



Statement, delivered during the Interactive Dialogue with Working Group on Arbitrary Detention at the 51st Session of Human Rights Council

19 September 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the Working Group for the annual report and its thematic focus on secret detention in the context of counter-terrorism and torture.

We echo concerns over the systematic use of secret detentions in the wake of 9/11 and its grave human rights impacts on Muslim individuals and communities.

We reiterate our call for review of security laws that enable secret detentions, and hinder legal remedy and reparation to the victims.

We also draw the Working Group's attention towards systematic use of secret detentions and torture by occupation regimes, often under the cover of dubious anti-terrorism laws, to suppress people engaged in legitimate struggle for self-determination.

This trend has been extensively recorded in the case of occupied Jammu & Kashmir. During the last three years, India has intensified use of secret detentions and torture to silence Kashmiri resistance against illegal demographic change of their homeland.

In the run-up to 05th August 2019, and days following it, India resorted to the world's largest illegal detention campaign. India has itself admitted that its security forces illegally arrested more than 13,000 Kashmiris, including children as young as 09 years old.

Hundreds of Kashmiri civilians, leaders and human rights defenders are still languishing in jails on trumped up charges. The prolonged secret detention of Yasin Malik, Asiya Andrabi, Khurram Pervaiz and Asif Sultan exemplify India's state-terrorism and disdain for fundamental human rights principles and norms.

We, therefore, urge the Working Group to call on India to release all illegally detained Kashmiris, repeal draconian anti-terrorism laws, provide access to independent media and accept UN-led investigation.