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National statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under Agenda Item 2 at the 48th session of the Human Rights Council

(14 September 2021)

Story title:

“The Indian State machinery, from a pliant judiciary to a hand-picked local bureaucracy, has become a veritable arm of oppression in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir”, Pakistan Envoy in Geneva warns the UN Human Rights Council

Madam President,

We thank the High Commissioner for alerting the Council once again to India’s grave human rights violations in Occupied Jammu&Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

The devastating human rights impacts of India’s illegal actions of 05th August 2019 continue to be chronicled by UN Special Procedures, civil society, and global media.

Even this month, as the Council meets with India as its member, the Hindutva Raj has brutally imposed yet another layer of curfew, and communication clampdown in the occupied territory, following the custodial death of iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Geelani.

The degrading treatment of Syed Geelani’s mortal remains and their burial against wishes of the deceased epitomizes India’s moral bankruptcy. More importantly, this speaks to the indomitable spirit of Syed Geelani, who spent 50 years of his 92 years life in jail, and even in his death, continued to cow the occupation forces.

Driven by a fascist mindset, India continues to pursue and accelerate its state policy of demographic change of the disputed territory under the garb of dubious laws and administrative measures as evident from grant of 4.2 million domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris, and permission to buy property, and seek local jobs.

The occupation power is illegally grabbing land, properties and natural resources of the indigenous Kashmiri people, and systematically disenfranchising them of their distinct cultural and religious identity.

These unlawful measures are designed to deprive the Kashmiris of their right to self-determination. They constitute willful breach of India’s obligations under UNSC resolutions and 4th Geneva Convention.

Armed with oppressive laws, over 900,000 occupation forces have transformed the occupied territory into a black-hole of rights violations behind an iron curtain of military siege, and



through continued denial of access to independent observers. During this year alone, India has summarily executed over 100 innocent Kashmiris, illegally detained 537 Kashmiris, and demolished close to 50 houses during fake encounters.

In order to crush anyone daring dissent against its illegal actions, India has muzzled local media, and silenced human rights defenders through intimidation, harassment and reprisal.

The Indian State machinery, from a pliant judiciary to a hand-picked local bureaucracy, has become a veritable arm of oppression, breeding impunity.

The UN mandate holders have warned that the situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir is in a 'free fall', The international community therefore needs to 'step up' and take the following four steps:

One, the Council must call on India to rescind its demographic change, halt its violations, and allow access to independent observers.

Two, in order to secure meaningful accountability of India, the Council should mandate a Commission of Inquiry to investigate Indian abuses, as recommended by the two Kashmir reports. This week, Pakistan has presented a dossier, containing concrete evidence in this regard.

Three, the global flag-bearers of human rights should publicly call India out for its atrocities in Kashmir, and close the persistent gap between their words and actions.

Fourth, the High Commissioner should issue an updated Kashmir report in exercise of her prevention mandate.

Pakistan takes note of the High Commissioner's oral updates on Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. We reiterate our support for a broad-based political set-up in Afghanistan and call on all parties to uphold basic rights of all Afghan citizens, especially of women, girls, and minorities.

The Council must not forget the sufferings of Sri Lankan people in their struggle against foreign-sponsored terrorism. Sri Lanka's democratic credentials and socio-economic achievements are commendable. We call for genuine dialogue and cooperation with Sri Lanka, including through technical cooperation. I thank you.