

FAILURE OF ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION: A CASE OF DISMAL STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KASHMIR AND PALESTINE

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Abstract

A profound observation of human rights endorses democratic norms, socio-political stability, economic prosperity, and the rule of law. Almost all developed states ensure their citizens with the protection of fundamental rights, and, in return, community plays a critical role in nation-building. Many human rights activists and organizations highlight the shortcomings behind the promulgation of laws for human security and plan to maintain security. Some developing states have failed to copy the developed states' human rights policy framework, especially regarding the protection of human rights. They are either trying to deprive their minorities of fundamental rights or confiscating their territories while pushing them into deteriorated conditions. India and Israel are two prominent examples of this connection. This study, therefore, analyses how India is dealing with its minorities, especially Muslims in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. It also calls attention to the expansionist policy of Israel, disposing of Palestinians from their territory, thus experiencing the worst form of human rights violations. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has also forgotten the objectives of its formation. Its leadership is dormant, which has paved the way for India and Israel to inflict more aggression on innocent Muslims. The study suggests that OIC leadership should be more active, saving Muslims from the worst kinds of human rights violations.

Keywords: Kashmir, Palestine, OIC, Human Rights, Violation.

Introduction

From Magna Carta to the bill of rights, from an authoritarian regime to a democratic society, no one has declined the value of human rights. They are indispensable for democratic institutions and the realisation of best selves. The observation of human rights creates increasing enlightenment levels and peoples' quest for equality and dignity.¹ However, in Kashmir and Palestine, this preposition has lost its meaning as both territories are experiencing the least observation of human rights. India and Israel victimize the inhabitants (Muslims) of both regions while alleging them to promote Islamic militancy. History reveals how Indians and Israelis illegally occupied the areas and used institutionalized impunity to bring these territories under their control. A brief history of Kashmir and Palestine can clear the picture much better.

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Kashmir has remained a dispute between Pakistan and India since the partition of British India in 1947; unfortunately, it has fallen prey to Indian aggression. Kashmir was the only princely state (with a Muslim majority) that shared its boundary with Pakistan and India. Therefore, its ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh (1895-1961), who could appropriately join either, did not resist the immense pressure of Indian politicians and their supporters in the region. In October 1947, Indian military forces entered Kashmir unlawfully on a false pretext. The saga of the Kashmir conflict thus began at that very particular moment and continues.²

In 1954, the Indian government included Article 370 in the constitution, giving the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) a special status to justify their wrongdoings. The powers relating to foreign affairs, defence, communication, and currency were vested to India, and the State would handle the remaining ones. Unlike other states, due to denied territorial principles, Kashmiris could claim further arrangements if they found themselves unhappy with the measures of New Delhi. Nehru, who was an instrumental figure in shaping a special status for Kashmir, deployed forces to quell the vacillations of Sheikh Abdullah. At that time, Sheikh Abdullah was a prominent political figure (1947-82) who fought for the Kashmir cause.³ Since then, Kashmir's struggle for freedom begins that has taken much to end.

Furthermore, the unrest since 1988 gave birth to a new series of protests against Indian atrocities that turned into a freedom movement. New Delhi ignored and did not heed to resolve the issue through dialogue with Pakistan and Kashmiri leaders. Instead, India used troops against demonstrations which often resulted in numerous deaths of innocent Kashmiris. At the same time, the Indian political elite viewed aggression and suppression as a tool to quiet the voice of Kashmiris. However, the Indian oppressive model for curbing Khalistan Movement in the 1980s did not work in IIOJK. Kashmiris denied being a strategic pawn and wanted to assert their self-determination right.⁴ From the 1990s onward, Kashmiris have been victimized by Indian security forces through their extreme violence, such as fake encounters and extrajudicial killings, to curb the freedom movement. Map 1 presents a picture of Indian strategies devised for launching violent campaigns against innocent Kashmiris.

Map-1: Indian Boundary to Launch Operations in IIOJK

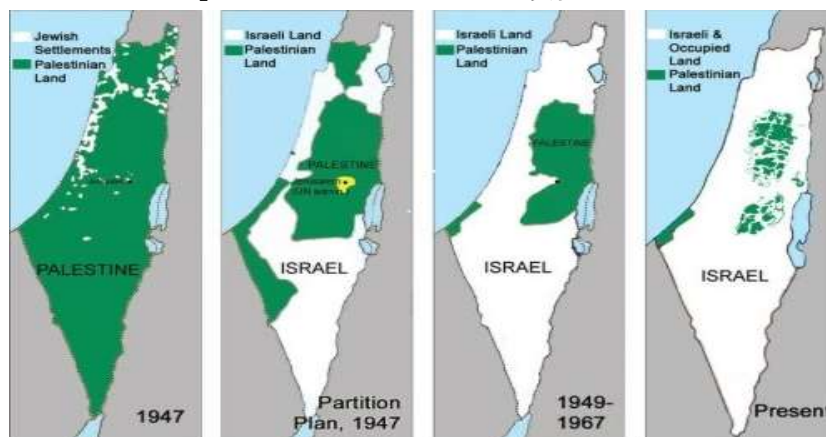


(Source: sajadbangash.files.wordpress.com⁵)

The Palestine-Israel conflict has its roots in the British promulgation of the Balfour Declaration (1917) to accommodate Jews. Lord Rothschild, a leader of the British Jews community, announced his memorandum on July 18, 1917, to enforce the declaration. He adopted the principle that Palestine should be reconstituted as a national home for Jews.⁶ British tried to propagate that only Jews could rebuild Palestine and get their lost place during World War I. The British lobby was to legalize Jews' settlement in Palestine and then manipulate it. The idea of rebuilding and reconstituting Palestine has proved wrong today.

The conflict shaped up in May 1947 when the region was divided between Palestine and Israel under the UN. According to this unlawful division, 54 percent area was given to Israel, and the rest of 46 percent was for Palestine. It seemed ambiguous if made based on population as Jews were 31.5 percent of the total population at that time. The division pushed Palestinians to launch the struggle for freedom. Jews were still unhappy with the division as they were eager to occupy a larger region. Since then, "the terror has become widely spread for Palestine."⁷ Palestinians started to struggle for their socio-economic development, but the western lobby deprived them off while giving undue favour to the ulterior motives of Jews. During the 1950s, all policies were devised to snatch more and more territories from Muslims in Palestine. The major powers equally supported these policies, such as Britain and the US. As a result, Israelis occupied most of the Palestinian territories in 1967.⁸ The year 1967 has an important place in the history of Palestine because of the legalized Israeli occupation on most of the Palestinian territories, and Jews' expansionist policy is still working for acquiring more lands to control.

Map-2: Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present



(Source: <https://www.guengl.eu>)

Map 2 tells the whole story of the Israeli annexation policy that has converted Palestinians into a minority in their land. It covers the era from 1947 to date while presenting Palestinian territories in green colour, which appears to be faded rapidly on the map from left to right.

The Israeli government designated July 1, 2020, as the process date for formal annexation of Palestinian West Bank swathes. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Minister of Defence Benny Grantz considered this annexation a key promise they had made during their electoral campaign after searching for political support from the Trump administration through the Peace to Prosperity plan of January 2020.¹⁰ The purpose was to provide the apartheid system with a legal cover which Israel has practiced over past decades. The program seeks Israel to manipulate the city of Jerusalem completely, legalise illegal settlement of Jews in the West Bank and annex the Jordan Valley.¹¹ Palestinians rejected the deal of the century and named it a deception, being an imposition.

An analysis of history contemplates that IIOJK and Palestine-Israel conflicts have many repercussions in the wider Islamic world. India considers Kashmir as its province lost to *dar-al-Islam*. That is why it creates a blend of socio-economic problems for Muslims to get it back. Similarly, Muslim Arabs want to establish an independent state.¹² Restoring peace in both cases is still conditional on India and Israel's approaches to dealing with Muslims. But, the current state of Indo-Israel relations makes observers pessimistic in this notion. Their cooperation in nuclearization is a clear signal that they have acquired a similar nature and capability for creating more implications for their Muslim communities. Mahwish Hafeez describes their common aggression-based psyche in the following way:

*India and Israel share a common national psyche which makes them natural allies. Both have been extending their respective roles in [illegally occupied] Muslim lands. India and Israel see themselves as democracies surrounded by hostile and implacable adversaries. In their perception, no other two countries in the world have suffered so much.*¹³

This research, therefore, revolves around human rights violations in IIOJK and Palestine. It deals with the political motives of India and Israel, where they seem to manipulate the referred territories of Muslims. Historical facts reveal different strategies adopted to snatch the land from Muslims and convert them into a minority. Accordingly, India and Israel introduced several laws to victimize Muslims in their territories. Recently, a couple of amendments in the Indian constitution regarding the status of IIOJK have deprived Kashmiris of their due rights and status. The same has been the case with Palestine since the 1960s. Israel has acquired far-fetched support from western powers and introduced many laws to de-shape Palestine. This paper also analyses the humanitarian aspect of these conflicts. It reflects the least observation of human rights in Kashmir and Palestine, particularly women and children who are suffering the most. It must be a shock for international media. Not to speak of the international community, even OIC has been dormant, resulting in soaring problems for Muslims in these lands.

Violation of Human Rights in IIOJK

Indian violent activities against Kashmiris have been a routine, but 1989 can be marked with the worst beginning in this context. Thousands of people were humiliated, tortured, injured, and killed. Many people lost their beloved children, daughters, sisters, mothers and some women lost their husbands due to the cycle of violence prevalent in IIOJK. Under this pitiful condition, thousands of houses and shops were burnt down, clinched their dwellings, and restrained their economic activities.¹⁴ With a rise in the influence of the *Bhartiya Junta Party* (BJP) on Indian politics during the 1990s and the early 21st century, Kashmiris had to suffer more.

BJP has been ruling India with an ideology of Hindu nationalism since 2014 that has caused an irreversible loss to the life security of Muslims in India, especially Kashmiris. Under the Modi government, the duration from 2016 to 2018 has witnessed the worst human rights violation in Kashmir Valley (IIOJK). On July 8, 2016, the Indian force martyred 22-year-old Burhan Wani, a leader of *Hizbul Mujahidin*, in the Bandoura village. There triggered protests against his killing. Females were also there in the demonstrations, which had not been participating in the past before this incident. These protests appeared to involve more people than in the 1980s, 1990s, 2008, and 2010. Indian forces responded to demonstrations with weapons and committed atrocities against Kashmiris. The aggression of Indian troops led to casualties and a wide range of alleged related human rights violations in IIOJK.¹⁵

Indian violence against Kashmiri Muslims rose due to the Pulwama attack. It was frustration and depression that led to committing such violent acts to negate Indian brutal practices. On February 14, 2019, a young Kashmiri committed a suicide attack in which more than 40 Indian soldiers were killed. He represented Kashmiri youth suffering from unstoppable Indian brutalities.¹⁶ This incident led to increased extrajudicial killings in Kashmir to 162, which was 119 in 2018. Indian forces claimed these killings because of counterinsurgency operations. They are killing innocent people in the name of counterinsurgency, and people are finding ways to hurt them back. A report of Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) reveals the state of frustration among Kashmiris in such a way:

These acts are the substantive tool to frustrate the Kashmiri people, as it's not the killing of one individual but the killing of a generation who wants to take revenge at any cost, thus adopting the unfair and unlawful means to do so. It's the violation of fundamental human rights of liberty, freedom of speech, thought, opinion, and religion. These acts restrain the rights of movement, self-esteem, respect, and dignity of the Kashmiri people.¹⁷

Under this dismal state of human rights, Indian and international media have been reluctant to show an accurate picture of state-sponsored violence in IIOJK. The Indian government is not ready to disclose the facts to the public; however, foreign researchers and authors like Christophe Jaffrelot have highlighted many inhumane killing practices in IIOJK. Among these, rape is the worst form of torture. Others may include “strangulation by steel wire, hanging, branding with red hot irons, burning alive,

lynching, gouging of eyes before the assassination, slicing, dismemberment of bodies, drowning alive and slaughter.”¹⁸

The use of institutionalized impunity has also become the order of the day in IIOJK, allowing Indian armed forces to commit atrocities towards Kashmiris, which has raised the graph of human rights violations unprecedentedly. Recently, the BJP government has repealed Article 370 to eliminate the special status of IIOJK and declare Ladakh and IIOJK as Indian Union territories. The abrogation of Article 35A has also paved the way for Indians to apply for citizenship of IIOJK. Any outsider (Hindu) can invest in Kashmir to boost economic activities. Political experts and thinkers believe that these measures of the BJP government will be working as the last nail in the coffin for soaring human rights violations in IIOJK. They opine that India has adopted the Israeli model to change statistics and convert Kashmiris into a minority on their land. Like Israel, India (BJP) has decided to increase the number of Hindus in the region and establish IIOJK as a Hindu majority territory.

Furthermore, increasing the number of extra-judicial killings in IIOJK has been terrible and inhumane to decrease the number of Muslims in the region.¹⁹ Resultantly, the *Hindutva* followers have influenced Indian politics badly regarding IIOJK that has pushed the State into a lockdown since August 5, 2019. Kashmiris have been deprived of communication facilities, their fiscal activities are now limited to an extreme level, and they do not have access to educational institutions. Such least observation of human rights in IIOJK has triggered another ray of freedom among Kashmiris from the clutches of cruel and extremist Hindu leadership. In 2021, after two years, the Modi government stripped Kashmiris of their limited autonomy. Their political activities are in a deep freeze; businesses are struggling, and most importantly, public rights are being suppressed through stringent laws.²⁰

Another aspect of human rights violation in IIOJK is violence against women, which international media and organizations have mostly neglected. UNSC has adopted resolution-1325 on the security and protection of women. It guarantees their safety through institutional arrangements, especially during an armed conflict. Unfortunately, this resolution is not being practiced by the Indian government that has caused colossal damage to the security of women in IIOJK.²¹ Dr. Shireen M. Mazari, Federal Minister for Human Rights in Pakistan, elaborates that rape has been used as a weapon of war. The same practice can be seen in IIOJK, where Indian security forces hunt Kashmiri women without fearing action against them. Mobina Ghani was raped in 1990, and no action was taken against officials involved. In July 1990, another rape case was filed against Indian border security forces but did not meet with any decision. Similarly, Indian soldiers used to go to Kunan and Poshpora villages, where they separated women from their men and raped them. Those who survived these attacks are still fighting for justice. Unfortunately, the international community is dormant and still has not done much.²²

Human Rights Abuse in Palestine

The current scenario reflects that Israel is the only country followed by India, involved in violent practices to victimize innocent Palestinians. In 2013, Israel accepted or partially accepted the recommendations of Amnesty International to end impunity being enjoyed by Israeli forces while hurting the human rights situation in Palestine. But, most of the recommendations have been denied by the Israeli army, private security guards, and police, who have continued to use excessive and lethal force against innocent people. This use of force has led to numerous unlawful killings, “including possible extrajudicial executions.”²³ The Israeli government also encourages its settlers to commit atrocities against Palestinians. The settlers attack them, harass them, damage their property and inflict physical violence that often results in injury and death.²⁴

There is no rule of law and active institutions in Israel which can provide Muslims in Palestine with justice. There is a long list of biased decisions of the Israeli judiciary that has brought the human rights situation to the lowest ebb in Gaza. The death of Abdel Fattah Al-Sharif on March 24, 2016, in Hebron at the hands of Elor Azaria, an Israeli soldier, has sparked a widespread public debate. Elor was just found guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to 18 months in January 2017, blaming that ‘he has violated the Israeli army’s rules of engagement.’ Similarly, two Israelis were charged with the murder of three members of the *Dawabsheh* family in 2016 and were released after minor punishments.²⁵

There are rare cases in which Israeli soldiers and settlers are given severe punishments after martyring Palestinians. But, this severity does not meet with the death penalty either. For example, in 2016, the Jerusalem court charged Yousaf Bin David with the murder of 16-year-old Muhammad Abu Khdeir in July 2014. Despite all the witnesses and proof to hang him after a fair trial, Yousaf was sentenced to life imprisonment. These facts reveal that the investigation process in Israel to convict its soldiers and settlers has fallen far short of international standards. The number of violent attacks is soaring day by day. In most cases, Israeli soldiers and immigrants are not held accountable despite solid evidence that a crime occurred.²⁶

Under the recommendations of Amnesty International of 2013, Israel promised to minimize administrative detention use and promulgate the concept according to international standards. Nonetheless, a status quo and incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law can be seen as an alternate use to arrest, charge, and prosecute suspected Palestinians, justifying through even insufficient evidence. Most of the suspects are held under administrative detention solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association. Currently, the number of detained Palestinians has increased rapidly. For instance, the number of Palestinians held under administrative detention was 135 in October 2013, which soared dramatically to 447 until June 2017.²⁷

Like India, gender-based violence (GBV) has become the most extensive form of violence in the Gaza strip. Night raids, arrests, restrictions on freedom of movement,

and aid entering the Gaza strip are the significant components of this aggression that have invigorated tense situations for women. The acts of aggression towards Palestinian women utilized by Israeli forces are also in direct contradiction with international human rights laws. These acts have caused disastrous effects on the sense of safety of women and girls in the West Bank and Gaza. The lack of humanitarian aid resources has a detrimental impact on women. It has weakened them to such an extent that they cannot tackle violence against them in a suitable manner.²⁸

Violation of the right to health is another constituent of discrimination against women in Palestine. Usually, women with chronic diseases have been denied access to health services in Gaza. The most terrible thing is that many pregnant women have to wait for long periods at checkpoints during their travel to access healthcare centres. The Committee against Torture (CAT), time and again, has condemned this inhuman treatment of women at checkpoints that often cause delays or denials of passage even in emergency cases. CAT has also called on Israel several times to ensure that its soldiers go for humane and respectful ways for security controls. It can bring a sigh of relief for women in sensitive situations.²⁹

Social media is the most effective tool to raise a voice against violence anywhere in the world. Muslims in Palestine are also trying to use this tool, but Israel is trying to destroy the media in Palestine that makes Palestinians able to access their relatives. The Israeli authorities have arrested many Palestinians for social media posts. They have charged them with incitement, relying on overly broad laws and military orders that could be seen to include peaceful criticism of Israeli policies. According to a human rights group, Addameer, 350 Palestinians have been arrested over the charges of this incitement.³⁰ The absence of a communication system in Palestine has given birth to new violent practices like kidnapping young girls who often meet with misfortune in being raped by Israeli soldiers. There is no check and balance on these criminal activities because Palestinians do not have access to information technology to trace such cases.

More recently, inhuman acts of Israelis to occupy *Al-Aqsa* Mosque (the former *Qibla* of the Muslims) terrorized Muslims. The Israeli leadership claimed that Palestinians were provided with rockets and missiles by Turkey and Syria to fight against Israeli forces. To justify attacks and occupation, the chief supporters of Israel equally seconded these lame excuses, especially the US. No doubt, OIC and some other Muslim organizations condemned violent behaviour, but until heinous acts were convicted, they had damaged the Palestinian integrity and solidarity.

In October 2020, an Israeli court ruled that several Palestinian families, who were the residents of Shaikh Jarrah, would be evicted by May 2021 with their land handed over to Jewish families. In February 2021, they filed an appeal against forcible displacement from their homes in Jerusalem, but all in vain. In return, Palestinians launched a series of protests in late April 2021. On May 10, 2021, Hamas was reported to launch hundreds of rockets in Israeli territory. The Israeli forces responded with airstrikes and artillery bombardments for 11 days, leaving hundreds of Palestinians dead.³¹ Unfortunately, OIC member states could not ensure their full-fledged support

for Palestinians; instead, they got divided based on sects and demands of their western allies.

Role of OIC

The formation of OIC in 1969 was one of the earliest fruits of decolonization. The global political scenario was another factor behind the appearance. Muslims were being suppressed, especially in the Middle East, which forced Muslim leadership to be united to cope with individual and collective problems and promote universal peace. The event of *Al-Aqsa* Mosque fire in Jerusalem in August 1969 became an immediate cause to consolidate 25 Muslim states (now 57) into a unit. Saudi Arabia became headquarters of this pan-Islamic organization from where it could serve as “the collective voice of the Muslim world and seeks to both safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.”³²

The mandate of OIC included the promotion of all-around cooperation among its members, protection of Islamic holy places, and eradication of racialism and colonialism. Its charter was composed to consolidate a bond of fraternity among its member states and secure the members' common interests and legitimate causes. It also emphasized coordinating to overcome the Islamic world's overall challenges, preserve the rights of self-determination, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of each member, and promote good governance, democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law at national and international levels.³³

Unfortunately, the objectives mentioned above are still to be achieved. Likewise, the miserable condition of human rights in Kashmir and Palestine witnesses a failure of OIC as it has not taken adequate steps or has not been able to convince India and Israel to join dialogue for resolving the disputes. The UN and OIC resolutions regarding Kashmir and Palestine conflicts are still unimplemented. Although a Special Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir was adopted in the 7th, 10th, and 11th sessions of OIC, all previous resolutions on Kashmir are still to be practiced.³⁴ A delay in implementing plans and policies has increased human rights violations in IIOJK at an alarming pace. Arguably, India has never allowed OIC fact-finding missions to visit IIOJK and has not responded favourably to OIC's offer of good offices.

In 2016, the organization paid attention to the deteriorated human rights and unabated killings in IIOJK and called for resolution through peaceful means. OIC Secretary-General Iyad Madani urged the international community to act as “the situation is getting worse rather than better, and this cannot continue.”³⁵ In 2017, the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers condemned India's acts of terrorism in IIOJK and demanded UNSC implement resolutions on the disputed territory.³⁶ Pakistan drafted a strongly worded resolution in 2018 against the violation of human rights in IIOJK by Indian authorities. The draft was presented in the meeting of OIC Contact Groups on Kashmir in New York on September 26, 2018.³⁷

In the annual session of 2019, OIC favoured resolution on the Kashmir issue through dialogue. President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan clearly stated that OIC has set aside an oppressive Indian approach on the subject and supported resolution through dialogue. He added that "the Kashmir movement is gaining recognition in the international community with India's war crimes in Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK) being castigated. The only way forward is through dialogue between Pakistan and India."³⁸ On June 22, 2020, the Contact Group of OIC had held a meeting in the Republic of Azerbaijan against the backdrop situation in IIOJK. Participants of the forum called on UNSC to make India abide by its resolutions and dialogue about the best solution. The Contact Group also warned India and asked it to halt security operations against Kashmiris immediately. The group emphasized that India must respect human rights, refrain from changing the demographic structure of the Valley, and settle the conflict under relevant UNSC resolutions.³⁹

Now, it is a turn of OIC developments and initiatives to get people out of trouble in Israel-occupied Palestine, where Israeli forces and settlers are victimizing citizens. In 2013, OIC strongly condemned the attacks of Israeli settlers against innocent Palestinian, their properties, and holy places, which were equally supported by Israeli forces. It stressed UNSC for warning Israel to hold its immigrants and leaders accountable for their crimes. It also condemned Israel's refusal to allow UNESCO technical mission to investigate attacks on holy places in the city of Jerusalem. The organization welcomed UN resolution A/RES/68/12 adopted on November 26, 2013, to proclaim 2014 as 'the international year of solidarity with the Palestinian public.'⁴⁰ The OIC Summit, titled "United for Just Resolution" was hosted by Jakarta in 2016 at the request of Palestinian President Mahmood Abbas. Forty-nine members attended the session. President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain took a position and spoke categorically about the apartheid policies of Israel. He called for a just resolution for the plight of refugees in Palestine under UN General Assembly Resolution 194(III) of December 11, 1948. He included that UNSC must implement its resolution-1860 to ensure the security of victims in Palestine.⁴¹

In Istanbul, the Islamic Summit adopted a resolution in its seventh extraordinary session held on May 18, 2018. The adopted resolution aimed at highlighting the least development in Palestine. OIC encouraged Muslim states to raise a voice to protect the rights of Palestinians in UN sessions.⁴² On June 10, 2020, OIC made another attempt to restrain Israel's annexation policy. The Executive Committee of OIC has called on the international community, notably the UN General Assembly and UNSC, to take practical measures on an urgent basis to prevent Israel's colonial annexation of yet more Palestinian land. In the session, the member states assured that restoration of peace in Palestine would automatically lead to stability of the whole Middle East region.⁴³ Recently, Imran Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has called upon OIC members in December 2021 to make a unified plan to help oppressed people in Palestine and IIOJK. In the 17th extraordinary session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, Imran Khan stated that Palestinians and Kashmiris are looking for a unified response from the Muslim world about their democratic and human rights. He

appreciated the efforts of OIC for restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan and suggested putting the same measures to cope with Kashmir and Palestine issues.⁴⁴

Israel and India have become more aggressive in exploiting the situation in IIOJK and Palestine. Israel has eyes on establishing its legitimacy as a Jewish state, and India has found ways to force Kashmiris to vacate the Valley. They have not defeated Kashmir and Palestine but all OIC members who have fallen victims to disunity. Historical examples of Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Libya are repeated. Egypt broke with OIC and Arab League in 1978 and established relations with Israel. This unilateral approach of Egypt towards Israel made defiant of the charters of OIC and UN, and the act was declared a violation of international law. In 1992, OIC met another failure when *Al-Quds* Committee was formed to initiate *Jihad* against Israel. Libya, Syria, and Iraq secured national interests in Arab politics and created factions within the Palestinian diaspora.⁴⁵ The same is the case with the performance of OIC in Kashmir.

Undoubtedly, Muslims in Kashmir and Palestine have suffered a lot under the authoritarian rule of India and Israel, respectively. There is a severe threat to their territorial integration, political stability, and regional peace. Violation of human rights in both regions is a wake-up call for the international community. It can launch multiple campaigns to warn India and Israel while using platforms of existing human rights organizations. While using the platform of OIC, the Muslim community should get united to address the causes of Kashmiris and Palestinians. They should make their organizations, significantly OIC, active for that purpose. The following can be adopted to get Kashmir and Palestine out of trouble.

First and foremost, all Muslim leaders should curb human rights violations in Kashmir and Palestine, and OIC should work on common objectives. Decisions made by the OIC committee should be binding for all member states. International media should not apply yellow journalism to promote terror in the world. It should not interpret Islam as a propagator of terrorism, extremism, and militancy; instead, it should highlight those Islamic teachings assuring universal peace. The media should find an unbiased way to present the dismal state of human rights in Kashmir and Palestine. International human rights organizations can make transparent decisions that will earn a sigh of relief for the victims. Muslim states should launch an international channel from the platform of OIC. It can help share unpleasant events with the whole Muslim community to act urgently.

All OIC member states should observe unity to define their collective stance against the violent nature of India and Israel. OIC leadership should influence UNSC and UN General Assembly to implement respective resolutions urgently so that Muslims in both regions can get rid of violent practices. Additionally, it can help them acquainted with recent events around the world. OIC members should foil Islamophobia attempts by making the Islamic teachings understandable for western society and other non-Muslims worldwide.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the reluctance of OIC members has caused an irreversible loss to Muslim *Ummah*. The pathetic situation of Muslims in IIOJK and Palestine reflects that reality. OIC keeps on neglecting the atrocities committed by extremist Hindus against Kashmiris and the aggression of Jews on Palestinians. In that case, the day will come when Muslims would have lost their respective territories. Muslims in these regions will become a symbol of deprivation. There is a dire need for a quick and collective action to free innocents from the clutches of the narrow-mindedness of Hindus and Jews. There is always a silver lining in the dark cloud; therefore, OIC members should not lose heart; instead should take initiatives to ensure protection for human rights. It should move to international law enforcement agencies to mark limits of aggressors. In addition to that, the international community and media should condemn brutal acts against Muslims in India and Israel.

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