

**PERMANENT MISSION OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED
NATIONS**

40th Session of the Human Rights Council

Second Right of Reply (Agenda Item-3)

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We must give credit to Indian delegation for its consistency in misleading the Council, session after session, through its lies, obfuscation and meddling of the facts. India continues to flout its international human rights obligations by unleashing reign of terror in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and then the irony is that it plays victim.

2. Considering that today is International Women's Day, let us apprise the Council about what girls and women in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir had to endure in last 7 decades of oppression. According to the report, 'Rape in Kashmir- A Crime of War' by Asia Watch and Physicians for Human Rights, more than 8,000 women have been molested and rape is used as a policy of suppression by Indian security forces. Scores of women have had their hair cut off in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in incidents known as "braid chopping". Women and girls, among others, have been blinded by the use of illegal pellet guns by Indian security forces. The youngest victim was Hiba Jan, an 18-month-old girl child. Indian security forces took away dreams of these children, of becoming doctors, teachers, lawyers and much more. This has also been independently reported by Amnesty International in its report "Losing sight in Kashmir".

Mr. President,

3. As detailed in the recent report of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, women human rights defenders are regularly attacked, slandered, harassed and intimidated by the police in India. Killing of hindu

women and girls for marrying Muslim and Christian men is a common practice. As per figures of the India's National Crime Records Bureau, more than 35,000 incidents of rape occurred just over the course of three years in India and almost 93 rapes were committed in the country each day. According to Amnesty International, around 218 rapes were registered in 2018 in India. India is surely the rape capital of the world. While Dalit women in India are facing sexual violence and discrimination on daily basis, Pakistan is championing women empowerment which was also showcased through today's chairmanship of the Senate session by Krishna Kumari Kohli – Pakistan's honourable Dalit woman lawmaker.

Mr. President,

4. Considering that India is leading in fake news and internet hoaxes than anywhere else in the world, we could not have expected an informed response from the Indian delegation. One such disinformation was regarding the situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The people in Azad Jammu and Kashmir are living in harmony and peace with their human rights being respected and protected by the State institutions. Pakistan has introduced a very liberal visa policy and anyone can go and visit AJK. This is in sharp contrast to the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, that has been converted in a concentration camp and there is no free access for international media.

5. Pakistan remains committed to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute according to the UN Security Council resolutions, for a lasting peace in the region and beyond. Is India ready to give peace a chance?

I thank you.