



National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during General Debate under Agenda Item-3, at the 49th Human Rights Council Session

15 March 2022

Mr. President,

Right to self-determination is an inalienable right, enshrined in the UN Charter, and endorsed by international human rights covenants.

Through several UN Security Council resolutions, the international community made a commitment to the people of Jammu & Kashmir for realization of their right to self-determination under a UN supervised plebiscite. For over seven decades, India-the occupying Power-has not complied with its obligation under Article 25 of the UN Charter to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.

On 05th August 2019, India took its defiance of the UN Charter principles and Security Council decision to a new level by unilaterally annexing the occupied territory. Since then, the Hindutva Raj has accelerated the pace of its demographic changes, and suppressing the rights of Kashmiris. The granting of Kashmiri citizenship to over 4 million non-Kashmiris during the last two years and an half is an alarming evidence of this brazen unlawfulness.

To make these demographic changes irreversible, the Indian occupation machinery has also intensified its systematic violations of Kashmiri rights by mischievously invoking the bogey of terrorism.

Indian state terrorism against the brave Kashmiris, perpetrated through 800,000 occupation troops and oppressive laws, has made a paradise on earth a human rights black hole. Today, anyone calling out Indian atrocities is branded as a terrorist and neutralized through torture, summary execution and prolonged illegal detention.

In order to suppress the Kashmiri freedom struggle, the occupation regime is specifically targeting political leaders, journalists, youth and human rights activists. The custodial murder of reputed Kashmiri leader Mr. Ashraf Sehrai, the illegal arrest of Mr. Khurram Pervaiz, and the cold-blooded murder of scores of Kashmiri youth through staged encounters attest to this fact.

The independent human rights constituencies continue to raise red-flags about the growing human rights crisis in occupied Kashmir.

Few weeks ago, the Genocide Watch has publicly warned that Indian persecution of the Kashmiris could very well lead to genocide.

The UN human rights experts have also cautioned the international community about the devastating human rights impacts of India's demographic engineering in the occupied territory.



As the premier global human rights body, this Council and OHCHR must therefore act to uphold Kashmir's cause of freedom, justice, and rights.

OHCHR should continue its monitoring of the situation in occupied Kashmir, and present an updated Kashmir Report.

The Council must press India to halt and reverse its illegal actions taken since 05th August, and respect basic rights of the Kashmiris, especially their inalienable right to self-determination.

States, championing the cause of human rights at this very Council, also need to break their eerie silence, and lend support to the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry against India as recommended by the two Kashmir Reports. Thank you.