

35th anniversary of Gaw Kadal Masacre in IIOJK observed amidst full-throated anti India sloganed rally in Occupied valley



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MIRPUR (AJK): Jan 21: In Indian Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir state, Muhammad Ahsaan Untoo Chairman of rights outfit – International Forum for Justice Human Rights JK while paying glorious tributes to the 53 unarmed civilians were killed on January 21, 1990 stated that the reply filed to his petition before the state human rights commission (SHRC) states that only 42 people were killed on that fateful day was nothing but a mockery.

“The Indian Police report that only 42 people died and just 173 got injured in the bloodbath of the innocent Kashmiris, is totally unacceptable: Muhammad Ahsaan Untoo Chairman International forum for justice Human Rights JK”, said in a statement issued in occupied Srinagar on Tuesday on the eve of 35th anniversary Gaw Kadal Masacre in IIOJK, says a report reaching here Tuesday evening from across the line of control.

‘Kashmiris will not rest till families of all slain get justice in form of stern punishment to CRPF,JKPOLICE, BSF men involved in first genocide’ Blood bath,”, the Kashmiri rights activist said. according to the report.

Untoo continued that at least 52 civilians were killed by the Indian occupying Border Security Force (BSF), Indian Central Reserve Police- CRPF and the Indian occupied Kashmir Police on January 21, 1990 and that he won’t rest till the families of every single person killed would get justice in the form of stern punishment to the guilty forces personnel of crpf,bsf,police, who resorted to indiscriminate firing by setting the base for the Kashmir’s “first major genocide” planned by the then Delhi’s installed puppet Governor Jagmohan.

The chairman IFJHRJK who has been pursuing the Gaw Kadal massacre case No, 112/2012 in SHRC since past many years, stated that the reply provided to him in October 2018 year by the police about the incident reads that only 42 people were killed on January 21, 1990 and just 172 got injured is far from the reality. He said that there are scores of eye-witnesses and there is no doubt that 53 unarmed protestors were killed and some 250 got injured, the report said.

Untoo recalled that the peaceful procession that had come from Chotta Bazar and passed through Habba Kadal and other areas reached Gow Kadal Bridge where BSF men were ready to fire at the peaceful protestors leaving 53 dead and over 250 in a pool of blood.

Untoo said he has been urging the SHRC to impress upon the deputy commissioner Srinagar to come out with the detailed report on the slain and the number of those injured in the incident. He said that the issue is that it was the biggest irony that the government says that only 42 were killed of which only 42 were identified and rest remained unidentified.

“This is the mockery of investigation and that its time that the administration come up with the detailed report on the dead and those injured,” he said. He further said that a report must also come to fore that how many people were provided with the ex-gratia so far, he urged.

“Despite passing of 35 years, justice continues to elude families of victims of Gaw Kadal massacre”, he said adding January 21, 1990 troopers of the Indian occupational paramilitary CRPF indiscriminately fired upon a protest march at Gaw Kadal—killing around 50 people and injuring hundreds of others

On the night of January 20, 1990, the paramilitary troopers during house-to-house searches at Chota Bazar in Old City had allegedly dragged out people from their homes, arrested scores and misbehaved with women, he recalled.

“The incident triggered widespread protests in occupied Srinagar. A massive procession of people including large number of women started proceeded from Old City towards Lal Chowk. However, when the procession reached Gaw Kadal bridge, the CRPF,BSF, Police troopers fired upon them,” said Arshad Ahmad Bhat of Basant Bagh, one of the witnesses of the massacre”, the report said

“CRPF troopers fired upon the peaceful protestors from machine guns. Farooq Ahmad of Court Road, a taxi driver, stood before a light machine gun to save people. He died on the spot. The CRPF personnel had sealed all entry and exit points. It was a preplanned massacred and 50 people were killed in cold blood. It was repetition of Jali wala Bagh massacre,” he added

Farooq Ahmad Wani- one of the survivors of the massacre said “It was like hell.” Wani was then working as Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) in the Public Health Engineering department. On the ill-fated day, there was water crisis in Old City and Wani’s immediate officer had instructed him to collect a curfew pass from Deputy Commissioner’s office here to visit the affected areas”, Untoo recalled the tragic story comprising the Kashmir history’s incident of the genocide

Wani was stopped by CRPF troopers near Jehangir Chowk and directed to take another route to the DC office. “As curfew was strictly imposed, I decided to go to my uncle’s home at Mandar Bagh and subsequently reach the DC office from there,” Wani said.

Wani says as he passed through the deserted lanes of Lal Chowk, he saw hundreds of people including women peacefully protesting at Gaw Kadal against the Chotta Bazar incident.

“The procession started to march towards Gaw Kadal (bridge) and I just tried to make my way through it. Suddenly, the Indian CRPF troopers opened fire on the procession,” Wani recalls. “There were injured people all around. Sensing intentions of the CRPF troopers, I tried to jump into Chutkule water channel from Gaw Kadal.

Suddenly a man pushed me from behind. I remained in the bridge only while he jumped into Chutkule,” he recalls.

Laying flat on Gaw Kadal, Wani witnessed the first massacre of Kashmiri, which is being remembered every year as the Gaw Kadal massacre.

“The injured were wreathing in pain and asking for water. It was horrible to see troopers laughing and kicking the injured. Suddenly, they started to pump bullets on heads of the injured persons, killing them instantly,” Wani said, as his face seethes in anger and eyes become moist. “I could see blood all around and hear last moans of death everywhere.”

Narrating this sequence, Wani pauses and abruptly starts again. “The officer indiscriminately opened fire on me. There was burning sensation on my back. I recited Kalima and remembered my family including two little daughters,” Wani says.

“I had received most of the bullets on my back and right arm and was gradually losing sensation,” he says. Wani’s diminishing hope for survival got revived when three constables of Jammu and Kashmir police reached the spot.

“On seeing the bodies, the cops became emotional and anger against the massacre was palpable on their faces. However, the CRPF troopers fired in the air and slapped the cops, chasing them away from the spot,” Wani says.

For around half-an hour, Wani said all he could hear was thumping sound of troopers’ boots and chirping of birds. “Suddenly, CRPF brought a truck and started loading bodies in it. I pleaded with a trooper to place me in the truck with the bodies. He held my muffler and dragged me like an animal into the truck,” Wani says. After travelling for some five minutes, the truck reached the Police Control Room here. Still in the vehicle, Wani says he “got a sort of energy” after hearing conversations around in Kashmiri. “Somebody lifted the tarpaulin from back side of the truck and started to unload the bodies. Finding me alive, a Kashmir policeman instantly called a doctor posted at PCR who declared that I had the chances of survival if I could be operated upon immediately,” he says.

Within few minutes, Wani was rushed to SMHS hospital where he was operated upon for around three hours under supervision of a team of doctors. “I had received 16 bullets mostly on my back. After operation, many people whom I even didn’t know, kissed and hugged me,” he says.

Wani was later shifted to Bone and Joints Hospital and admitted in a separate post operative room. He says a team of international journalists led by Mark Tully came to Srinagar to interact with survivors of the massacre. “Dr Farooq Ahmad Ashai introduced these journalists to me as I could speak in English.

The team wept after hearing my ordeal and reported it in various international newspapers and magazines,” he says.

Though official figures put the number of fatalities at 21, human rights groups say 51 persons were killed in the massacre.

Police in FIR no 3/90 registered at Kralkhud Police Station under RPC 307, 148, 149, 188 and 153 stated that the CRPF troopers had opened fire to stop “unruly mob raising anti-India and anti-forces slogans” heading towards Lal Chowk at Gaw Kadal.

35th years down the line since the incident, Wani has served on various posts including Managing Director JK Cements and Chief Engineer (PWD)

“It is painful that the accused CRPF troopers are yet to be punished. It is ironical that police has till date not even recorded my statement despite being the lone survivor of the massacre. I am ready to testify against the accused even now,” Wani says.

Wani says he was offered reward for bravery by Hamid-ul-lah Khan, advisor to then puppet Governor Jagmohan. “I told him I don’t need any reward but I only want punishment to the accused troopers who fired upon and killed unarmed protestors,” he says. “This will be the biggest tribute to the victims,” Wani said,,

“35th anniversary gone United Nations International Human Rights commission,, International court of justice,, EUR -pain UNION,, EUR-PAIN PARLIAMENTARY,, EUR -pain Counsel,,Human Rights watch,, Amnesty International,, international criminal court,, International Human Rights institutions,, Not delivered justice to Victims till ate,, niether pressurized india Stop Human Rights violation in IIOJK- Indian Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir state, the reportadded.