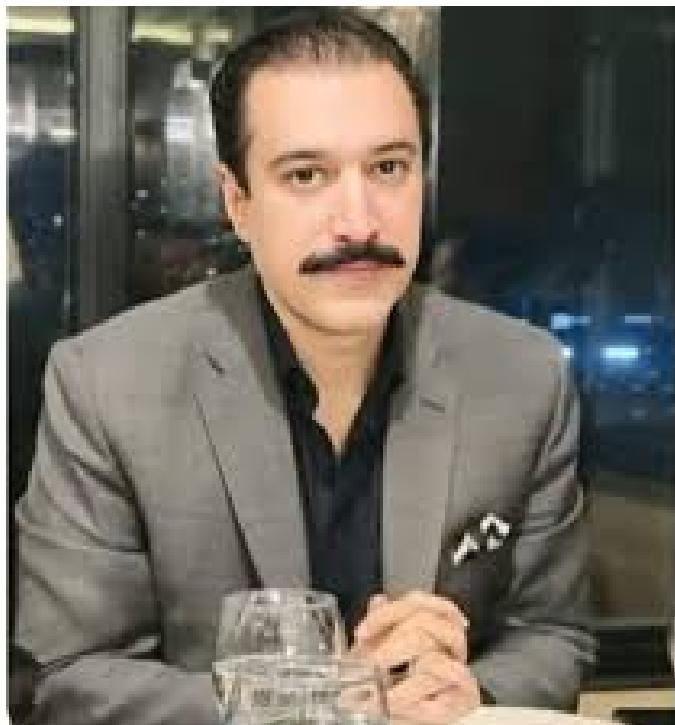

Kashmir Solidarity Day stands as symbol of an everlasting bond between Pakistan and Kashmir, AJK PM Faisal Rathore



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MIRPUR (AJK): February 4; Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister [†]Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that Kashmir Solidarity Day has become a symbol of an everlasting bond between the people of Pakistan and Kashmir, shaped by a shared history, faith, and deep-rooted social and cultural ties. [†]

In his special message issued here on Wednesday on the eve of solidarity day,, falling on February 5, prime minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said, “The historic day, being observed consistently since past several decades, stands as a vivid testament to the unwavering resolve of the people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, who stand shoulder to shoulder with their oppressed Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for right to self determination ”. [†]In an indirect reference to the 19th July resolution, he noted that the Kashmiri people had ideologically aligned their future with Pakistan even before its creation.

“This is a historic reality that Kashmiris proudly cherish and deeply acknowledge from generation to generation ”, the PM said, adding that the people of Pakistan have always stood by the Kashmiri people in every difficult moment. [†]Today, as the entire Pakistani nation and the people of Azad Kashmir stand in solidarity with our brethren in Indian occupied Kashmir, we reiterate our resolve to continue supporting them and their just cause at every level ”, he maintained. [†]Referring to Indian government’s move to abrogate Article 370, the AJK premier said that on August 5, 2019, India’s RSS-influenced regime issued a majoritarian diktat that led to revocation of the special

status of occupied Kashmir. The contentious move, he said, was unequivocally rejected by the Kashmiri people. Lauding the matchless sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people during their ongoing struggle for right to self-determination, he said that Kashmiris have shown remarkable courage and resilience in the face of Indian state terrorism, which serves as a true testament to their bravery.

The AJK premier also voiced his serious concern over the ongoing bloodshed and violence in occupied Kashmir, saying that severe human rights violations including extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, sexual violence, torture and summary executions serve as eye opener for the world. He said that it was high time that the international community, particularly the United Nations and human rights organizations, took urgent action to address the ongoing crisis in Kashmir and exert pressure on India to implement the UNSC resolutions on Kashmir so that the Kashmiri people can exercise their fundamental right to self-determination, guaranteed to them under multiple UN resolutions. Hailing Pakistan's commitment to peace, the prime minister said that Pakistan has consistently sought peace in the region, while India's extremist policies pose a grave threat not only to the peace and stability of occupied Kashmir but also to the stability of the entire region. He, however, maintained that India can neither deviate from UN resolutions through unilateral actions nor suppress the Kashmiri people's aspiration for freedom.

”The unprecedented sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people will never go in vain. Inshallah, the day is not far when their historic struggle reaches fruition”, he added.⁷ After gaining freedom, the entire state will become part of Pakistan”, the PM said.⁸ He reaffirmed his government’s all out moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiris’ just cause saying that the government would utilize all available resources to promote their cause both at national and international level.