

Message from President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, on the Occasion of Right to Self-Determination Day (5th January 2024)

Every year, on 5th of January, we renew our support for the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day in 1949, the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) unanimously adopted a resolution affirming the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations.

The right to self-determination is a cardinal principle of international law, upheld in numerous core United Nations Treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. For decades, it has been reaffirmed by UN General Assembly in its annual resolution on self-determination. However, the last 76 years of India's occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) are a sad story of repression of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

India is trying to consolidate its occupation of IIOJK. The Indian Supreme Court's judgement of 11 December 2023 on the status of this disputed territory is the latest step in this direction. India is trying to further subjugate the Kashmiris through such oppressive tactics. It continues to deny their inalienable right to self-determination and lead a life of dignity.

Today's commemoration is aimed at reminding the international community of its responsibility towards the oppressed Kashmiri people. The United Nations must honor the commitments it had made 75 years ago and support the Kashmiri people's struggle for self-determination.

Pakistan remains determined to play its role to support the right to self-determination of Kashmiris through a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Our strong and steadfast moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people will continue till the realization of this inalienable right.