

**Message from Dr. Arif Alvi**  
**President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan**  
(To Mark Youm-e-Istehsal on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021)

On August 5 2019, India yet again in violation of international law and norms undertook illegal and unilateral actions in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) to further perpetuate its occupation.

Through these actions, India tried to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory and eliminate the distinct identity of the Kashmiris people in violation of UN Charter and International law, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention.

These Indian actions were also aimed at foreclosing the exercise of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people promised to them in numerous resolutions of the UN Security Council. Through continuous illegal and unilateral steps, the Indian government has created an environment of fear and chaos in IIOJK. The people of IIOJK are being subjected to collective punishment by Indian Occupation Forces, which have turned the territory into the largest militarized zone in the world.

For the past twenty-four months, Kashmiris have suffered the worst human rights violations inflicted by Indian Occupation Forces including military siege and unprecedented restrictions on fundamental freedoms of Kashmiris. To this day, the senior Kashmiri leadership remains incarcerated under trumped-up charges. Extra-judicial killings and arbitrary arrests and detentions also continue unabated.

India's illegal actions in IIOJK were aimed at breaking the spirit of the Kashmiri people, but these have manifestly failed. These steps were also forcefully rejected by Pakistan, the Kashmiris, and the international community. These Indian actions have also been denounced by international media and human rights organizations as a means to continue its illegal and brutal occupation of the region.

The day also serves as a reminder to the international community to hold India accountable for its actions and deliver on its promise to the Kashmiris. A just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people, is indispensable for durable peace and stability in South Asia.

The international community must call upon India to end its campaign of repression and human rights violations in IIOJK and reverse all its illegal actions, including those initiated on and after 5 August 2019, and to cease and desist from imposing any additional unilateral changes in the occupied territory.

The people of Pakistan stand solidly by the Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just struggle and will continue to highlight the Jammu and Kashmir dispute to the international community. Our ultimate objective remains the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiris people.

