

Right of Reply
Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations
40th Session of the Human Rights Council
28 February 2019

Mr. President,

We are making this right of reply in response to India's statement delivered during the General segment and its right of reply.

2. Pakistan rejects that Pulwama incident took place in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. The incident took place in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, which is not an Indian State, but a disputed territory, whose final disposition is to be decided through a UN supervised plebiscite, as mandated by numerous UN Security Council resolutions and also corroborated by the recently published OHCHR Kashmir Report.

3. Pakistan also emphatically rejects Indian allegations of any linkage with Pulwama incident because; these were made within a short time from the attack and without carrying out any investigations. These knee-jerk and pre-conceived accusations were nevertheless consistent with well-rehearsed tactics from Indian playbook after such incidents in the past.

4. Pakistan was not involved in the Pulwama incident. India's allegations were based on unverified and suspect social media content. The attack was carried out by a local Kashmiri youth. India's unprecedented level of repression in IoK, especially over the past 4 years has resulted in complete alienation and resultant intensification of the Kashmiri resistance. India needs to introspect and reflect on its own

operational and policy failures rather than shift the blame to Pakistan. India is also evidently motivated by its domestic political considerations.

5. Two days back in wee hours past midnight, India brazenly violated Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It was a clear violation of international law. This was referred to in the statement delivered by Indian Permanent Representative in the Council yesterday. India's purported claims of having targeted a large terrorist camp and resultant casualties is completely absurd and is based on a farce narrative designed to placate domestic audience. Indian explosives landed in an uninhabited area when their Aircrafts upon fear of interception by Pakistani air force randomly released their ordinance and left Pakistani airspace.

6. In exercise of its right to self-defence, as provided in article 51 of the UN Charter, Pakistan air force yesterday undertook strikes against Indian targets. These strikes avoided human loss and collateral damage. The sole purpose was to demonstrate our right, will and capability against Indian aggression. We have no intention of escalation, but are fully prepared to do so, if forced into that paradigm. That is why we undertook the action with clear warning and in broad daylight. If India is striking at so called terrorist backers without a shred of evidence, we also retain reciprocal right to retaliate against elements that enjoy Indian patronage while carrying out acts of terror in Pakistan. We do not wish to go to that route and wish that India gives peace a chance and to resolve issues like a mature democratic nation.

I thank you.