

Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations

Right of Reply – Agenda Item-4

42nd Session of the Human Rights Council

17 Sep 2019

Mr. President,

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

2. Instead of answering for its gross human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India again resorts to petty tactics of vitriolic disinformation campaign against Pakistan just as it did when the OHCHR, Special Procedures and international media groups, questioned its atrocities. Obfuscation of facts cannot absolve India from its crimes against humanity in Kashmir.

3. Let us address their fabrications one by one:

First, the position taken by Indian delegation on Jammu and Kashmir in completely untenable and goes against the UN Security Council resolutions, which call for a free and fair plebiscite under UN auspices. The UN Secretary General's statement and OHCHR Kashmir reports have already corroborated this position.

Second, India giving the Council sermon on state sponsored terrorism is indeed ironic given its deep involvement in fanning terrorism in the region. The Sikh genocide of 1984 and massacre of Muslims in Gujarat in 2002 are not forgotten. No civilized nation does that to its own people. Kashmiris have suffered the worst with more than 1,00,000 Kashmiris killed, rape of 8,000 women and girls and blinding more than 1200 youth. Using state sponsored terrorism to subvert neighbours is of course an old Indian ploy. The admissions of Indian Naval Commander Kulbushan Yadav, following his arrest in Pakistan, clearly demonstrate India's baleful approach towards its neighbours.

Third, India's has tried to weave a fairytale of unrest in IOJ&K being instigated from across the border; we simply ask India, whether it considers 8 million Kashmiris as terrorists, incarcerating them for more than 40 days, shutting down internet and blinding them with pellets. All colonial powers have depicted the freedom struggles as terrorism. India is no different.

Fourth, the recent wave of brutality in IOK is not to be seen in isolation, but as a part of a fascist Hindutva order based on bigotry, hate and rank communalism. All minorities including Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Dalits are insecure living in constant fear, not knowing who will be lynched next. Mosques and Churches are being vandalized.

Fifth, Indian democracy follows different set of morals than others. We ask the Indian delegate: Do functioning democracies blind children, rape women, orchestrate genocides of minorities, or release mass murders like BabuBajrangi or Colonel Purohit. All these things happen only in India.

4. Much as India may attempt, credibility cannot be gained by discrediting the truth but instead facing the reality and doing course correction i.e. stop human rights abuses in IOK and grant Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

I thank you.