

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

**40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**(Second Right of Reply)**

12 March 2019

Mr. President,

Pakistan is exercising this right of reply in response to India's right of reply.

2. Let me first respond to India's claim on the application of right to self-determination. Kashmir is the unfinished business of decolonization, so even the narrowest definition of right to self-determination given by the Indian delegate, applies on Kashmir.

3. Regrettably, India continues to spread malicious propaganda against Pakistan ignoring its own deplorable human rights record. Pakistan had raised concerns on India's drift towards rank communalism due to serious consequences of this trend on enjoyment of human rights and peace and security. This rank communalism is inspired by the political ideology of the Ruling Party whose history is rife with acts of violence against the marginalized, including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Adhevasis and Dalits. Those who masterminded the anti-Muslim riots from Gujrat, Maharashtra, UP and elsewhere in India, after coming to power have sponsored a similar communal frenzy against Pakistan maligning our people and government.

4. Pakistan's democratic institutions are striving for improving the lives of our people. In Pakistan of today, a sitting minister is forced to resign for making distasteful remarks about Hindu community. In India, a parliamentarian is made Minister for supporting the rape of a minor girl, Asifa Bano, in a Hindu temple in Jammu. Killing Muslims is a merit for those aspiring political office in India. The notorious killer, Babu Bajrangi who confessed to mass murder and rapes

during the Muslim genocide in Gujrat in 2002 has been recently freed by the Supreme Court of India.

Mr. President,

5. Instead of spreading disinformation that the current violence in Indian Occupied Kashmir is instigated from elsewhere, India must address the root causes highlighted in the OHCHR's Kashmir report. India murdered more than 450 Kashmiris last year, blinded more than 250 Kashmiris including women and children, and raped women and girls in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. After committing such heinous atrocities, India still acts bewildered on why Kashmiris hate and despise her. Each death of a freedom fighter in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is mourned by millions. Widely reported by media including the Guardian and the Independent, father of Kashmiri suicide bomber of Pulwama incident recently defended his son's actions saying. Quote "This is the struggle for freedom. This war will not stop until we are free. I don't care much about what the world is calling him. His own people call him a martyr. We had a funeral for him here, and 20,000, 30,000 people came." Unquote. This should be an eye opener for India.

6. We would urge India to stop being the 'Disinformation News Agency of the world' and think for the peace and stability of the region. We urge India to give peace a chance.

I thank you Mr. President.