

## OVERSEAS KASHMIRIS, A CATALYST IN INTERNATIONALISING KASHMIR DISPUTE – MASOOD KHAN



Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the Pakistan-Kashmir diaspora community has become a catalyst for internationalising the Kashmir dispute; and this – almost 10 million strong – community has established robust inroads into the political, economic, social and commercial circles of the countries they reside in. The President made these remarks while meeting Chaudhry Pervez Iqbal Losar, Chairman European Union-Pakistan Friendship Federation Europe, who called on him here at Jammu and Kashmir House. Chaudhry Pervez apprised the President of the efforts of his organisation in raising the Kashmir issue and helping create awareness on the plight of the Kashmiris living under Indian oppression in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He praised the

President for his consistent endeavours in creating wider understanding on the Kashmir issue by reaching out to parliamentarians, opinion makers and civil society members in Europe. He also invited the President to visit Europe, where the EU-Pak Friendship Federation Europe would, in the near future, organise Kashmir seminars and conferences at parliaments of leading EU nations.

Sardar Masood said that the people Kashmir and Pakistan are indebted to our diaspora community for their sterling contributions towards raising awareness on Kashmir. He said that Pervez Losar and his organisation have played a pivotal role in taking the Kashmir issue to the streets and squares of European capitals by closely working with the European Parliament and engaging the general public.

The President especially praised the efforts of the EU-Pak Friendship Federation Europe for organising mass rallies and demonstrations across Europe on August 5, this year, marking the first anniversary of the military lockdown in IOJK. He reiterated the need to transform the Kashmir dispute into an international civil rights movement, mobilising masses on the scale of anti-Vietnam War and anti-Apartheid demonstrations witnessed in the last century.