

## MASOOD LAUDS EFFORTS OF DIASPORA COMMUNITY TOWARDS HIGHLIGHTING KASHMIR CAUSE

**Masood lauds efforts of diaspora community towards highlighting Kashmir cause**

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Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, while commending the role of the diaspora community, said that the Pakistani-Kashmiri community is effectively leveraging their strengths towards projecting the gross and consistent human rights violations taking place in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK).

The President made these comments during a meeting with Dr. Zafar Bangash, Director Institute of Contemporary Islamic Thought (ICIT) who called on the President here at Jammu and Kashmir House.

The President during the interaction thanked Dr Zafar Bangash for his singular contributions and committed leadership in helping to amass critical support for the Kashmir cause in Canada. He said that Dr. Bangash along with his colleagues has helped raise the issue with Canadian lawmakers in the Senate, National Assembly and the Ontario Provincial Assembly, as well as at the grass root level.

People of Jammu and Kashmir both from Azad Kashmir and IOK, he said, are thankful to Dr. Bangash and colleagues for their committed

outreach not only to Parliamentarians but also to leading Canadian think tanks, academic institutions, civic bodies and prominent opinion making bodies.

President Masood Khan urged the Pakistani-Kashmiri community to continue helping motivate the Parliamentarians towards initiating debates on the human rights situation in IOK at the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs committees and on the floor of the assembly. This, he said would help encourage constructive and productive discussions on the deteriorating situation in IOK and making them aware of the Kashmiris inalienable right to self-determination.

Dr Bangash thanked the President for visiting Canada, earlier this year and said that his visit left a great impact on the community and the broader Canadian public. He said that during his visit the President appeared at moots of various think tanks including the prestigious Canadian International Council which helped in positively highlighting the just struggle of the people of Kashmir

He added that the President's visit was widely covered by the Canadian media and our team is actively following up with not only the media but also the Canadian parliamentarians and academics. He hoped that these efforts would sincerely contribute to resolving the long-festering Kashmir dispute.