

## AJK's joint action committee dissociates from violent incidents

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MUZZAFARABAD:

The central leadership of the Azad Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (AAC) on Sunday dissociated from violent incidents between protestors and police in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Yesterday, clashes broke out between protesters and law enforcement personnel during a protest against the increase in electricity tariffs in Mirpur. A sub-inspector was martyred and 16 police officials including a station house officer (SHO) were injured. Members of the committee reiterated their commitment to conducting a peaceful movement and declared that any propaganda against the state of Pakistan on social media is 'utterly unacceptable'. "The insidious Indian media is fabricating baseless allegations to conceal the atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, which are devoid of any connection with reality" the committee stated. In December 2023, the AAC

came to an agreement with an official reconciliation committee, which was followed by a government notification issued on Feb 4. However, in April, the committee declared its intention to organize a long march on May 11, protesting the government's "failure" to fulfill its written commitments. Last week, several of the AAC members were arrested by police in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur divisions. The committee announced a shutter-down and wheel-jam strike on Friday and AJK police blocked the arteries leading to Muzaffarabad and resorted to baton charge and teargas shelling to disperse the protesters on Saturday. As the crackdown against the protesters continued, several people were taken into custody from different parts of the region