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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Urgent Request for Human Rights Council Intervention to Investigate Human Rights Abuses in Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan

The Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy (CHRAPA) is deeply concerned with the violations of human rights in Azad Jammu and Kashmir where the people of Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir lack economic, social, Cultural, Civil and political rights including the right to development and freedom of movement has been restricted.

Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan are part of the erstwhile Princely State of Kashmir and Jammu, which has been controlled by Pakistan since 1947.

Constitution of the Pakistan clearly says that the state of Jammu and Kashmir including Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan is a disputed territory and does not belong to Pakistan.

Constitution of the Pakistan Article: 257 Provision relating to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Provision relating to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. When the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir decide to accede to Pakistan, the relationship between Pakistan and that State shall be determined in accordance with the wishes of the people of that state.

Contrary to its claims the draconian law interim act of Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1974 was imposed by Pakistan in 1974. Which bans political parties that do not endorse State of Jammu and Kashmir accession to Pakistan, applying for a government job or taking part in elections one must declare loyalty to the cause of accession. Similar rules prevail in Gilgit Baltistan, meaning nationalist leaders and parties are denied access to the political process and public employment. Those who oppose Pakistani rule, are also subject to surveillance, harassment, and sometimes imprisonment and even killed.

Pakistan is violating international laws, UNCIP resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir recently Pakistani army has taken control over Peer Chinasi a popular tourist hotspot and hilltop destination in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir. On 13 July 2022, a barrier was erected to prevent a group of local families from reaching Pir Chinasi. Concurrently, a photo of a notice on the fence stating that anybody who leaps the wall would be shot becomes popular on social media. If a fence is constructed near your home and a notice is put there, you will be alerted. How you would respond to the statement "the fence-jumper will be shot" depends on your honour and conscience. We are natives, so why have they erected a barrier at this tourist attraction?"

Pir Chinasi (sometimes written Peer Chinasi) is a shrine and tourist attraction situated around 30 kilometres (19 miles) east of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir. It is situated above hills at a height of 2,900 meters (9,500 Ft. above sea level). The mountain peak's Shrine (Ziyarat) of the great saint Sayed Hussain Shah Bukhari has brought it widespread renown. This location is also frequented by visitors due to its view of Muzaffarabad and the rural regions around the secret city. On weekends, a considerable number of Muzaffarabad city residents opt to visit Peer Chinasi as well as international tourist attractions. If Muzaffarabad's temperature is close to 40 degrees, the temperature on the summit of Pir Chinasi is between 10 and 20 degrees. Additionally, the region is renowned for paragliding and snow cross jeep rallies. In 1953, the Shrine was constructed.

The city of Muzaffarabad includes around 50 square kilometres, Observe what has transpired in the name of security in this little city. A stadium was constructed for the public in Gojra, as well as a field in the plate. Approximately 500 kanals of land from Neelam School to the river were acquired by Pakistan Army. First, the roads leading to the river were blocked by the locals in Chehla Bandi. Then, the whole area in front of the fort plate has been taken into custody. There are three or four grounds and sand dunes below, where people used to visit during the summer, but they are now off-limits. Pakistan Army has forcefully conquered Gojra Fort, Airport, and Saryan Top, followed by Sri Kot, and now Peer Chinasi."

Pakistan has violated Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of human rights which clearly says that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own and to return to his country. Unfortunately, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are forcibly divided and their freedom of movement has been restricted across the line of Control since 1947.

Politicians, attorneys, businessmen, journalists, bureaucracy, and the legal system all seem impotent in the face of this language, which states that anybody who exceeds the predetermined boundaries shall be executed. The presence of two military officials in the Tourism Development Authority violates the United Nations mission. The planned Tourism Development Authority structure and the 15th amendment in Azad Jammu and Kashmir Act 74 in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir are undesirable. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have long requested the reinstatement of the state-subject rule of 20 April 1927, as well as opposition to the repeal of the 1930 forest protection act, which safeguards our land and protects our hills and forests.

Natives should have the right to freedom of movement within their country without any restrictions, so why have they erected a barrier at this tourist attraction? Why will anybody who jumps the fence be shot? Is this attitude of an occupying force on our disputed land aimed at instilling terror in the minds of the populace under the guise of security, or is it a result of an economic motive to seize our tourist destination? Were we not human to them if we were ordinary? This mentality has been manipulating the attitudes of the people for almost six decades.”

People of Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir are protesting against load-shedding and additional levies on power bills. Pakistan is employing oppressive measures to stifle the voices of the natives by filing fabricated cases and FIRs under the Anti-terrorist act, smearing them as foreign agents, and locking them up. People are protesting against Pakistan's annexation of the Jammu and Kashmir state, as they think that Jammu and Kashmir has no future with Pakistan. Therefore, people want independence.

CHRAPA urges international community to recognize and address the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir.

Our Organization is worried about human rights violations in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir where people have been deprived of freedom and liberty, cultural rights, and a rise in extremism and terrorism. Banned terrorist groups are also allowed to wander in Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir. For many decades, fundamental liberties, including freedom of expression, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, and freedom of assembly, have been restricted and undermined.

Pakistan must withdraw its soldiers and civilians, including lent officers, in accordance with the armistice agreement and United Nations Security Council resolution approved on August 13, 1948.

Therefore, CHRAPA urges the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to Azad Kashmir, Pakistan Administered Kashmir Gilgit-Baltistan, and ask Pakistan to respect human rights, release all political prisoners, and guarantee basic freedoms, and freedom of movement including the right to life.
