

## *Policy Brief*

### **BLOODBATH IN KASHMIR**

The brutal violence in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), following the killing of Burhan Wani has once again reminded the UN and the international community of the ongoing sufferings of innocent Kashmiris. The rising tension between Indian Army and young Kashmiris in South Kashmir has engulfed mainly four districts: Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Kulgam. These districts have been particularly on the boil since July 8, when security forces shot dead the 21-year-old “freedom fighter”, Burhan Muzaffar Wani.



After this incident, clashes between security forces and protesters claimed 40 lives with a large number of casualties being reported from by the Indian and international media. More than 500 people are injured, several dozens of them seriously. Police describe Wani’s killing

as a major success in their campaign against separatist militants, placed curfew and restricted phones and internet to prevent the spread of demonstration.



As the death toll rises, Kashmiris are lamenting the lack of international condemnation for the violence meted out to them. The violence is the worst seen in the region for years. Leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Ali Gillani condemned the killing of Burhan and other Kashmiris. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said that the lack of condemnation from India and international actors proved that “Kashmiri lives did not matter”. All of Hurriyat leaders are in house arrest, and India has imposed E-CURFEW in IOK and suspended internet and telephone services.



Pakistan has expressed deep shock at the killing of Kashmiri leader Burhan Wani and many other civilians by the Indian military and paramilitary force.



Pakistan's Foreign Office summoned Indian High Commissioner and conveyed serious concern of Pakistan over the killing of Burhan Wani and other Kashmiri youth. Pakistan also launched diplomatic efforts and approached the five permanent members of UNSC to take notice of the tense situation in Kashmir and call on India to *respect human rights* of the people of Valley. The Foreign Secretary, Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry briefed the envoys of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States on Kashmir and expressed that such brutal use of force is not acceptable under any circumstances.



The Foreign Secretary called for a fair and transparent inquiry against individuals responsible for these killings. It was emphasized that oppressive measures cannot deter the valiant people of the Jammu and Kashmir from their demand of exercising their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.



*Pakistan House* recommends that the UN Secretary General must visit the Valley and forms an UN inquiry commission to investigate the ethnic cleansing by Indian government. Furthermore, ICRC, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch must be given access to

make independent reporting on the killings of Kashmiri youth. Pakistan House calls on state institutions to convince the UN to provide international humanitarian assistance to the victims of Indian Army's brutality. It is assessed that Indian security apparatuses are abducting civilians who were wounded during the week long violence perpetrated in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK)



