

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PRIME Minister chairs meeting of the National Security Committee Islamabad, 4 August 2019**

Meeting of NSC was held at PM Office on August 4, 2019, with Prime Minister in the Chair to discuss Indian actions that are contributing to fast deteriorating situation in IOJ&K. The meeting was attended by Mr. Pervez Khattak, Minister for Defence, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister, Brig. (Retd.) Ijaz Ahmad Shan, Minister for Interior, Mr. Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, Minister for KA&GB, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Advisor on Finance, CJCS, COAS, CNS, CAS, PM AJK, SAPM on Information, DG ISI, DG ISPR, Secretary Foreign Affairs, Secretary KA & GB and Secretary National Security Division. Forum was briefed on India's deplorable suppression of populace in IOJ&K, plans to use bogey of terrorism for political ends disregarding situation on ground, use of cluster munitions against civilians to provoke Pakistan and use of disinformation manoeuvre to confuse the real intent i.e. changing the demographic structure and the internationally recognised disputed status of IOJ&K. Forum noted with concern India's destabilising efforts through dubious means. India having lost all moral authority in IOJ&K and sensing erosion of its belligerent stance at international level keeps resorting to illegal, undemocratic and inhuman measures that have resulted in huge loss of lives and property in IOJ&K. Recent buildup of forces and their brutal use against an unarmed population is adding fuel to fire. The forum strongly condemned such Indian strategy at this time when Pakistan and the international community are focused on resolving the Afghan conflict. The recent Indian measures will increase the levels of violence and turn this area into a flashpoint and a destabilising factor in the midst of two strategically capable neighbouring countries. The forum further noted that the more India is exposed internally and internationally in its machinations, the more there are chances that it may resort to desperate and risky options including false flag operations. Pakistan remains ready to defend itself against any Indian misadventure or aggression and will continue to provide all out diplomatic, moral and political support to the brave people of IOJ&K in their indigenous struggle to get justice and their right to self-determination in line with UNSC resolutions. Pakistan condemns Indian actions in this regard which would have adverse implications for regional and international peace. Pakistan reiterates that Kashmir is a long standing unresolved international dispute which needs peaceful resolution. Pakistan therefore urges India to

come forth to resolve the issue in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. PM AJK assured the forum that Kashmiris on both sides of LOC are determined to withstand Indian hostilities and fully trust Pakistan to stand for them through thick and thin. PM Imran Khan in his remarks said that Pakistan will always stand with Kashmiris and will not be deterred from its just stance based on UNSC resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri people. He said that India is totally disregarding international obligations and her arrogance will only result in heightening the conflict dynamics in the region. PM invited attention of world leaders and international bodies towards irresponsible, unilateral and irrational behaviour of Indian leadership. India needs to ensure rights of the people including those living in occupied territories and also to abide by its own commitments to UNSC. PM concluded the meeting by reaffirming Pakistan's resolve to respond to any Indian misadventure or aggression with full support of the nation.

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Foreign Minister's letter to the United Nations on the situation in IOK**

Placed below is text of the letter addressed by the Foreign Minister to the United Nations Secretary General, Presidents of the United Nations Security Council and United Nations General Assembly on 1 August 2019:

Quote

“Excellency,

I wish to bring to your attention three inter-locking developments relating to Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK) that entail grave dangers to regional peace and security in South Asia.

First, the growing scale and seriousness of the human rights situation in IoK. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has testified to the gravity of human rights abuses in its second report released last month. This latest report documents, extensively and independently, the full range of atrocities- killing of civilians including in custody, blinding of young Kashmiris including children through the use of pellet guns and the use of rape, torture and enforced disappearances as tools of state suppression.

These gross and systematic violations of human rights are being enabled by India through the continued application of its draconian laws in IoK and abetted by a culture of impunity rampant among security forces. The United Nations has a responsibility to speak out against these violations, documented by an independent entity such as OHCHR and occurring in a territory recognized by the UN Security Council as disputed.

Second, the pace of Indian firing and shelling across the Line of Control (LoC) is picking up again. Not only these Indian actions violate the Ceasefire Understanding of 2003 between Pakistan and India, they are causing civilian casualties and leading to heavy damages to civilian infrastructure. Left unaddressed, these unprovoked steps have the potential to escalate the situation in the area, with grave implications for peace and security.

Cross-LoC violations have been accompanied by recent India media reports highlighting leaked communications from the Indian Home Ministry about deployment of additional 10,000 or more paramilitary forces in IoK. The Indian occupied Kashmir is already the most militarized zone in the world, with over 700,000 troops deployed for several decades.

Reports of additional forces are corroborated by developments on the ground, including landing of special flights carrying these forces at Srinagar airport and additional companies reaching the Indian Occupied Kashmir Valley by road. So far, no senior Indian government official has publically denied these media reports or to calm down the situation, lending further credence to these reports.

Reports about Indian railways authority's decision to purchase and store rations for at least a week's consumption to meet any crisis situation indicate that security situation in IOK is likely to deteriorate further. There is, therefore, a pervasive sense of fear and anxiety among the Kashmiris in IoK, which continues to grow in the wake of these developments.

Three, the aforementioned developments tend to validate widespread concerns that India is preparing ground to abolish Article 35-A of its Constitution as a first step, followed by the revocation of Article 370. Article 35-A defines the residents of IoK and limits subjects like property ownership and state citizenship to the current residents of the area.

Pakistan has consistently opposed any steps that seek to alter the demographic structure of IoK since they can materially affect the plebiscite arrangements to be held under the UN auspices. These Indian moves are also a clear breach of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, particularly with regard to realization of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris. This is an old Indian ploy to which we had drawn your attention through Pakistan's earlier letter dated 27 April 2017.

Excellency,

Notwithstanding such Indian moves, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions provide that "the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations."

In light of the developments mentioned above, I wish to draw your attention to

United Nations Security Council Resolution 38, which calls upon Pakistan and India, ‘to inform the Council immediately of any material change in the situation which occurs or appears to either of them to be about to occur while the matter is under consideration by the Council, and consult with the Council thereon’.

Pakistan is of the view that the steps being taken by India, as outlined above, have the real potential to further lead to the deteriorating human rights situation in IoK as well as carry serious implications for peace and security in South Asia.

I, therefore, urge you and the United Nations to immediately take note of the serious situation and in this regard a) urge India to stall state oppression and stop human rights abuses; b) refrain from unprovoked firing across LoC; and c) halt any actions that could bring about a material change in the situation on ground, in violation of Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

I take this opportunity to reiterate Pakistan’s call to establish a UN Fact-Finding Mission to visit IOK to assess the on-ground situation. Pakistan also supports the OHCHR’s recommendation for establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate into the gross human rights violations. Commensurate with the gravity of evolving situation in IoK and to prevent its potential ramifications for the region, I would once again urge you to appoint a UN Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.”

Unquote

Islamabad  
5 August 2019

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Response to Indian Announcements on Occupied Jammu & Kashmir**

Pakistan strongly condemns and rejects the announcements made today by the Indian Government regarding the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

The Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory.

No unilateral step by the Government of India can change this disputed status, as enshrined in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Nor will this ever be acceptable to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan.

As the party to this international dispute, Pakistan will exercise all possible options to counter the illegal steps.

Pakistan reaffirms its abiding commitment to the Kashmir cause and its political, diplomatic and moral support to the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Islamabad  
5 August 2019

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Pakistan's strong demarche to India on its illegal actions with regard to Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K)**

(2019-08-05) The Foreign Secretary summoned the Indian High Commissioner to the Foreign Office and conveyed a strong demarche on the announcements made and actions taken by the Government of India with regard to Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir today.

The Foreign Secretary conveyed Pakistan's unequivocal rejection of these illegal actions as they are in breach of international law and several UN Security Council resolutions. Pakistan's resolute condemnation of the unlawful actions aimed at further consolidating the illegal occupation of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) was underscored.

The Foreign Secretary also condemned the preceding pre-meditated steps such as complete lock-down of IOK, deployment of additional 180,000 troops, imposition of curfew, house arrest of Kashmiri leaders and suspension of communication services, among others.

Pakistan's consistent opposition to all Indian attempts to change the demographic structure and final status of IOK was emphasized.

The Foreign Secretary called upon India to halt and reverse its unlawful and destabilizing actions, ensure full compliance with UN Security Council resolutions, and refrain from any further action that could entail serious implications.

The Foreign Secretary reiterated that Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to the indigenous legitimate Kashmiri people's struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Islamabad  
5 August 2019