

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

First Right of Reply delivered by Qazi Saleem, First Secretary

General Debate – Agenda Item 8

41<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

8 July 2019

Mr. President,

We are making this right of reply in response to India's right of reply.

2. India's continues to attack the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her office for publishing the Kashmir report. We ask the Council, is it befitting for a Council member to attack the Premier human right defender of the world in such a fashion. India committed vitriolic outburst on Kashmir Report 2018. It is inline with India's policy to discredit anyone who looks into the sufferings of Kashmiris. It disengaged with the Special Rapporteurs who issued press release against its oppressive tactics in IOK. Instead of taking into account, genuine human rights concerns of the civil society, it stopped publication of reports like recent Amnesty International Report titled "Tyranny of a lawless law". Such behaviour shows India's disregard for International Human Rights Law and human life.

3. Those who call for criteria based membership of HRC, should evaluate if India's attitude entitles it to sit in this Council.

4. India again relied on its tactic of spreading disinformation by saying that there is only one newspaper in AJK. We can share the long list of newspapers and magazines from AJK with the Indian delegation or they can look them up on the internet.

5. The Kashmir report released today is enough to answer the malicious Indian propaganda and obfuscation of facts regarding Jammu and Kashmir. This UN report has again given a verdict that Jammu and Kashmir is not an integral part of India and its final disposition will be decided through a free and fair plebiscite. India must give right to self determination to the Kashmiris as urged in Kashmir report. The report clarifies that the legal position of the Kashmir dispute remains unchanged as was stipulated in the UNSC resolutions. India's denial will not change the reality.

6. India's human rights record is abysmal. There are serious ramifications of India's high handedness and hindutva order for the rights of minorities including Muslims, Dalits, Christians, Sikhs, Adihavasis alike. The vulnerable groups are living in an atmosphere of fear. Since Kashmiris are not Indian citizens, they are bearing the brunt of Indian brutalities. It is high time that India does self reflection and course correction, instead of its diversionary tactics of taking refuge behind fairy tales of cross-border terrorism as the reason for the unrest in IOK. Pakistan's position has been corroborated by the Kashmir report today which has given detailed account of systematic state sponsored terrorism being pursued by Indian security forces with full impunity in IOK.

7. The report calls for investigation into gross human rights violations in IoK including mass blinding and deaths by the use of pellet guns, excessive use of force, arbitrary arrest and detentions, attacks on journalists and press freedom, restrictions on peaceful assembly and cordon and search operations, sexual violence, internet blockades, killings/ reprisals of journalist and human rights defenders etc. The international community must hold perpetrators of these crimes against humanity accountable. Our collective conscience must not close any chapter in which human rights violations continue unabated.

I thank you.