

JOINT LETTER FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC)
Immediate Appeal to Stop the Bloodshed in Rawalakot and Honour Pakistan’s Commitments
to the People of Azad Jammu and Kashmir
Date: 8 June 2026

To:

His Excellency the President of Pakistan
Islamabad, Pakistan

The Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan
Prime Minister’s Office
Islamabad, Pakistan

The Honourable Prime Minister
Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir
Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir

The Honourable Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) of Pakistan

Leaders of All Political Parties represented in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Subject: Immediate Appeal to Stop the Bloodshed in Rawalakot, Restore Civil and Political Rights in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Honour the Muzaffarabad Agreement, and Uphold Pakistan’s Obligations Toward the People of Jammu and Kashmir

Your Excellency, Honourable Prime Ministers, and Leaders of Political Parties,

We, the members of the Advisory Council of the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), write at an hour of grave sorrow, urgency and constitutional responsibility.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir is not an ordinary administrative unit of Pakistan. It is part of the disputed State of Jammu and Kashmir. Its constitutional, political and international status is inseparable from the United Nations Security Council and UNCIP resolutions, the continuing right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their future, and Pakistan’s own stated commitments before the world. The AJK Interim Constitution, 1974, itself recognises that the future status of Jammu and Kashmir is to be determined according to the freely expressed will of the people and relevant UNCIP resolutions.

Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed on 3 October 2025 that the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir “freely enjoy their civil and political rights” and that Pakistan remains committed to “upholding their dignity, safeguarding their rights, including the right to peaceful assembly and protest, respecting their sentiments, and advancing their socioeconomic development.” The same statement described this not only as a constitutional responsibility but as Pakistan’s enduring moral obligation to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Today, in the aftermath of what has happened and is continuing to happen in Rawalakot and other towns and cities across AJK, we ask: where is that commitment now?

Rawalakot Is a Breach of Trust

The reports emerging from Rawalakot between 7 and 8 June 2026 are horrifying. The funeral prayers of Shazaib Habib, who was killed after the attack on the convoy of prominent civil rights leader Sardar Umer Nazir Kashmiri, were reportedly obstructed. Thousands of mourners gathered to offer funeral

prayers. Instead of allowing a peaceful religious and civic gathering, reports indicate the use of tear gas, shelling, pellet guns, rubber bullets and live fire against civilians.

Because internet, mobile and WhatsApp communication remain restricted, the full facts require urgent independent verification. However, public reporting has already confirmed deaths, arrests, unrest and severe restrictions on information from Rawalakot and other parts of AJK. Local reports allege a much higher civilian death toll and hundreds injured. Families are reporting missing persons, denial of access to injured civilians, restrictions at Combined Military Hospital Rawalakot, house raids, intimidation of women and children, and arrests of young people.

These allegations are so grave that they cannot be ignored, dismissed or hidden behind a communications blackout or false propaganda by Pakistani media channels against JKJAAC. If even a fraction of these reports is true, what has happened in Rawalakot is not merely a law-and-order incident. It is a breach of trust, a human rights emergency, and a serious violation of Pakistan's own stated commitments toward the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

JKJAAC and the People of AJK Are Not Enemies

The Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee and the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir are not enemies.

- They are not terrorists.
- They are not foreign agents.
- They are not acting against the people of Pakistan.

They are citizens, mourners, workers, traders, students, lawyers, mothers, fathers and young people demanding dignity, justice, accountable governance, implementation of written agreements, fair representation and democratic rights.

Pakistan cannot claim before the world that Kashmiris in AJK enjoy civil and political rights while simultaneously imposing communications blackouts, banning civil rights movements, preventing funeral prayers, firing upon mourners, denying medical access to the injured, and conducting raids against civilian homes.

Pakistan cannot condemn the denial of fundamental freedoms in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir while permitting the same language of "security", "anti-terrorism" and "law and order" to be used against peaceful civil rights mobilisation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself recognised the right of the people of AJK to peaceful assembly and protest.

We ask the Government of Pakistan to prove that commitment now — not through statements, but through immediate action.

The Muzaffarabad Agreement Must Be Honoured

This crisis did not emerge in a vacuum.

The Charter of Demands of JKJAAC was accepted in principle by the Government of Pakistan and the Government of the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Muzaffarabad Agreement of 3–4 October 2025 was signed after negotiations involving federal ministers, the AJK Government, and the leadership of major political parties.

The Government of Pakistan acted as guarantor. The agreement was not a favour. It was a solemn political and moral undertaking.

Yet the agreement has not been implemented in letter and spirit. JKJAAC repeatedly raised concerns through dialogue, correspondence, implementation mechanisms and constitutional processes. Instead of honouring the agreement, responding to non-implementation, and engaging with JKJAAC through dialogue, the state has moved toward proscription, arrests, force and fear.

With this background, JKJAAC called a peaceful protest and Long March for 9 June 2026. Since 5 June 2026, however, there has been a crackdown. Between 7–8 June 2026, Rawalakot has witnessed what local people are describing as a massacre.

There is still time to pause. There is still time to reflect. There is still time to save lives. But that time is now.

Our Immediate Demands

We call upon the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and the leadership of all political parties to act immediately on the following demands.

1. Immediate Ceasefire and De-escalation

Order an immediate halt to firing, shelling, raids, coercive arrests, house searches and all violent operations against civilians, mourners, JKJAAC members and civil rights activists in Rawalakot and across Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

2. Allow Funeral Prayers and Burial Rites

Guarantee that funeral prayers and burial rites for Shazaib Habib and all deceased civilians are allowed to proceed peacefully, safely and with dignity, without interference from police, paramilitary or military forces.

3. Open CMH Rawalakot and All Hospitals to Injured Civilians

Ensure immediate, unconditional and safe medical access for all injured civilians at Combined Military Hospital Rawalakot and all other health facilities. No injured person should be arrested, intimidated or denied treatment.

4. Allow ICRC and Independent Humanitarian Access

Permit the International Committee of the Red Cross, independent doctors, emergency medical teams, human rights observers and humanitarian organisations to enter Rawalakot immediately to treat the injured, verify casualties, identify the dead, assist families, preserve evidence and report independently.

5. Publish Verified Lists of the Dead, Injured, Detained and Missing

Immediately publish verified lists of all deceased civilians, all injured persons, all arrested persons, all missing persons, and all bodies held by hospitals, police, paramilitary or military authorities. Families must be informed immediately.

6. Preserve Bodies and Evidence

Ensure that all bodies are preserved, identified and returned to families with dignity. Nobody should be removed, hidden, transferred, buried or altered without family consent, medical documentation and independent verification.

7. Restore Communications

Restore internet, mobile phone and WhatsApp services across Azad Jammu and Kashmir immediately. At minimum, emergency communications must be restored for hospitals, ambulances, families, lawyers, journalists, humanitarian workers and overseas relatives.

8. End House Raids and Collective Punishment

Immediately stop raids on civilian homes, intimidation of women and children, beatings, arbitrary arrests and harassment of families. No family should be punished for the civil rights activity of a relative.

9. Release Detainees or Produce Them Before Courts

Release all JKJAAC members, civil rights activists, peaceful protesters and detainees arrested in connection with the peaceful movement. Where any specific allegation exists against an individual, that person must be produced promptly before a competent court with access to lawyers and family.

10. Withdraw the Proscription of JKJAAC

Immediately withdraw the notification declaring JKJAAC a proscribed organisation. JKJAAC is a civil and political rights movement. Criminalising an entire peaceful public movement closes the door to dialogue and escalates the crisis.

11. Establish an Independent Judicial and Internationally Credible Inquiry

Constitute an independent judicial commission, with credible human rights observers, to investigate the killing of Shazaib Habib, the firing on funeral mourners, the reported deaths and injuries during 7–8 June, denial of medical treatment, removal or concealment of bodies, arbitrary arrests and disappearances, and the role of police, Punjab Constabulary, Frontier Constabulary, Rangers, paramilitary forces and military units. The report must be public.

12. Implement the Muzaffarabad Agreement

Publish within 48 hours a time-bound implementation roadmap for the Muzaffarabad Agreement of 3–4 October 2025, including departmental responsibility, legal instruments, deadlines, monitoring mechanisms and public reporting.

13. Resume Dialogue with JKJAAC

Open an immediate, safe, public and credible dialogue channel with the JKJAAC Core Committee and its designated negotiation team. Dialogue cannot take place under bullets, arrests, blackout and proscription.

14. Ask All Political Parties to Stand for Life and Rights

We call upon all political parties in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir to rise above party interest and publicly demand an end to the use of force, restoration of communications, access to medical treatment, protection of funeral prayers, release or production of detainees before courts, implementation of the Muzaffarabad Agreement, and a political solution through dialogue. Silence at this hour will be remembered.

This Is a Moment for Statesmanship

Your Excellency, Honourable Prime Ministers, and Leaders of Political Parties, The people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir have carried Pakistan's moral argument on Kashmir for decades. They have stood as witnesses to the unresolved status of Jammu and Kashmir. They have defended dignity, identity and the right of self-determination.

They must not now be treated as a security problem.

If Pakistan's commitment to Kashmir is genuine, then the first duty is to protect Kashmiri lives in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The first step is to stop the killing. The first proof of commitment is to allow the injured to be treated, the dead to be buried, the detained to be accounted for, and the people to speak.

We therefore appeal to you:

**Pause. Reflect. Act. Save lives. Stop the killing of innocent protesters.
The time to act is now.**

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Advisory Council

Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC) Advisory Council

Rawalakot AJK 8 June 2026

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