

## **Elections in IIOJK cannot be substitute of the plebiscite for settlement for Kashmir issue: Mirwaiz of Kashmir:**

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MIRPUR (AJK): Oct 04: Kashmir's head priest, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, stated that ongoing elections in Indian-occupied Jammu Kashmir State cannot be construed of the settlement for the Kashmir issue, says a report reaching here Friday night from across the line of control.

He emphasized that elections should not be viewed as a resolution to the longstanding Kashmir conflict.

In a sermon at Jamia Masjid in occupied Srinagar on Friday, he noted that the Hurriyat has disagreed with claims that the elections to the so-called Legislative Assembly in IIOJK resolve the

Kashmir issue, which remains unresolved since its inception for last over 77 years.

Mirwaiz criticized the Government of India's sinister actions on August 5, 2019, asserting that these do not constitute a resolution.

He called for meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan as a means to achieve lasting peace in the region through early peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue.

He warned against the potential escalation of conflict in Kashmir.

Mirwaiz said he has consistently opposed the violence in addressing the Kashmir issue.

He highlighted that the Hurriyat does not want youth involved in violence, as the Kashmir conflict has affected multiple generations.

He reiterated that the elections, should not be misconstrued as a solution to the political dispute of Kashmir. He called on the Government of India to engage in meaningful talks with Pakistan, one of the major stakeholders. to address the Kashmir issue

Mirwaiz also raised concerns about the closure of historic Jamia Masjid in occupied Srinagar by the Indian occupational forces during significant religious occasions and expressed hope for greater freedom to attend religious functions amid his ongoing legal challenges regarding his long

house arrest in occupied Srinaga, the report added.