



# ORGANISATION OF KASHMIR COALITION (OKC)

## BREAKING NEWS

### Professor Nazir Ahmed Shawl The icon of the Kashmir Movement passes away

London, Brussels, Geneva (29 December 2023): It is with heaviest of hearts that OKC (and its partners) announce the passing away of Professor Nazir Ahmed Shawl aged 77, one of the true pioneers in the Kashmir Movement in a London hospital following a brief illness (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). He was surrounded by his close family and loved ones at the time of his passing away.

The passing away of Professor Shawl shall no doubt be mourned beyond the boundaries of Jammu & Kashmir. An icon to the self-determination issue of the entire state of Jammu & Kashmir, his untimely passing away is a severe loss to all.

Barrister Abdul Majid Trambo led the tributes in saying, *"We have not just lost a dedicated leader, but we have lost a true family man and I have lost someone who is truly my brother. He has left this world for the eternal abode in the world hereafter. However, his fearless legacy stays with us."*

Professor Shawl was born in Baramulla on 13 October 1946. A multilingual person, an educationalist, a poet, a human rights defender and, most importantly a family man.

He graduated in sciences from the Jammu and Kashmir University, post-graduated in Botany from the Kashmir University, specialising in ecology, post-graduated in education from The Himachal Pradesh University.

Professor Shawl has held different positions in his professional career that includes being a professor and researcher in Botany, field advisor Sciences, coordinator UNICEF assisted project PECR, member Board of Undergraduate Studies in Botany, University of Kashmir and Chief Test Administrator Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS-Bombay).

Prof Shawl's writings have highlighted his concerns about the human rights of the people in different conflict areas but championed the Kashmir cause and extreme serious human rights gross violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). He has been chief editor of Kashmir Press International, a news agency. Professor Shawl instituted a think tank, together with other activists, known as South Asia Centre for Peace and Human Rights of which he is the chairman.



International Commission  
for Human Rights



South Asia Centre  
for Peace & Human Rights



Kashmir  
Women's Movement



## IMWU

International Muslim  
Women's Union

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Professor Shawl led the project to have a coalition organisation on the Kashmir issue for one point agenda namely Kashmiris Right to Self-Determination and successfully founded OKC, which is a collaboration of Kashmiri organisations and non-governmental organisations. He led the Kashmir Movement in the United Kingdom through Kashmir Centre, London and engaged in policy making institutions like Royal United Services (RUSI), Chatham House, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), Conciliation Resources, International Alert and Mediation Ireland. Indeed, Professor was a tall Kashmiri leader who advocated the cause of Kashmir daringly. He has urged upon everyone to unite on the “Kashmiris Right to Self-Determination.”

Professor Shawl has authored several books including his award-winning book known as *Weeping Wisdom*. His last book titled as “*Baramulla to Burnham – my wanderings*” is currently under publication.

Recalling the Annual Labour Party conference at Liverpool, Barrister Tramboos exemplified the character of Professor Shawl, “*On 25 September 2019, in Liverpool, at the UK Labour Party Conference Kashmir Fringe Meeting – Professor Shawl had received a message that his Mother passed away on the day of the conference. It was devastating news for him. Nonetheless, Professor Shawl gathered the courage and determination, in the most extra-ordinary situation, to lead the conference. It was extraordinary to witness the steel of his character in such circumstances.*”

In a message to all the concerned and humanity from his hospital bed, he dictated the following as quoted verbatim:

*“I am grateful to Allah for bestowing me that I deserved. I have seen adversity but at the same time I was in a glorious light of my Lord. I did what I could. I met extraordinary people who polished my thoughts and I tried to determine the meaning of existence. I made a successful effort in that direction. I would like my friends to remain satisfied with the decision of my Lord:”*

ولایت پادشاہی علم اشیا کی جہانگیری  
یہ سب کیا ہیں؟ فقط اک نکتہ ایمان کی تفسیر میں

*I urge one and all to stand united on one point agenda – The Kashmiris Right to Self Determination.*

*I am hopeful that my Lord will forgive me and have mercy on my beloved partner Mrs Shamim Shawl who remained by my side throughout during the two Corona attacks; Alhamdulillah. I would like my children and all other people live in peace and love and preserve the family tradition.”*



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OKC extends its sincerest condolences to Mrs Shamim Shawl and all members and friends of the Shawl family at this extremely sad time. The family will update the diaspora and more on the funeral arrangements for Professor Shawl. He will never be forgotten as a man with integrity, nobility, and peace in his approach to all matters in life.

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