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**Remarks by Pakistan during the Interactive Dialogue with  
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**

**(42<sup>nd</sup> Session of Human Rights Council)**

**13 September 2019**

Mr. President,

We have taken note of the report of the Working Group. Pakistan has been constructively engaging with the Working Group. Its mandate is very important in protecting the life and liberty of the people.

2. We would highlight the deeply worrying human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK), where more than 8 million people have been incarcerated for 40 days. There is a complete blackout of internet and telecommunication services there. Entire Kashmiri leadership is in arbitrary detention since 4th August while the pro-independence Kashmiri leadership has been jailed for the past many months.

3. Grave reports have surfaced regarding arbitrary arrests and detention of around 6,000 Kashmiri youth in cordon and search operations. Many of the arrested youth have been shifted to jails outside IOK in the rest of India due to lack of space in IOK jails.

4. The draconian law Public Safety Act (PSA) is being used in IOK to commit unrestrained and unchecked arbitrary detentions. OHCHR in its 2019 Kashmir Report has noted that “authorities in Indian-Administered Kashmir continue to use various forms of arbitrary detention to target protesters, political dissidents and other civil society actors. A number of laws in Jammu and Kashmir provide the legal basis for arbitrary detention, but the one that is used most frequently to stifle protests and political dissent is the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) 1978. The PSA does not provide for a judicial review of detention, and state authorities have defied orders by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to release people detained under this law by issuing successive detention orders. This practice has been used to keep people arbitrarily in detention for several weeks, months, and, in some cases, years.”

Human Rights Defenders like Khurram Parvez are regularly detained to stop them from attending the Human Rights Council session.

5. We appreciate the joint press release of 22<sup>nd</sup> August issued by you and other UN Special Procedures regarding the current human rights situation in IOK post 5<sup>th</sup> August. We would urge the Working Group to continue to address the plight of Kashmiris especially post 5<sup>th</sup> August. Moreover, the Working Group may share any updates in this regard.

I thankyou Mr. President.