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## **JKLF [Yasin Malik) files petition against Indian govt. in United Nations Special Procedures Branch, seeking early release of JKLF Chief Yasin Malik from India's infamous Tihar jail:**



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Altaf Hamid Rao.

MIRPUR (AJK): Nov. 4; Mushaal Hussain Mallick, the top JKLF (Y) leader and wife of incarcerated

Kashmir freedom struggle leader Yasin Mallick, flanked by other senior JKLF leaders Muhammad

Rafiq Dar (Chief Spokesman) and Saleem Haroon (Vice Chairman), Barrister Tariq Mehmood (UK based renowned lawyer from international law firm “Med-Arb-International”), and PFUJ President Afzal Butt, while addressing a joint press conference in the federal metropolis on Wednesday briefed the media about the petition filed recently (on 29 October) against Indian government in United Nations Special Procedures Branch (UNSPB) and United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) on Death Penalty Petition and other injustices met with the most popular pro-freedom Kashmiri political leader and Chairman JKLF Mr. Muhammad Yasin Malik, who is languishing in infamous Delhi Tihar Jail in India for last over six consecutive years, JKLF [Y] said in a media release issued here on Wednesday.

Elaborating, the Media release continued that after the introductory brief by JKLF Chief Spokesman, Barrister Tariq Mehmood while giving details of the petition said that his team includes Barrister Carl Buckley and Barrister Aqsa Hussain from another UK based international law firm “Bedford Row Barristers Chambers” who both with great expertise possess vast experience in working with UN system particularly on human rights violations.

He informed the media that a formal complaint with the UN has been filed concerning Yasin Malik’s detention since 2019, submitting that there is no legitimate basis for his arrest and continued detention. Further, it is contended that his treatment since arrest is unlawful both as

per domestic law in India, and as per those international treaties to which India is a State Party. Mr. Malik has been held in custody for a prolonged period in conditions that breach the most basic human rights conditions and has been subjected to a case that itself is molded against a backdrop of political interference to extinguish the nonviolent liberation movement in Kashmir. Further, having been sentenced to life imprisonment following a wholly flawed trial, and an equally flawed appellate process, Mr. Malik contends that the ongoing detention remains arbitrary in nature. The fact that the Death Penalty is being sought only makes the fair trial and associated human rights violations all the more egregious.

Yasin Malik is considered a symbol of nonviolent Kashmiri resistance, and accordingly one of the most prominent leaders in Kashmir's struggle for freedom and political rights. During his leadership, JKLF has engaged with country leaders, mediators, multilateral and human rights organisations. Much of that work has been directed towards peace building and legitimising the Kashmiri political agency.

Since 1994 Mr Malik undertook various non-violent peaceful political campaigns and diplomatic missions besides meeting national political leadership and holding several peace talks with heads of governments in both India and Pakistan, amounting to official and unofficial negotiations for the benefit of the region's self-determination efforts. This was also advocated on an international

scale, having visited the United States and the United Kingdom in an effort to strengthen diaspora activism and to re-launch the importance of the struggle for the purposes of civil society advocacy.

According to Barrister Tariq, the petition has been submitted on behalf of Yasin Malik after receiving the due consent from JKLF leadership. He said that the petition that was submitted to UNSPB and UNWGAD is attached with very important documents pertaining to Yasin Malik's cases and human rights violations he has been going through during his incarceration. This petition has sought their urgent and necessary intervention so that justice is provided to Yasin Malik.

This 20 paged petition filed recently in UNSPB and UNWGAD has questioned the arbitrary detention, unlawful conviction, unfair court proceedings, the death penalty petition by National Investigation Agency (NIA) of India, re-opening of 35 year old cases and inadequate medical care like other injustices met with Yasin Malik at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government of India during his illegal incarceration. They rejected the cases filed by NIA and other government agencies against Yasin Malik and unequivocally termed them as fake, concocted and politically motivated.

During the press conference Mushaal Hussain Mullick said that her husband has been kept in solitary confinement for more than six years. He suffers from a heart condition due to a metallic valve replacement and chronic back pain. His cell is reported to lack proper ventilation, natural

light, and overall, his access to medical care is denied. His valve is overdue for replacement, posing a serious threat to his life. Despite court orders in 2023 for proper medical examination, Mr. Malik has not at any time been admitted to a hospital capable and equipped for cardiac surgery of this nature.

Vice Chairman JKLF Saleem Haroon said that after Yasin Malik's arrest on 22nd February, 2019 the Mr. Modi led government of India banned JKLF and unilaterally revoked the special constitutional status of Jammu Kashmir on 5 August 2019 through enforced annexation and reorganization of the State as Union Territory. He reiterated his party's stand that JKLF will continue the peaceful political freedom struggle until it achieves its goal of national independence.

On the occasion Razia Sultana, 13 year old daughter of jailed Yasin Malik, made an appeal to world leaders including the world human rights organizations to save her father.

Rafiq Dar, the JKLF spokesman hailed the role played so far by party leaders from abroad in highlighting Yasin Malik's issue especially of Prof. Raja Zafar Khan (Head JKLF Dip. Bureau), M. Haleem Khan (Former President JKLF NA / Member SC JKLF), Liaqat Ali Lone (President JKLF UK), Sardar Imtiaz A. Khan (President JKLF NA) and Sardar Zaheer Zahid (President JKLF EU).

He also thanked people, in general, and human rights activists along with people's representatives, in particular, around the world especially in USA, UK and EU who raised their voices against the death penalty and other injustices met with Yasin Malik during his incarceration. To mention; Mr. Raja Muzaffar Khan (JKLF veteran leader), Eng. Farooq Siddiqui (President KGC), Altaf Hussain Qadri (Convener KGC), Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai (Head WKAF), Mubeen A. Shah (Dir. Kashmir House, Türkiye), Dr. Rick Halperin (Former President of Amnesty International), Mr. Beverly Hills (American HR Activist), Mr. Bill Maxwell (President Dallas Peace and Justice Center), Mr. Imran Hussain (UK MP / Chairman APPGK), Mr. Richard Burgon (UK MP), Mr. Philip Bennion (EU MP), Terry Meza (Member of House of Representatives), Mr. Frank Schwalba-Hoth (Former EU MP), Dr. Syed Nazir Ahmed Gilani (President JKCHR), Ms. Claire Bidwell (UK based Social and HR Activist), Prof. Azmat A. Khan (JKLF Leader) and Sardar Aftab Khan (HR Activist UK) for having made worthy contributions in this regard.

He also thanked the Lord. Qurban Hussain and other UK MP's Ms. Debbie Abraham, Mr. Jeremy Corbyn, Ms. Naz Shah, Mr. Tahir Ali, Mr. Liam Byrne, Mr. Rachel Hopkins, Ms. Sarah Owen, Mr. Tamanjeet Singh Dhesi, Mr. M. Yaseen, Mr. John McDonald and Mr. Ayub Khan on raising their voice for Yasin Malik on different forums including UK Parliament.

Besides the media the other JKLF leaders who were present at the press conference included

Khawaja Manzoor A. Chishti, Sardar Javed Hanif, Sardar M. Anwar Khan, Sajid Siddiqui, Raja M.

Hanif, Hamayun Muzaffar, Imran Jehangir Kyani, Ghulam Avais and Touseef Ahmed.