



web: www.issi.org.pk
phone: +92-51-9204423, 24
fax: +92-51-9204658

Report – Roundtable

“75 Years of Tyranny- The Case of Indian Occupied Kashmir”

October 27, 2022



Compiled by: Mahwish Hafeez

Edited by: Dr. Arshad Ali

PICTURES OF THE EVENT



To commemorate the illegal and forceful occupation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir by India in 1947, the India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) organised a roundtable titled "75 Years of Tyranny- The Case of Indian Occupied Kashmir" on October 27, 2022. Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations, Mr. Faiz Naqshbandi, leader, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Dr. Sheikh Waleed Rasool, Director Institute of Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies, Islamabad expressed their views on the occasion.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Arshad Ali, Director of India Study Centre said that the Jammu and Kashmir issue is the core dispute between India and Pakistan. It is the longest pending dispute on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) since the Indian illegal occupation of parts of Jammu and Kashmir on 27th October, 1947. For the last 75 years, October 27 is commemorated as "Black Day" by Kashmiris across the world.

In his remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said that Kashmir is an important component of Pakistan's foreign and security policy. The events that took place following the signing of the Stand Still agreement by Maharaja Hari Singh with both the dominions of Pakistan and India soon gave way to suspicions in the minds of the government and people of Pakistan which later proved to be true. It is also doubtful that whether the Instrument of Accession was signed before Indian troops landed on Kashmiri land to occupy it against the wishes of Kashmiri people or later.

Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani was of the view that even if the Instrument of Accession was signed, India surrendered its claim on Kashmir when it took the matter to the UN and agreed to its resolutions. Additionally, subsequent statements issued by Nehru and other Indian leaders also weakened Indian claims of Kashmir's accession to India. The struggle to liberate Kashmir from Indian occupation continued in the following years but Kashmiris did not get any support. The rigged elections in 1987 gave a new life to the Kashmiri struggle. It was the time when Afghans and Sikhs were also waging wars which encouraged Kashmiri youth. He lamented the fact that India took advantage of the differences that were present among different factions of the Kashmiri freedom struggle. It infiltrated people in the garb of freedom fighters to indulge in criminal activities and bring a bad name to the freedom struggle. It was also pointed out that

while Kashmiri youth were offering supreme sacrifices for the freedom of their motherland, not much attention was paid to diplomacy. With changing times, world response to Kashmir also changed.

Mr. Naqashbandi said that contrary to Indian claims, all UN resolutions on Kashmir are still valid and relevant. He said that UN resolutions can only become void when (a) time frame has been mentioned in the resolution; (b) when parties enter into negotiations and resolve the issue and refer to UNSC saying that UNSC resolutions are no more needed; (c) when UNSC passes another resolution cancelling the earlier resolution. In 1947, the Indian Prime Minister announced that India will implement UN resolutions. He stressed that Kashmiris are a resilient nation and they will continue their struggle despite all odds. He highlighted the fact that with disappearances, torture and rape, Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir has become a big prison. He also drew attention to India's ongoing efforts of demographic change in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir against International law.

Dr. Waleed Rasool was of the view that on the issue of Kashmir, there is a need to move from the realist approach towards constructivist approach. There are three main actors (a) the Kashmiri people; (b) Pakistan, which is a legal actor ; and (c) the international community, which is a silent spectator. He wondered why the struggle for the freedom of Kashmir lacked support and said it is the right time to divide duties between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan and the latter as a state can play a pivotal role on the international stage. He further said that Pakistan's Kashmir policy needs direction. In 1947, India did not pay much attention to its north-eastern states and focused only on states that were close to its western borders near Pakistan. There is a difference between India's policy towards north-eastern states and Kashmir. They rightly thought that issues in the north-east would be settled in time and hence they directed all their attention and resources towards Kashmir because this was a disputed state. On a policy level, if we put the entire onus on the Kashmiri people to fight against mighty India without the needed support at the appropriate time, the opportunity is lost.

In his concluding remarks, Chairman, Board of Governors ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood said that though at times, it is important to make adjustments but there should be no compromise on the principled stand. He also highlighted Article 103 of the UN charter which clearly states

that "in the event of a conflict between the obligations of the Members of the United Nations under the present Charter and their obligations under any other international or bilateral agreement, their obligations under the present Charter shall prevail." He stressed that Pakistan needs to keep this issue alive and have a strong narrative to counter Indian claims on Kashmir.