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AJK observes 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' with full enthusiasm, renewed pledge



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‘Kashmir Solidarity Day’ being observed amidst full throat slogans of “Kashmir Baney Ga Pakistan” by the people across AJK on Sunday with unprecedented zeal and fervor to express solidarity with Kashmiri brethren fighting against the tyranny of occupational forces in the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IJoJK). The day was primarily marked with capacious programs including day-long rallies and demonstrations through making human chains joining hands with Pakistani brethren gathered at all the entry points of AJK. Our Special AJK Correspondent Altaf Hamid Rao reports from Mirpur AJK that by observing the day, people renewed their resolve to continue extending the fullest moral, political and diplomatic support, shoulder to shoulder Pakistan to freedom-loving brethren in the Indian Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir in their just and principled struggle for the achievement of Kashmiris’ legitimate right to self-determination and liberation of the motherland from the Indian clutches. As a public holiday, people representing various walks of life including political, social and human rights organization took out rallies in all big and small cities across AJK including the capital city of

Muzaffarabad and at the district and tehsil headquarters of all ten AJK districts including Mirpur, Kotli, Bhimbher, Rawalakot, Bagh, Palandri, Haveili, Hattian and Neelam Valley held seminars and vowed to be with their oppressed brethren in their hour of trial.

The Day was observed with renewed pledges and commitments to continue diplomatic, moral and political support to Jammu Kashmir people in their just and principled struggle for the achievement of the right to self-determination and the cause of Kashmir. Observance of this day was also aimed at highlighting the long-standing unsettled dispute of Jammu & Kashmir at International and apprising the people of Jammu & Kashmir that they are not alone in this hour of trial and turmoil as people of Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir are wholehearted with them.

One-minute silence: As a mark of respect to the valiant struggle of Kashmiris in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, a one-minute silence was observed at 9.58 a.m. to pay respects and homage to the martyrs of Kashmir, as all rail and road traffic came to a standstill. **Human Chain:** Human chain was formed on all seven bridges, including at Mangla, Kohala, Dhalkot, Azad Pattan, Bhimbher and Holar besides at Bararkot the entry and exit points that connect AJK with Pakistan. Thousands of people belonging to AJK and Pakistan areas and gathered at these bridges and formed a human chain in to reiterate complete solidarity between them.

The human hands chain formed both by Pakistani and Kashmiri people was aimed at to reiterate

the unity and fraternity of this fact that both people have bonds of love and affection towards each other. Flowing of rivers towards Pakistan and ways linked with land transpire the natural accession with the country, a center of Kashmiri people's hopes and expectations. In Mirpur district, a large number of people from adjoining Punjab province led reached at Mangla bridge, the gateway to this part of Jammu & Kashmir State, and made a human chain to express solidarity with the people of AJK who had also gathered at the bridge to make human chain joining hands with the people of Pakistan to mark the day. Thousands of people belonging to all walks of life from Mirpur division earlier drove to Mangla bridge through big processions, led by Commissioner Mirpur Division Ch. Shoukat Mahmud, Deputy Commissioner Ch. Amjad Iqbal, Acting DIG Police Mirpur Division Raja Irfan Saleem, ADC (G) Yasir Riaz, AC Sardar Abdul Qadir, MS Div. HQ Hospital Sardar Aamer Aziz, Divisional Chief PID AJK Javed Malik President Insaf Traders wing Mirpur Raja Khalid Mahmood Khan, Senior Kashmiri journalist and Secretary General National Events Organising Committee Altaf Hamid Rao, AJK Muslim Conference leaders Raja Zaffar Maharoof and Shakoor Mughal ex-President Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sohail Shujah Mujahid and other heads of various private and public representative organizations and the civil society. A big congregation of masses from adjoining town Dina of Jhelum district led by Assistant Commissioner Dina Muhammad Farooq reached Mangla bridge and joined human chain with AJK

people to mark solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir State. AC Dina Muhammad Farooq presented national flag of Pakistan to Mirpur Div. Commissioner Ch. Shoukat who, besides DC Mirpur Ch. Amjad Iqbal, presented AJK flag to AC Dina as a mark of reiteration of solidarity between people of Pakistan and Kashmir.

A large number of people belonging to various walks of life including the elders of various segments of the civil society from adjoining Jhelum district reached Mangla bridge, gateway to this part of the Himalayan Jammu Kashmir State, to join the human chain with locals to mark the solidarity on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan with the people of Jammu Kashmir.

While airing their views to media on this occasion mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day key participants called upon the world community to ensure early peaceful solution of Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Resolutions and Kashmiri people's wishes, speakers said that Kashmiris struggle for freedom is in fact the struggle for completion of Pakistan – since Pakistan is incomplete without its jugular vein – Kashmir, they declared. They said that the hearts of the people of Pakistan and Kashmir beat in unison. Pakistan, he declared, would continue full moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Jammu & Kashmir in their just and principled struggle for freedom till it reaches to its logical end. Speakers paid glowing tributes to the valiant struggling people for facing large-scale Indian atrocities in the held territory. They said the

sacrifices being offered by the valiant Kashmiri people would not go waste as the time was not far off when their struggle would be crowned with success very soon. Speakers called upon the United Nations besides the international powers including the United States of America to exert pressure on India to give a matching response to Pakistan's persistent offer for an early peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue through the resumption of composite dialogue process in line with the aspirations of Jammu Kashmir people without further loss of time. Speakers demanded that India should immediately stop human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and must give the right of freedom to the people of Kashmir according to the UN charter. A rally organized by the Azad Jammu Kashmir Jamaat-e-Islami was held here at Shaheed Chowk on Saturday which started from Allama Iqbal Road and culminated at Mangla bridge where they joined the human chain to express solidarity to the people of occupied Kashmir. The participants of the rally demanded of the global forces to pressurize India to give the right of freedom according to the UN charter to the people of Kashmir. Through various unanimously passed resolutions the mammoth Congregations called for early peaceful settlement of Kashmir problem through the resumption of proposed comprehensive bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan without further delay to avert the threat of any conflict between the two nuclear neighboring arch-rivals. Through another resolution the rally expressed full solidarity with the people, government and valiant armed

forces of Pakistan with a resolve to go shoulder-to-shoulder the people, government and brave armed forces of Pakistan to safeguard the ideological and geographical frontiers of Pakistan by making defense of inch after inch of the country. In Kotli and Bhimbher districts of Mirpur division, Kashmir Solidarity Day was also observed in Kotli and Bhimbher districts in this division with traditional zeal and fervor. The grand public rallies was taken out in both of the districts to mark the day. Addressing rallies on this occasion, speakers said that Kashmir is the lifeline of Pakistan and Pakistani people fully share the joys and sorrows of their Kashmiri brethren of the Indian-held State. All three radio stations of Azad Kashmir including Mirpur, Muzaffarabad and Tarakheil and AJK TV aired special programmes and the national and AJK State Press brought out special supplements to highlight the struggle of Kashmiris besides to express their solidarity with Kashmir freedom movement.