

**Address**

**By**

**The Speaker**

**National Assembly of Pakistan**

**at the**

**International Parliamentary Seminar on Kashmir,**

**January 5, 2017**

Bismillah Irr Rehman Irraheem

Hon'ble Prime Minster of Pakistan Mr. Mohammed Nawaz Sharif!

Mr. Sartaj Aziz,  
Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs!

Mr. Barjees Tahir,  
Federal Minister for Kashmir & Gilgit- Baltistan Affairs

Mr. Masood Khan,  
President of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja MNA,  
Secretary General of the Young Parliamentarians Forum!

Distinguished International and local delegates, Parliamentarians,  
Legislators, Members of the Academia and Civil Society, Students, Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Asslam-o-Alikum and a very Good Morning to all of you!

On behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan, It is my privilege to welcome you  
all to this International Parliamentary Seminar of Kashmir.

I am especially grateful to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for his  
consideration of gracing the Inaugural Ceremony of this two-day moot on  
an issue, which is indeed very close to Prime Minister's heart. Your  
presence amongst us, Sir, is indeed reflective of your deep personal  
attachment to the cause of Kashmir.

Availing of the opportunity, I also present my best wishes to our Friends  
from the UK, EU and Canada.

A belated Merry Christmas & a very Happy and blessed New Year 2017!

We deeply appreciate the gracious presence of our Guest Panellists, who  
travelled long distances to contribute to a noble cause:

a cause that a nation has been pursuing as a matter of their right to self-  
determination.

A promise that was made to them by none other than the highest international forum of United Nations!

A pursuit that has cost millions of lives to the defenceless Kashmiris at the hands of Indian occupation forces, right under the nose of world's standard bearers and protectors of human rights.

In such testing times, your presence here to discuss the dynamics of Kashmir problem; --- to review whether the UN and International Community did anything to stop the perpetual genocide when they could, -- - and to listen to the sufferings of Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir during all these seven decades, is an expression of your solidarity and your message of hope for the oppressed Kashmiris.

This humane gesture of the friends of Kashmir is deeply appreciated by both Kashmiris and Pakistanis.

Among us, are those Kashmiris, who lived through the prolonged period of atrocities along with millions others. These Kashmiris would share with us their eye-witness account of the bloodshed by Indian occupying forces. They may also reflect on the pain of those whose dear ones were taken away by the security forces ---- never to return home ---- and of those mothers whose children ---- as young as 3 years ---- became a casualty of Indian brutalities.

My sincere appreciation is also due to the Young Parliamentarians Forum for organising this important Seminar as part of the National Assembly's on-going efforts to highlight the Kashmir issues on all international forums.

The sufferings of Kashmiris were placed by me before the Inter Parliamentary Union's General Assembly in Geneva, held last October.

I also raised it in the strongest possible manner before the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries, which was held in Ankara last year. As a result, the PUIC General Assembly will be taking up two resolutions on Kashmir later in January this year at its Annual Session, being held in Mali.

There are over a dozen resolutions on Kashmir, unanimously passed by the two Houses of the Parliament during the last three years while I may

also mention that I personally wrote to all Parliaments of the world, calling their attention to the on-going sufferings of the Kashmiris.

The Parliament of Pakistan stands committed to provide all moral and principled support to Kashmiris in their rightful struggle for self-determination.

Dear Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen!

There are trails of torture, massacres, fake encounters, mass rapes, extra-judicial killings, genocide and arbitrary arrests of Kashmiri men, leading to their disappearances forever.

You may name any type of crime against humanity and you will find it committed by the Indian occupation forces on Kashmiris in Indian occupied Kashmir.

There is a targeted effort by India to bring about demographic change in Indian Occupied Kashmir. The total percentage of Muslim population has gone down from over 79% in 1947 to 68% now. This systematic cleansing is part of many other measures to alter the demography in Indian Occupied Kashmir, which successive governments in India have been undertaking.

I have mentioned genocide a number of times. I said so because what Indian forces have been committing for 7 decades in Indian occupied Kashmir fits the definition of genocide as per UN General Assembly Resolution 260A (III) Article 2.

It is further supported by the precedence set by the first European conviction for genocide, handed down in August 2001 to a Bosnian Serb general, ~~Radislav Krstic (Krstich)~~.

The forces under his command were found guilty of genocide for killing up to 8,000 Bosnian Muslims in 1995. The verdict maintained that Bosnian Serb forces deliberately set about murdering all the men of Srebrenica (Ser bay nich ka)."

Now compare the situation in Indian occupied Kashmir. In November 1947, Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir's forces with the help of Indian occupation forces and Hindu terrorist organization, RSS, killed more than half a million

Kashmiris in ethnic cleansing. Since then, Kashmiris observe that genocide on 6 November every year as 'Martyrs Day'.

Till-to-date, another 1 million have been murdered in perpetual genocide. Between 1990 and 2016, Indian forces committed more than 18 recorded massacres, each time killing Kashmiris in hundreds. Tens of thousands men taken into custody over these years have disappeared into thin air. Their fate remained unknown until a few of many thousand unmarked and unnamed mass graves were discovered with 6,700 tortured, murdered and buried corpses of Kashmiris during 2009.

In 2009, Kashmiri HR Activists, Parvez Imroz, Parvez Khurram and their friends, discovered thousands of Unnamed and Unmarked Mass Graves in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

A comprehensive 112-page report, entitled 'Buried Evidence', by an Indian Occupied Kashmir Based NGO: International People's Tribunal published in November 2009, exposed Indian atrocities. The Report laid bare India's blatant lies about cross-LOC infiltrations and fake encounters in which they had been killing indigenous Kashmiris by calling them foreign infiltrators. I am citing here just two of many findings of the IPTK in the context:

Tribunal investigated 50 cases and concluded: Except for one all 49 were killed in STAGED ENCOUNTERS

Concluded that more than 8,000 reported disappearances, fake encounters, the multiple corpses in each unnamed and unmarked mass graves were correlated.

These findings remind me of what a British historian, William Dalrymple's investigations into disappearances revealed:

...large numbers of local people would "disappear." Their bodies would later be found, if at all, floating down rivers, bruised, covered in cigarette burns, missing fingers or even whole limbs...

The often-repeated fabricated story of cross-LoC infiltrations is part of Indian propaganda to project the indigenous self-determination movement of Kashmiris as terrorism. This baseless claim has been rejected by the Organisation of Islamic Countries in its final communiqué of 13<sup>th</sup> OIC Summit in Istanbul. By and large, International Community has also not subscribed to the Indian notion.

Let me underscore at this point that besides track record of human rights violations, India has attained expertise in staging terrorist attacks on its soil and blaming it on others.

In this regard, their own Inspector General of Police of Maharashtra has listed numerous such terrorist attacks in his book entitled: 'Who killed Karkare?' The book amply establishes as to how India has been indulging in 'False Flag Operations.' These are covert operations that are designed to deceive in such a way that the operations appear as though they are being carried out by entities, groups, or nations other than those who actually planned and executed them.

Indian claims of being a victim of terrorism should be seen in this backdrop and also the fact that there is irrefutable evidence of Indian state actors' involvement in subversion, support to terrorist activities in Pakistan and terror financing to destabilize Pakistan. It is also an established fact that India also uses Afghan soil for terrorist activities against Pakistan.

The recent phase of uprising in Indian Occupied Kashmir in the wake of extra-judicial killing of a young Kashmiri leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani, on 8 July this year is a reminder to the world that the world's most dangerous issue remains unresolved.

What ensued from 9<sup>th</sup> July onward has heart-rending stories of most gruesome violations of human rights in living memory.

Most cruel act, besides killing hundreds, is the blinding of Kashmiri youth, including children using pellet guns. More than 6,000 Kashmiris are victim of pellet gun shots.

Indian forces have blinded an entire generation.

This crime against humanity warranted not just strong condemnation but also independent investigation to call India to account.

India has been suppressing the Kashmiris' voice through state terrorism in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

India has enacted, over the years, numerous lawless laws to give limitless powers and immunity to its occupation forces from legal accountability. These include:

Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1990 (AFSPA),  
Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002 (POTA),  
Terrorist & Disruptive Activities Act 1990 (TADA),  
J&K Public Safety Act 1978, etc.

Using these laws, which Amnesty International and others called as Draconian Laws, India had been committing crimes against humanity.

Dear Friends of Kashmir!

It may take several days and nights if one has to narrate the entire range of crimes against humanity that Indian occupation forces in Indian Occupied Kashmir have been committing.

It is unfortunate that in the face of such grave violations of human rights of Kashmiris, none of the proponents and standard bearers of human rights protection ---- be it international forums or States ---- condemned India.

Calls for independent investigations in Indian occupied Kashmir by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, OIC, and by the Parliamentarians in the United Kingdom, EU and Australia, have all been rejected by India. Yet, the aggressor and the culprit has not been put to task!

The question arises what is that India wants to hide and what is keeping the known voices for human rights from condemning India?

It should be a moment of worry for all of us to see the economic and strategic interests taking precedence over human rights!

I have highlighted the human rights violations, which is the ugliest side of a country that calls it a democracy.

I wish to underline another facet of the bleeding Kashmir issue, that is, it's bearing on the security and stability of the entire region and beyond.

Kashmir remains the main bone of contention and has caused wars between the two countries. In a region, which hosts most poor population of the world, India and Pakistan have been disproportionately spending on defence purchases.

India is world's second biggest importer of lethal military arsenal.

These are the core issues of concern which form the subjects of discussion for this Seminar. The three themes selected for the panel discussions are aimed at looking at Kashmir dispute from different perspectives, on which I have briefly reflected.

I am sure that as the worthy panelists examine the issue threadbare, they would find grave implications that Kashmir dispute has in terms of its bearing on the security, adverse socio-economic impact on the well-being of the people in this region and the trust that people still have in the international institutions.

The purpose of the 2-day gathering is not just to discuss the various aspects of the Kashmir issue but to look for its lasting solution and to ensure that the bloodshed of Kashmiris is stopped forthwith.

Indian brutalities need to be condemned, those responsible for the crimes against humanity are to be held accountable and the possibility of a bigger and perilous impending crisis from happening, which would be purely India's doing, needs to be foreclosed.

I conclude by wishing you all very fruitful discussions on the three theme topics and hope that not only we and Kashmiris will be guided in our next steps and your support towards amicable settlement of this longstanding Kashmir dispute.

THANK YOU ALL!

Kashmir Zindabad

Pakistan Paindabad