

## AJK President extends gratitude to Azerbaijan for its unequivocal support to Kashmiris' struggle for right to self determination:



اسلام آباد: صدر آزاد جموں و کشمیر بیرسٹر سلطان محمود نے جمہوریہ آذربائیجان کے صدر یلڈیرام ایلڈا ریشینسکی سے برادر المذاکرہ و دوستی کو ایمان صدر کشمیر ہاؤس میں ملاقات دے دی ہے۔

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Altaf Hamid Rao.

MIRPUR (AJK): May 25 (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood

Chaudhry has expressed his profound gratitude to the people and the government of Azerbaijan

for their steadfast support to Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for right to self determination.

In an exclusive interview to Head of Media and Information Literacy Center of Azerbaijan and Vice Rector of Tele-Radio Academy AZ Television Almaz Mahmood Nasibova at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on Sunday, the AJK President expressed the optimism that Azerbaijan will continue to play its role to seek an early and amicable settlement of the lingering dispute in line with Kashmiris' wishes and aspirations.

Terming India's imperialistic presence in the region as a threat to peace and stability in the region, Barrister Chaudhry said that the India's illegal and forcible control over the territory poses an existential threat to Kashmiris, who he said have been fighting for the past several decades to achieve their birthday, guaranteed to them under multiple UNSC resolutions.

"The Kashmir issue is one of the unresolved issues pending on the UN agenda", he said, adding that the lingering dispute has been the bone of contention between Pakistan and India." The threat of war will continue to loom over South Asia unless the Kashmir dispute is addressed in its historical perspective", the president remarked. Barrister Chaudhry hailed Azerbaijan for its all out support to Pakistan during the recent Pakistan-India tensions. He also praised the friendly countries including the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and other countries for their significant role in diffusing tension in the region and facilitating ceasefire between the two nuclear armed nations. He said that India has miserably failed in its attempts aimed at tarnishing Pakistan's image

at international level under the guise of false flag operation. He highlighted the Pakistan Army's significant contribution in defending the country's territorial sovereignty and delivering a crushing response to India, which he said has compelled the enemy to lick the dust and seek a ceasefire.

He said that the people of Kashmir have welcomed the US President Donald Trump's mediation offer. Describing Kashmiris as the main stakeholders to Kashmir dispute, the president stressed on holding tripartite talks and associating Kashmiri leadership in the decision making process to find out a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue. The recent military standoff between the two countries, he said, has proved it beyond any reasonable doubt that the Kashmir issue is a flashpoint between the two nuclear powers.

“Unless the Kashmir issue is resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions, there can be no guarantee of lasting peace and security in South Asia”, he added. Given the volatile situation in the region, the president said that it was high time that the world community should come forward in a big way and play its much needed role to help the Kashmir dispute peacefully.

Responding to a query, Barrister Chaudhry said that the literacy rate in Azad Kashmir is higher than the four provinces of Pakistan. He also underscored the Kashmiri women's role in development of the society.