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**Kashmiris are not for Pakistan**

Sir,

Through a propaganda offensive an impression is being sought to be created that all Kashmiri Muslims are for joining Pakistan. To prove the point, the support being received by the pro Pakistan element from the people for its calls for *bandhs* and demonstrations, is being cited. It must be understood that the pro Pakistan element in Kashmir wields the gun and the gun, as we know, can make one do lot of things. Let Pakistan drop the gun and show how many Muslims are on its side. The Muslims gave a befitting rebuff to Pakistan in all the three wars it has fought with India over Kashmir. It is only after 1989, when Pakistan started pushing in terrorists into Kashmir that the pro-Pakistan element has been able to raise its head in Kashmir.

As a matter of fact the people who are faced with terrorism are not so much concerned with ideologies and causes, as they are with their security, and have a tendency to flock around the winning side. When the terrorists have the upper hand they are with them and when the Security Forces dominate, they switch back to loyalty towards the government. Punjab may be taken as a case in point. There was a time when a large majority appeared to be pro-Khalistan, while today there is rarely the one who appears so.

Why talk of only those Kashmiri Muslims who are supporting the terrorists because of compulsions of security. What about those who are bravely standing up to it. Let us not forget that they went out to vote in face of threats of having their hands and fingers maimed – threats that were not only made, but also carried out a number of times. May be only 10% went out to vote (as alleged) but then how many other states in India could boast of even this percentage of brave people who would go to vote under such circumstances. It is also a fact that behind every success of the Security Forces there is the "tip off", from none other than the Muslims, which continues to flow-in despite the brutality with which even those suspected of having links with the Security Forces are treated by the terrorists.

All those who have even the slightest knowledge of how insurgencies are planned and carried out would know that the call for securing the right of 'self-determination' for the people of Kashmir is nothing but a political stunt. In military parlance is termed as the "rallying cry" aimed at providing to the people a noble cause to fight for. Otherwise Pakistan has never been known to follow the principle of self-determination as a matter of creed. It will accept the verdict of 'self-determination' only if it goes in its favour. If it had been otherwise why should it have scuttled the issue before the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) could set the process of UN sponsored plebiscite in motion way back in 1949. Evidently, notwithstanding its professions at the UN and before its mentors in the Western Block, it developed cold feet when it came to actually facing the plebiscite. With the atrocities committed by the Pakistan sponsored raiders still fresh in the minds of the people of Kashmir, Pakistan could not have expected the outcome of the plebiscite in 1949, to go in its favour. It, therefore, threw a spanner in the wheel that brought the process of the plebiscite to a grinding halt. With what face is Pakistan then championing the cause of self-determination for the Kashmiris.

Pakistan could not also have been unaware of the fact that the people of Kashmir had welcomed the entry of the Indian Army into Kashmir to save them from the "liberators". Pakistan would have known that while there were no troops in Srinagar for maintaining law and order, during the crucial six days after the invasion and before the induction of Indian troops, not a soul

stirred in the Town to protest against the Maharaja seeking a union with India. This way a plebiscite had, indeed, already been carried out and it had gone in favour of India.

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