



National statement delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary, during the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Summary Execution at the 50th session of Human Rights Council

22 June 2022

Mr. President,

We thank the SR for his insightful report.

We welcome the report's focus on the challenges faced during medico-legal investigations and forensic of unlawful deaths. This represents an important intersection of science and law enforcement.

All states have a duty to investigate potentially unlawful deaths. In recent years, Pakistan has upgraded its forensic science capabilities and established dedicated network of laboratories to assist law enforcement agencies by providing a range of technical services.

While the challenges for conducting forensic investigations into cases of unlawful killings may normally range from lack of resources to insufficient infrastructure, in situations of illegal occupations, the causes are much deeper and political in nature.

The intensified use of summary executions by India to silence Kashmiris' dissent against illegal demographic change of their homeland represents such a tragic situation.

By staging fake encounters and branding them as 'terrorists', the Indian occupation regime has extra judicially killed over 600 Kashmiris during the last three years. On top of it, India has stonewalled access of independent actors to the occupied territory, blocked transparent investigations, and sustained the structure of impunity.

Pakistan particularly alerts the Council about the situation of stalwart Kashmiri leader Mr. Yasin Malik, whose sham conviction raises credible risk of custodial murder in line with India's well-documented State behavior.

We agree with SR that duty to investigate unlawful deaths especially in situations of armed conflict is fully established under international law.

We echo the SR's recommendation that independence of medico-legal investigations in extra judicial killings must be ensured. No place presents a critical test case in this regard than Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The international community must press India to halt summary executions of Kashmiris, repeal enabling laws, and accept an UN-led probe.

Thank you.