

MASOOD KHAN CONDEMNS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON KASHMIRI LEADERS



Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir has condemned the confiscation of passports and travel documents of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and other Hurriyat leaders by the Indian Government preventing them from traveling abroad to attend the Kashmir event to be held at the House of Commons in London.

In a statement issued here today, the President said that such maneuvers will not be able to dampen the spirits of the Kashmiri people and their leadership in their struggle for ascertaining their right to self-determination.

The President lamented Indian government's approach towards suppressing the voices of the Kashmiri people by using brute force, restricting their movement and illegally incarcerating innocent political leaders to jails all over India. "India is under the impression that by killing, maiming and arresting unarmed Kashmiris they will be able to quash the freedom movement in Indian Occupied Kashmir", he said.

President Masood Khan paid rich tribute to the resistance leadership and the Kashmiri people for their unwavering and staunch stance in the face of the Indian occupation forces which has used military might against innocent protestors. The Indian forces, he said were enjoying absolute immunity under the Public Safety Act and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act as they freely arrest, blind and kill innocent Kashmiris. He said that under the guise of security operations, Indian occupation forces arrest Kashmiris and keep them jailed without any charges. He said that Yasin Malik, Syed Shabbir Shah, Aassiya Andarabi and hundreds of other Kashmiris be freed from prisons as they have been illegally imprisoned on trumped-up charges.

He strongly condemned the recent arrest of numerous Kashmiris during 'cordon and search operations' in Baramulla and areas in and around Srinagar. He stressed upon the international community, media and the civil society to help raise their voice over the grave human rights violations taking place in IOK. The global community must influence India towards halting the use of force against the people of Kashmir and allowing them to freely exercise their right to self-determination.

The President urged people from all walks of life to enthusiastically raise the Kashmir issue, highlight the human rights violations and help realize the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris on the upcoming Solidarity Day - marked on 5th February every year.