

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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joint ventures
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Political Developments

PM condemns Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik's conviction in 'Fake Case'

The Nation, May 24, 2022

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has 'strongly condemned' the Indian government for its act of involving prominent Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik in a 'fake terrorism' case and urged the world to take note of the Indian government's 'mistreatment of political prisoners', particularly of senior Hurriyat leader. The PM vowed that the government of Pakistan will raise the issue of 'revengeful acts' against Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leadership at all international human rights forums including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), added that fake terrorism charges are a futile effort to silence voices critical of India's 'blatant human rights abuses.' He said that similar to the 'illegal measures' of August 5, 2019, the case against Yasin Malik was also 'unlawful' and pointed out that India was following a deliberate plan to overthrow the 'real leadership' representing the Kashmiris. He claimed that the Indian government, which was afraid of the body of Syed Ali Geelani also feared Yasin Malik, a great symbol of Kashmir.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/24/pm-condemns-kashmiri-leader-yasin-maliks-conviction-in-fake-case/>

UN should intervene to save Yasin Malik from India's evil designs: APHC- 'AJK' Convener

Pakistan Observer, May 25, 2022

The convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference-Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, has 'strongly condemned' the Indian authorities for creating a 'life-threatening situation' for imprisoned Kashmiri leader Muhammad Yasin Malik by denying him 'fundamental rights' including the right to defend against 'fabricated charges' framed by a partial establishment in Delhi and Srinagar. He further claimed that Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leaders in Tihar and other jails had been demanding the 'right of self-determination for their people under the United Nations (UN) charter, international law and the security council resolutions on Kashmir. He expressed concern that besides Yasin Malik there were other detained leaders including Massarrat Aalam Butt and Shabbir Ahmad Shah in detention whom Indian authorities want to 'indict and punish in contravention of the basic international law without the right to a due and proper defence. Farooq Rehmani said that India must not be permitted to punish Yasin Malik and other leaders on 'fictitious grounds' to silence the voice of freedom in the 'occupied region' of Jammu and Kashmir.

<https://pakobserver.net/un-should-intervene-to-save-yasin-malik-from-indias-evil-designs-rehmani/>

'AJK' president terms Yasin Maliks' 'unfair trial' as the murder of justice

Daily Parliament Times, May 25, 2022

The president of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry claimed that the Indian court has committed a 'judicial murder', through an 'unfair trial' of Muhammad Yasin Malik. The 'AJK' president while citing the legal 'discrepancies' in the trial case said that the entire charge filed by the 'notorious investigation agency', National Investigation Agency (NIA) against Malik was based on 'false and fictitious' charges, added that even Malik's lawyer 'boycotted the trial due to the court's biased attitude.' He said that the punishment of Malik reflects PM Modi's government's 'hostile approach and its aggressive mindset towards Kashmiris.' He said, that he has written letters to the United Nations (UN) secretary-general, world leaders and various parliamentarians urging for the release of Yasin Malik. He further claimed that on one hand, the Indian government was using its state apparatus to 'kill Kashmiri youths' in the 'occupied Kashmir', while on the other Yasin Malik who is a symbol of 'Kashmir's independence', is being 'physically abused' and subjected to various forms of 'torture in jail.'

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/05/25/president-ajk-terms-maliks-unfair-trial-as-murder-of-justice/>

Protest lodged with India over the jailing of Hurriyat leader

The Express Tribune, May 26, 2022

Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) 'strongly condemned mala fide life sentencing' of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Yasin Malik, issuing a 'strong demarche' to India over its 'abhorrent attempts to defile the legitimate struggle' of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination. The country's civil and military leadership also warned India that such 'oppressive tactics' could not dampen the spirit of the people of Kashmir in their just struggle against 'illegal Indian occupation', added that life imprisonment to Malik would provide 'fresh impetus' to the Kashmiris' freedom struggle. As per the FO statement, the Indian diplomat was conveyed Pakistan's strong resentment of the 'denial of fair trial and inhuman incarceration' of Malik in complete defiance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The FO further urged the international community to take cognizance of the 'worst human rights violations' and the 'atrocities' being perpetrated by India in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK).

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2358351/protest-lodged-with-india-over-jailing-of-hurriyat-leader>

Unity between Muslim Ummah could defeat Israel and India: Tamil Karam Ullah Oglu

Daily Parliament Times, May 26, 2022

The former head of Jamaat-e-Islami “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (JI-AJK), Abdul Rashid Turabi visited the Saadat Party Headquarters of former Prime Minister of Turkey, late Najimuddin Erbakan. During his meeting with his successor Ustad Tamil Karam Ullah Oglu, issues including Kashmir and Palestine were discussed. During the meeting, Abdul Rashid Turabi said that India is ‘escalating atrocities in occupied Kashmir’, and added that one and a half crore Kashmiris have been ‘held hostage’ for three and a half years. He further said that thousands of activists, including the Kashmiri leadership, have been locked up in jails and the entire state has been turned into an ‘open prison’, stressing that Syed Ali Shah Gilani and Ashraf Sahrai were deprived of medical treatment in custody and their dead bodies were ‘desecrated.’ He said that the lives of Hurriyat leaders and captive ‘freedom fighters’ are in danger, added that Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik also has been sentenced to life imprisonment in ‘fake cases.’

Tamil Karam Ullah while talking with the JI leader said that ‘Islamic movements’ should put effective pressure on India and assure full cooperation. He said that as the successor of Najmuddin, besides other Muslim nations, they consider Palestine and Kashmir as their

problems. He further said that unfortunately, Muslim rulers are intimidated by various colonial powers. He added that if the OIC plays an active role by uniting and relying on Allah, then both Israel and India can be forced to their knees. He ‘condemned’ the Indian ‘atrocities’ and urged the international community to play a role in the resolution of the conflict between the two nuclear power.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/05/26/unity-between-muslim-ummah-could-defeat-israel-and-india-tamil-karam-ullah-oglu/>

India imposes economic blockade to weaken ‘IIOJK freedom movement’

Pakistan Observer, May 28, 2022

The chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) and Hurriyat leader, Altaf Ahmed Bhat said that the August 5, 2019 move was the same as ‘Indian aggression’ in 1947 that changed the internationally recognized status of ‘Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ (IIOJK), added that India is now consolidating its hold in various ways and also justifying its ‘illegal occupation.’ He expressed these views while addressing a conference, “Hamara Kashmir Hamara Pakistan” at Poonch University Rawalakot, organised by Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS). He said that the government and educational institutions in all provinces including ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) and Gilgit- Baltistan (GB) should play their role in promoting the ‘narrative of Pakistaniat.’ He stressed

that if we do not stand up today against the tactics adopted by India to silence Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik then it will eliminate all pro-freedom leaders one by one in 'IIOJK' in days to come. He further said that India imposed an economic blockade to weaken the 'IIOJK' freedom movement, its leaders and common people, added that India has begun the process of 'systematic depletion' of all-natural resources in 'IIOJK.'

He said that India had renamed all the radio stations of 'IIOJK' after All India Radios, adding that July 13, which was Martyrs' Day, has also been removed from the official calendar of 'IIOJK.' He further claimed that India has given domicile to 150,000 non-Kashmiri Hindus. He added that now all the universities in 'IIOJK' are directly controlled by India from Delhi. He said that all Kashmiri civil services officers are being 'dumped' in remote areas of India and non-Kashmiri officers are being posted in the 'occupied valley,' added that the Srinagar press club is run at the behest of the 'Indian Army.'

<https://pakobserver.net/india-imposes-economic-blockade-to-weaken-iiojk-freedom-movement/>

Economic Developments

Locals population in 'AJK' seek early completion of Mangla lake bridge project

Daily Times, May 23, 2022

The people from Mirpur district and Kotli district of 'Azad Jammu Kashmir' (AJK) urged Prime Minister Shahbaz

Sharif to direct the concerned authorities for the completion of the mega Mirpur-Islamgarh Bridge project over Mangla Dam lake, which was abandoned for many years because of the alleged apathy and of the concerned executing authorities including those of the 'AJK' government. In a letter addressed to the PM Shahbaz Shareef, on behalf of the population of Mirpur and Kotli districts, former Chief Justice of 'AJK', Muhammad Azam Khan, requested for early resumption of the construction work of the total 7.2 km long Rathua-Harayam Mirpur Islamgarh bridge. He said that despite the formal approval of the funds in 2017, the construction work of the project could not be resumed for over four years by the concerned authorities.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/939845/locals-see-early-completion-of-mangla-lake-bridge-project/>

'AJK' has the potential to generate 9,000-MW of Power

The Express Tribune, May 24, 2022

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mehmood has said that 'AJK' has the potential to generate 9,000- Megawatt (MW) of hydroelectric power that will end load-shedding in Pakistan and benefit its businesses and industries. While addressing the business community at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said that the region has huge potential for joint ventures and investment in many sectors including hydropower

generation, precious stones, gems and jewellery and tourism. He invited the business community of Islamabad to capitalise on those opportunities and said that Pakistan could benefit from 'AJK' rich mineral deposits and abundant hydropower resources to meet its energy needs through joint ventures. He further invited private sector companies of Pakistan and foreign investors to invest in "Azad Kashmir" and assured them that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government would provide all-out support, assistance and facilities in this regard.

He further said that 'Azad Kashmir' is also ready to play its role in improving Pakistan's development and economic situation, added that a strong and stable Pakistan is a guarantor of Kashmiris' freedom and Kashmiris have always cherished a 'strong and economically vibrant' Pakistan. He thanked the Kashmiri expatriate community living in the USA, UK, Middle East, and other countries for playing important role in the development and economy of the country by sending huge amounts of foreign exchange to Pakistan. During the event, ICCI president Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that the business community was keen to explore opportunities for business and investment in 'AJK' and urged 'AJK' Board of Investment to facilitate them in such efforts. They proposed the constitution of a joint committee comprising representatives of the 'AJK' government and ICCI to facilitate the

business community in exploring business and investment opportunities in 'AJK'.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2358026/ajk-has-potential-to-generate-9000mw>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Pakistan Parliament passes a unanimous resolution expressing solidarity with Yasin Malik

Dailyk2, May 23, 2022

During a Joint Session, the Parliament of Pakistan adopted a unanimous resolution 'condemning' the life imprisonment of Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik on 'fake charges.' The resolution was tabled by Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, 'condemned the objectionable attempt' of the Indian government to deprive the Kashmiri people of their true leadership, a 'blatant violation' of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The House stressed the struggle for the right to self-determination in 'occupied Kashmir' was 'indigenous' and could not be dampened by the draconian strong-arm tactics of the 'Indian government.' The House asked the government of Pakistan for taking immediate steps on the matter and urged the international community to ask India to drop all 'fabricated charges' against all political leaders of the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) including Yasin Malik. and ensure their safety and well-being. Minister for law

Azam Nazir Tarar, initiating the debate over the Kashmir issue, said that the nation stands with the Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, and added that the former Prime Minister Imran Khan should have listened to the appeal of Mushaal Mullick (Yasin's Wife) but he preferred his politics on it. During the discussion, Senator Mian Raza Rabbani said that Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik was sentenced to a 'bogus trial', and added that a clear message should have been given on May 25 (on the day of the long march led by PTI chief Imran Khan. He lamented that the previous government had not shared the detail with the parliament about the agreements on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and International Monetary Fund (IMF). While many lawmakers spoke during the event, the lawmakers from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) did not participate in the joint session of the parliament.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/6457>

Yasin Malik has the support of Muslims from around the world

Jasarat, May 24, 2022

Pakistan Muslim League president and former Prime Minister (PM), Chaudhry Shujat Hussain during a telephonic conversation with Mishal Malik, wife of Yasin Malik, said that a 'baseless case' was being tried against the leader of Kashmir liberation front Yasin Malik, added that Malik not even being given access to a lawyer which is highly reprehensible. He said that it would not be correct to call the trial of Yasin Malik

a 'judicial murder', but it should be considered as a plan of 'direct killing.' He further said that the incidents narrated by his wife were based on facts, and added that Yasin Malik has been bravely fighting 'India's atrocities' for the last 30 years. He said that this is a moment of reflection not only for Muslims but for all humanity, and claimed that the Malik has the support of not only Pakistani and Kashmiri but also Muslims from all over the world. He said that the PM Modi government should refrain from 'cruel actions' against Kashmiri leaders, and stressed that these tactics cannot suppress the spirit of independence of Kashmiris; with the will of God, Kashmiris will continue to fight for their independence.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/05/24/220524-08-12/>

Yasin Malik should be given immediate access to a lawyer: Mushaal Mullick

Jasarat, May 24, 2022

The imprisoned Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's wife Mushaal Mullick has urged the international community to play its role to stop India from violating the 'fundamental prisoners' rights of Yasin Malik. While addressing a news conference along with the Pakistan People Party (PPP) leader Saleem Mandviwalla in Islamabad, she said that Yasin Malik has been kept in Tihar jail for the last three and a half years and he was denied the legal access, added that why can't the case of Yasin Malik go to the international court? She

also urged foreign minister Bilawal Zardari to raise the matter at international forums. Saleem assured Mishal that Pakistan will take all possible steps for the rights of Kashmiris especially Hurriyat leaders, including Yasin Malik.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/05/24/220524-01-12/>

Pakistan FM demands immediate release of senior Kashmiri leader, Yasin Malik

Jasarat, May 24, 2022

Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has 'condemned' the prosecution of senior Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik by an Indian court on 'false charges' and demanded his immediate release. He said that allowing India to violate international law in 'occupied Kashmir' would have serious human consequences. In his statement, Zardari said that the 'fabricated allegations' against Yasin Malik should be dropped, and added that Yasin Malik was one the most prominent and respected voices among the Hurriyat leaders in the 'illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.' While urging for his release, he said that Yasin's firm resolve against decades of 'Indian oppression' could not be shaken by such unjust decisions. He further said that India should release all political prisoners in 'occupied Kashmir' and stop serious 'human rights violations', added that India should know that it cannot stop the Kashmiri people forever from exercising their right to

self-determination given under United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR). He urged the international community, including the UN and other human rights organizations to do their part to stop India from unjustly punishing Yasin Malik.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/important-news/live-news-3142145.html>

Solidarity protests for Hurriyat Leader in 'Azad Kashmir'

Jasarat, May 25, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Tanveer visited Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik's wife Mushaal Mullick's house. After the meeting, he announced a large-scale protest in "Azad Kashmir" against the unfair punishment meted out to Yasin Malik based on 'false charges' by the Indian government. He said that Yasin Malik was being punished for fighting for the rights of Kashmiris, and added that Malik stood firm against 'Indian oppression' and endured the worst atrocities in history. He invited Mishal Malik to attend the meeting of the Legislative Assembly of 'AJK' as a special guest.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/05/25/220525-01-10/>

OIC concerned over life sentence to Yasin Malik

Jammu and Kashmir Times, May 29, 2022

The general secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

(OIC) expressed its 'deep concern' over the pronouncement of a life sentence to one of the 'most prominent' Kashmiri leaders Yasin Malik, who had been leading a 'peaceful freedom struggle' for many decades. While reiterating its solidarity with the people of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for their rights, including their right to self-determination, the general secretariat urged the international community to ensure that the 'legitimate struggle' of the Kashmiris for the realization of their rights must not be equated with terrorism. The general secretariat urged the government of India to release all Kashmiri leaders 'unfairly incarcerated', immediately stop the gross and 'systematic persecution' of Kashmiris in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK); and respect the right of the people of 'IIOJK' to determine their future through a free and impartial plebiscite as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions (UNSCR).

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/1-4.jpg>

The Muslim world should work together to end 'Indian atrocities' in Kashmir: Maulana Abdul Rauf Malik

Urdupoint, May 29, 2022

Maulana Abdul Rauf Malik, head of the United Ulema Council of Pakistan and a prominent religious leader, expressed deep concern over the 'fake charges' against Yasin Malik and added that both the Hurriyat leaders and youths have been continuously being targeted and martyred by the Indian forces. He said that the indifference of the Muslim Ummah to the growing 'Indian state terrorism' in Kashmir and the silence of the international community and various human right organization is a criminal act which should not be ignored. He stressed that under these circumstances when the international community is not taking any stand on human rights issues, all Islamic countries should boycott the political, diplomatic and economic relations with India as a protest against the 'brutality' of the Indian government and its forces in the 'occupied Kashmir.'

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/lahore/national-news/live-news-3148756.html>

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Disclaimer

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