papers' as they refer to communication between then-Indian Army chief Gen Roy Bucher and senior government officials, including then-prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru- contain the military and political rationale behind the ceasefire and India's willingness to grant special status to Kashmir, rather than either ending its 'illegal occupation' or going all-in and formally annexing the areas under its 'illegal occupation.'

Even though the special status of Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution has been stripped by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, how the law came about remains a mystery for most of the world. This may tie into why the government refuses to

declassify the documents, they may include some details on how political control over 'Occupied Kashmir' was established. At the bare minimum, the fact that the chair of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library has been pushing for their release suggests that whatever is in the documents, it will probably make Nehru look heroic to Indian audiences while exposing the lies of the Modi government before the world. After all, if Article 370 was truly bad for India, as Modi and his cronies claimed, exposing the rationale behind it would have been a political boon for the ruling BJP. Instead, speculation is rife that the letters would show that Nehru managed to use his political skills to win sympathizers in 'occupied Kashmir' and keep the world community from intervening in Pakistan's favor at a time when there was already a concern in India that its military was fatigued from over a year of the war, while Pakistani military and Kashmiri and pro-Kashmiri irregulars remained committed to the cause.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2402235/secrecy-over-kashmir-letters>

'AJK' premier rubbishes 'impression' PTI is against armed forces

Dawn, 22 February 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas dispelled any notion that his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), was at odds with the nation's armed forces in what looks to be a damage control measure. According to him, 'we are

proud of our armed forces and the sacrifices they have made for the defense of this nation. It is untrue and has been produced by Pakistan's adversaries', he added, while addressing the Karachi Press Club's Meet event. God forbid, he added, the PTI is not hostile to the army, as has been suggested. The activists or leadership may have differences with someone, but it's wrong to state that the PTI is against the army. In a thinly veiled reference to the ongoing tussle between the Election Commission and the President, the 'AJK' prime minister was of the view that Pakistan could not afford a constitutional crisis and that it was not appropriate to challenge the constitutional position of each other. While terming the Election Commission's response to President Dr. Arif Alvi's position unbearable, he said, the office of president was revered regardless of any person's ego. He also underscored the importance of dialogue and said all political parties, including the PTI, would have to sit together for talks to reach a consensus.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1738438/ajk-premier-rubbishes-impression-pti-is-against-armed-forces>

How can we forget Kunan Poushpura: Rape crimes by the Indian Armed Forces in 'IOJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 22 February 2023

India has been accused of violating human rights in Jammu and Kashmir. According to reports, the Indian military has used 'rape as a tool of

control' in addition to using it as a 'weapon of war' and a tactic to quiet anyone who disagrees with the 'occupation.' This form of violence is both abhorrent and illegal, and a clear violation of international human rights laws. Reports have also suggested that these complaints of sexual violence have been consistently ignored by Indian authorities, leading to a 'culture of impunity' for those who perpetrate such heinous crimes. These allegations are deeply concerning, and the Indian government must take urgent steps to investigate these claims and take decisive action to protect the rights and dignity of all people in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian 'armed forces' committed multiple human rights violations against the citizens of Kashmir, including one of the most heinous crimes of rape. On 22 February 1990, a 'mass rape' took place in the village of Kunan Poshpora.

The Indian armed forces entered the village in the night and 'allegedly raped' the women of the village. The women were already traumatized by the military operations of the Indian forces in Kashmir and were further traumatized by the rape. The incident was followed by months of silence and denial by the Indian government, which refused to acknowledge the incident or to even investigate it. However, the victims organized protests and rallies to bring attention to the matter and demand justice. Despite the protests and sit-ins, the government

has failed to take any action against the perpetrators.

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958 and the Public Safety Act of 1978 allow the government to detain anyone indefinitely without trial, making it extremely difficult for Kashmiri women to seek justice or access legal help. The political instability in the region has caused a deterioration in security, making it more difficult for women to seek justice in a safe environment. It is evident that these women have faced immense injustice and discrimination due to the oppressive laws of the government, and it is clear that more needs to be done for them to finally gain justice. The international community and the International Humanitarian organization should also look into the situation in Kashmir and take action to ensure that women are not suffering in silence. The Kunan Poshpora 'mass rape' is a reminder of the struggle of the people of Kashmir.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/02/22/how-can-we-forget-kunan-poshpura-rape-crimes-by-the-indian-armed-forces-in-iojk/>

Pakistan calls for just solution to Palestine, Kashmir issues

The Nation, 23 February 2023

Pakistan called for a just solution to the Palestine and Kashmir issues in line with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. During her weekly news briefing in Islamabad Foreign

Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch while commenting on the recent violence in the West Bank, said we condemn all acts that lead to the killing of innocent civilians, including in the occupied Palestinian territories. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan has maintained that there should be a total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. The spokesperson said Pakistan remains concerned about the ongoing human rights violations in 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK) and added that Pakistan will continue to raise its voice against 'grave' human rights violations in the 'occupied territory.' She also stated that we will continue to provide political, diplomatic, and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters to achieve a just and peaceful resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute following UN Security Council resolutions.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Feb-2023/pakistan-calls-for-just-solution-to-palestine-kashmir-issues>

'AJK' PM says the incident of Kannan Pushpura is a symbol of India's cruelty and brutality

Daily Parliament Times, 23 February 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas, had said that the incident of Kannan Pushpura was a symbol of India's 'cruelty and brutality.' He said that the silence of the international community on this incident was a moment of concern for us. He claimed that

Kashmiri women were suffering from the worst violations of human rights by the 'occupying' Indian army and police personnel. He said that Kannan Pushpura is not a single incident of oppression of Kashmiris by India, but such incidents were happening in the 'occupied' valley every day. He said that their new generation hardly knew about this incident which happened exactly 32 years ago, on 23 February 1991. The Kanan Poshpura incident had a bitter memory that could never be distorted in the history of Kashmir.

He said that on the cold and dark night of 23 February 1991, when 4 Rajputana Rifles and a company of 68 Mountain Brigade from Trihgam Army Camp encircled Kanan Poshpura. The army reached Kannan Poshpura at 11 pm and surrounded the two villages and announced from the mosques that all the men should come out of their houses. Women were left alone at home. One by one, the men were physically tortured and killed, and those with few remains were tied to trees. Then the drunken 'Indian beasts' entered the houses and made more than 100 women from 8-year-old girls to 80-year-olds a collective disgrace. He emphasized that nobody was aware of this tragedy because 32 years ago, there were no media resources available, and women who had been the victims of violence had no chance of getting help because the local police were unwilling to cooperate, it was difficult to get their voices heard around the world, and the courts and investigative institutions

were not independent. Finally, five Kashmiri students—Isar Batul, Afrabat, Samrina Mushtaq, Manza Rashid, and Natasha Rather—wrote a book titled ‘Kya Aap Kanan Poshpura Yada Hai’ that exposed India's ‘atrocities’ to the world and brought it to the attention of global human rights organizations. After a long and difficult process, in 2014, the Kashmir High Court acquitted the victims. Orders were issued to give compensation but it was not implemented, later this decision was challenged in the Supreme Court, where the case is still pending. He said that Kashmiris had been observing this incident as Kashmir Women’s Resistance Day since 23 February 2013.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/02/23/pm-ajk-expresses-views-over-the-incident-of-kannan-pushpura/>

Panel constitutes a sub-body to formulate broad-based policy on Kashmir

Business Recorder, 24 February 2023

The Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir constituted its sub-panel with the task to formulate a comprehensive and broad-based policy on Kashmir with the mandate to improve the coordination mechanism between the Centre and the government of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) as well as the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The in-camera meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir was held in the Parliament House, under the

chairmanship of Makhdoomzada Syed Basit Ahmed Sultan. According to a statement issued after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan briefed the committee on the latest human rights situation in the ‘occupied’ Jammu and Kashmir.

The foreign secretary also apprised the committee regarding the upcoming G-20 meeting proposed to be held by India in the disputed region of ‘occupied’ Kashmir in May this year. The adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and GB Qamar Zaman Kaira also briefed the committee on the Kashmir issue and the activities organized by his ministry on the eve of Kashmir Solidarity Day on 5th February 2023. The adviser responded to the various issues raised by the Prime Minister and finance minister of ‘AJK’. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting including the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), Defence and National Security Division also briefed the committee regarding the observance of Kashmir Solidarity Day. The committee unanimously authorized the Chairman to constitute a Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir to formulate a comprehensive and broad-based policy on Kashmir with the mandate to improve the coordination mechanism between the Government of ‘AJK’ and the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and GB.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40228093/panel-constitutes-sub-body-to-formulate-broad-based-policy-on-kashmir>

Economic Developments

Altering the Indus Water Treaty

The Nation, 19 February 2023

The Indian government's decision to seek a modification of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) has added to the list of violations and may cause a further decline in its relationship with Pakistan. The IWT was signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan with the World Bank as a signatory. The treaty aimed to divide the water of the Indus River and its tributaries fairly between the two countries. India was allocated the use of water from Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej and Pakistan was allocated the use of water from Chenab, Indus, and Jhelum. The notice sent by the Indian government to Pakistan on 25 January 2023, was sent following the provisions of Article XII (3) of the IWT, which regulates the sharing of waters of cross-border Rivers. It sends a clear message that the country is willing to take a tougher stance on the treaty, and is prepared to renegotiate the terms of the agreement if necessary.

India has expressed its dissatisfaction with Pakistan's principal stance to resolve disputes through a World Bank-appointed neutral expert and arbitration by a World Bank-constituted court in 2015. Climate change is a major concern for Pakistan, particularly in the context of the Indus River system. The overall flows in the Indus river system have decreased by about 5% since 1960 due to the effects of climate change, and this trend is

expected to worsen in the future. At the same time, Pakistan's population has grown significantly since its independence and is still growing rapidly. This means that the water demand is increasing, and dependence on the Indus River system is becoming more pronounced. These factors are putting additional pressure on Pakistan's water resources, making it increasingly important for the country to find sustainable solutions to manage its water resources and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Pakistan is concerned that the dam designs which India is constructing will block the flow of water to its western rivers, which provide water for 80% of its irrigated crops. According to Pakistan, this would be a violation of the treaty and would severely impact its agriculture.

In September 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave statements to reevaluate the IWT. Later on, in February 2019, Nitin Gadkari announced that the Indian government had decided to stop sharing water with Pakistan. In August 2019, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat stated that the process of blocking water to Pakistan without violating the IWT had begun. This statement reflected India's intention to utilize its water resources as leverage in response to ongoing tensions with Pakistan. The notice given by India to Pakistan regarding the IWT is a combination of India asserting its position and making a statement of intent. Despite the current tensions, the

treaty is expected to remain in place for the near future. Even if the treaty were to be scrapped, it would not immediately impact Pakistan, as India does not currently have the infrastructure in place to alter the flow of water into Pakistan or divert it for use in India. It would take a few years for any changes to take effect.

Thus any intention to modify IWT by India may threaten Pakistan's national security. Any changes could potentially disrupt the flow of water into Pakistan, affecting its agricultural and hydropower production. This could harm the country's economy and the livelihoods of its people, particularly in the agricultural sector. Modification of the treaty could also increase tensions between India and Pakistan, potentially leading to further conflict. It could also have a broader impact on regional stability, as water resources are becoming increasingly scarce and contested in South Asia. To prevent any changes to the IWT, Pakistan may opt for bilateral diplomatic engagements with India to maintain the existing agreement. Secondly, Pakistan can seek the assistance of international organizations, such as the World Bank, to mediate the dispute and preserve the treaty; furthermore, strengthening its water management. Thirdly, Pakistan can explore legal options, such as approaching international courts, to protect its rights under the treaty. Both India and Pakistan need to engage in constructive dialogue and work towards a mutually beneficial solution

that preserves the IWT and the interests of both countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/19-Feb-2023/altering-the-indus-water-treaty>

River Indus diverted for work on the Dasu project

Dawn, 20 February 2023

Engineers working at the Dasu Hydropower Project site have succeeded in temporarily diverting the Indus River flow so that digging can be started on a dry riverbed. The river will now flow through a 1.33-kilometer-long diversion tunnel instead of its natural course. The tunnel is 20 meters wide and 23 meters high, according to the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). Another 1.5km tunnel, with 20 meters in width and 23 meters in height, will also be ready by mid-April to cater to more water when the river flow is high. The construction has now begun on the starter dam, leading towards the construction of the main dam of the Dasu Hydropower Project, which is being constructed in the Dasu town of Upper Kohistan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The dry river bed will help workers dig the site for up to 40 meters to start work on the 242-meter-high dam. The river diversion was witnessed by the general manager and project director, representatives of the contractors and consultants, and several engineers and workers. The WAPDA Chairman Sajjad Ghani congratulated the project management on achieving this task. The 4,320-megawatt Dasu

Hydropower Project is planned to be completed in two stages, with an installed generation capacity of 2,160 MW each. WAPDA is working on the first stage, which will generate 12 billion units a year once it is completed in 2026. The second stage, when implemented, will also provide 9bn units to the national grid. On completion, the Dasu power project will become the project with the highest annual energy generation in Pakistan, generating 21bn units a year on average.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1738135/river-indus-diverted-for-work-on-dasu-project>

The third meeting of the GB Development Working Party was presided over by the Chief Minister of the GB

Daily Parliament Times, 22 February 2023

The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) presided over the third meeting of the GB Development Working Party, which took place on 22 February 2023. The meeting covered several significant projects in the fields of rural development, energy, and sanitation. The meeting praised the work of the various government ministries in securing special grants and funds from federal and international donor organizations, which would be beneficial for improving the essential rural and urban public infrastructure.

The meeting recommended three major projects for approval which include (i) the Establishment of three MW Solar Power Project Diamer which Cost

608.671 million. The project is part of an umbrella project for the installation of smart energy meters and off-grid solar power projects in all three regional centers. The project would be funded under the Energy Plus Program of the European Union amounting to 30 million Euro: (ii) Sewerage System of Skardu City with a cost of Rs. 5500 million. The project is immensely important for Skardu City which is the commercial hub of the Baltistan Region and a great attraction for migrants from the adjacent districts. The project would be funded by Federal PSDP: (iii) Rural Development and Climate Resilience Project GB which cost Rs.10848 million. The project is being funded by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and EU and would be executed throughout GB. The project is a community lead initiative for the provision of rural drinking water supply and sanitation schemes, climate-resilient housing schemes, Micro Hydel Schemes, etc.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/02/22/3rd-meeting-of-gilgit-baltistan-development-working-party-under-chairmanship-of-chief-minister-gb/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Kashmiris are not animals, and their population of around 1.5 crores has a right to justice and self-determination: 'AJK' PM

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 20 February 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan

claimed that India is imprisoning Kashmiris without offering them even the most basic medical treatment and educational possibilities. He asserted that Kashmiris are not animals and that the right to justice and self-determination of the 1.5 million residents of the region is at stake. He also claimed that India is 'committing serious human rights violations' in 'occupied Kashmir' and other locations, as revealed by the British newspaper Guardian. He claimed that Majoon Tantre, a native of Kupwara, had been missing for six years and that Nisar Banai, a resident of Sopur, had also been imprisoned in Baramulla prison before being sent to Haryana Jail, and added that his father is old and his sisters did not have the means to see their brother in jail in Haryana. He said that these sisters are pleading on social media for help and urged the UN to consider what crime they are being punished for. He claimed that because Kashmiris were 'denied' access to basic rights, healthcare, the opportunity to receive chemotherapy or dialysis, and other requirements, it was his responsibility to expose India's 'despicable' aspect to the world.

He further stated that Kashmiris have to use the OIC as a voice because of India's cruel treatment of them and added that before the turmoil in this region extends to the rest of the globe, the Security Council and the United Nations must pay attention to the cries and sobbing of these sisters and girls and take action to ease their suffering.

He claimed that the Guardian news reports showed India's disgusting side and its human rights violations to the world and added that it was crucial to inform everyone of how India was violating human rights in Kashmir through this Guardian story.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Resize-of-F-21.jpg>

The SC issued notice to the Federal Government and the Attorney General on the petition against non-consultation in the appointment of judges in GB

Daily Pakistan, 21 February 2023

The Supreme Court (SC) sought a response from the federal government and the Attorney General in response to a petition challenging the lack of consultation in the nomination of judges in the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) high court. The SC Judge, Ajaz ul Hasan presided over the hearing, which also had three other judges on the bench. The Chief Minister of GB claims in the petition that the federal government recently names new judges in the GB court without first contacting the Chief Minister and that this practice has to end. The bench wanted to know if the Chief Justice of Pakistan was engaged when selecting justices for the GB court. The attorney asserted that the Chief Minister is required by law to submit recommendations for the nomination of judges. The SC has sent letters to the federal government and the Attorney

General, and they must reply by 1 March 2023 to avoid more sanctions.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/21-Feb-2023/1547965>

Kashmir is and will continue to be Pakistan's lifeblood: 'AJK' PM

UrduPoint, 21 February 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has stated that Kashmir is and will remain the artery of Pakistan and that the United Nations (UN) should go beyond just passing resolutions on the Kashmir issue and strive towards their implementation as well. He claimed that despite experiencing 'extreme brutality and oppression', Indian Muslims are not exhibiting the same level of 'resistance' as Kashmiri Muslims, and added that the OIC and other Muslim nations must speak out on the Kashmir issue. He further said that 'Azad Kashmir' offers a wealth of economic prospects, and anyone who comes and makes an investment would receive assistance in every area, including tax exemption. The Karachi Press Club's president, Saeed Sarbazi, and secretary, Shoaib Ahmed, underlined that Pakistan and its media are aware of the problems that Kashmiris in 'occupied Kashmir' are facing and that they are supporting their brothers in 'occupied Kashmir' who are struggling for their freedom.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/karachi/kashmir/live-news-3482837.html>

The legislature of 'Azad Kashmir', the base camp of freedom, can fill the void left by the absence of an assembly in 'occupied Kashmir:' 'AJK' President

UrduPoint, 23 February 2023

Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, the president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), had indicated that there is now no elected legislature in 'occupied Kashmir' and that this void might be filled by the Assembly of 'Azad Kashmir,' the base camp of 'Azad Kashmir', for which arrangements were being made. He claimed that senior UN officials had assured him during the conversation that the Kashmir issue was still covered by the UN Charter and its resolution was still in effect, and that Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, was interested in resolving the Kashmir issue. With his recent travels to the US, UK, Belgium, and Turkey, he claimed that the 1.5 million Kashmiris' cause had come to the attention of the international community and that the Kashmiri people's voice, which he claimed was the true and important parties in the Kashmir dispute, was now being heard in the halls of the international community. He claimed that his visit has put India on the defensive, with consequences that will continue for a long time.

He had a special meeting with the prime minister of Cyprus, during his

tour to Turkey, and stressed the importance of finding solutions to issues like Kashmir, Palestine, and Cyprus. He claimed to have gone to a seminar conducted by the Center for Economic and Social Research and the Institute of Strategic Thinking. He also attended the meetings led by the Vice Chairperson of the Justice and Development Party and the Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Parliamentary Council of the Turkish Parliament. He also met with several Turkish parliamentarians during his tour and briefed them on the most recent developments in 'occupied Kashmir.' He claimed that after his advice, the Turkish Parliament formed a Kashmir Committee and adopted a principled decision to propose a resolution in support of Kashmiris.

Following his visit to Turkey, he travelled to the UK where he gave a speech to the British Members of Parliament, in which more than fifty of them took part. During his speech, the British Members of Parliament expressed their support for the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination. On 5 February, Kashmir Solidarity Day, he led a march of Kashmiris from the Indian Embassy in London to 10 Downing Street and delivered speeches at numerous community gatherings in several places throughout the UK. He also delivered a

message to the British Prime Minister's residence on his visit regarding the Kashmir dispute and Indian 'atrocities' in 'occupied Kashmir.' Similarly, he also spoke to the members of the European Parliament and met privately with Michael Geller, Willy Foutre, the chairman of the human rights committee, and other lawmakers to update them on the most recent developments in 'occupied Kashmir.' He also paid a visit to the UN Headquarters in New York, where he met with Muhammad Khalid Khyari, Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs and Peacekeeping, and Alzey Bredes Keres, Assistant Secretary for the UN Commission on Human Rights, and briefed them on the Kashmir situation.

Similarly, during his trip to Washington, he met separately with US Congressman Shehla Jackson, US Senator Chris Van Halen, and State Department Senior Official Jason McLean and gave them an update on the current developments in the 'occupied Kashmir.' He asserted that India has adopted a defensive posture as a result of the substantial consequences of his worldwide trips and that the world community is now starting to understand the plight of the Kashmiri people.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3485201.html>

International Forum for Justice and Human Rights, Muzaffarabad, organized an anti-India protest and demonstration

Urdupoint, 23 February 2023

The International Forum for Justice and Human Rights organized a protest dharna in Muzaffarabad against the 'brutality' and 'terrorism' of the 'Indian army' in 'occupied Kashmir' to mark the 32nd anniversary of the Kunan Poshpora tragedy. According to Kashmir Media Service, Indian soldiers killed over 100 women between the ages of 8 and 80 on the night of 23 February 1991, during the siege and search operation in Kunan Poshpora. The protests began from Burhan Wani Chowk and they urged the International Court of Justice to hear cases against the 'Indian army' suspected of taking part in the tragic events in Kunan Poshpora. The demonstrators shouted demands like, 'provide justice to Kashmiri women, stop atrocities on Kashmiri women,

and stop Indian 'occupation' in Jammu and Kashmir, among others.

Mushtaq Salam, vice chairman of the International Forum for Justice and Human Rights, questioned the efficacy of global human rights organizations by claiming that even 32 years after the Kunan Poshpora, the families of the victims have not been able to receive justice, and no action has been taken against the 'culpable' Indian army personnel's. The Indian government and army, according to speakers, are 'sexually assaulting' Kashmiri women to wage war against the Kashmir Liberation Movement. He went on to claim that international organizations should condemn the harassment and violence committed by Indian forces on Kashmiri women. The speakers emphasized that India was committing serious 'war crimes' in Jammu and Kashmir and appealed for the release of Kashmiri women held in Indian prisons.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-3485397.html>

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Disclaimer

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