

Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations

Right of Reply – Agenda Item-3

42nd Session of the Human Rights Council

13 September 2019

Mr. President,

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

2. India persists in its untenable defence of its indefensible actions in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India's position is based on a litany of falsehoods. And when these begin to ring hollow, egregious attacks on Pakistan are used to deflect attention.

3. We would be happy to discuss human rights in Pakistan, especially since such a discussion would clearly bring out the striking contrast to the human rights situation in India, where rank bigotry and communalism are entrenched, flowing from a poisonous Hindutva ideology that is promoted at the highest levels of the Indian government.

4. However, I will at present confine myself to cutting through the thicket of obfuscations raised by the Indian delegation on the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. I will do so by posing a few simple questions to which the Indian delegation may kindly be asked to respond:

First, can the Indian delegate deny that 8 million Kashmiris are under curfew, which amounts to collective incarceration, for the past 37 days?

Second, can the Indian delegate deny that thousands of young boys have been abducted from their houses since 5th August in IOK?

Third, can the Indian delegate deny the repeated reports by the international media of molestation and rape of Kashmiri women by its armed forces?

Fourth, can the Indian delegate deny the indiscriminate use of pellet guns, inflicting severe injuries on hundreds of Kashmiri men, women and children – especially when the so-called Governor of IoK has admitted the use of pellet guns?

Fifth, Can the Indian delegate deny the reports of torture by its armed forces?

Sixth, can the Indian delegate deny serious shortages of food, medicines, and persistent denial of access to medical in IOK?

Seventh, can the Indian delegate deny shutting down of communication links with IoK, including internet and telecommunication links?

Eighth, can the Indian delegate deny that the entire Kashmiri political leadership and human rights defenders have been put under detention since 5th August?

5. These are simple and direct questions. India should provide clear and honest answers.

I thank you.