

Pakistan's Right of Reply against India

12th Session of the Forum on Minority Issues: **“Education, Language and Human Rights of Minorities”** **28 November 2019**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

My delegation has been forced to take the floor again in order to respond to the intervention made by the Indian delegation.

My delegation will like to pose few simple questions to which the Indian delegation may kindly respond:

First, can India deny the systematic and continued discrimination against and persecution of its minorities including Christians and Dalits, which have been well-documented by independent UN experts?

Second, can India deny the arbitrary exclusion of 1.9 million Bengali ethnicity from its citizen-list? Can India deny de-humanizing these millions of people with reports of their incarceration in make-shift camps and constructions of new ones?

Third, can India deny the fact that nine of its states have laws restricting religious conversions and imposing prison sentences against missionaries?

Finally, can India deny reports from international media and civil society organizations about torture and arbitrary detention of minors, as young as 09 year olds in IOJ&K, disenfranchising their right to education?

If India does not have anything to hide, it should immediately allow access to OHCHR, UN SPMHs and international media to visit IOJ&K and India itself.

Resorting to hollow harangue and jingoistic rhetoric will not change the facts.

Thank you, Co-chairs.