



Pakistan's Right of Reply against India, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, Second Secretary, during General Debate Agenda Item 2 at 46th session of Human Rights Council

(02 March 2021)

Madam Vice-President,

Pakistan is exercising its right of reply against India.

India's compulsive obsession with Pakistan is neither new nor surprising. It has, in fact, permeated India's ruling elite and governance structures.

But there is method to this obsession as it underpins India's electoral and foreign policy.

To advance it, India has deployed tools of deflection, deception and disinformation against my country. This is evident from the EU DisinInfo Lab's two investigative reports and the infamous Goswami saga.

Madam Vice-President,

As Pakistan highlights India's atrocities in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, which have been well-documented by the High Commissioner Office, UN Mandate Holders and international NGOs, the Council has yet to hear any response from India- a country that claims to be world's largest democracy but has shamelessly violated every human rights principle, norms and laws.

Pakistan is not the only target of India's malice and disinformation campaign.

India continues to shut down credible global voices, which call out its human rights transgressions. The shuttering of Amnesty International Office last year and vicious attacks on the UN Human Rights machinery clearly demonstrate India's instinctive disregard for truth and objective scrutiny.

Yet, India's façade of a practicing democracy stands exposed today. Today, its representative can no longer mask the facts that it is in India only where dissent is sedition; where human rights activists are branded as terrorists; and where peaceful protests are treated as part of an imaginary global conspiracy against a failing State.

From 22 years old activist Disha Ravi to thousands of protesting farmers, anyone daring dissent faces the onslaught of Hindutva terrorism.

From forced conversion to arbitrary denial of citizenship rights, and from State-sanctioned communal violence to apartheid policies, the BJP-RSS regime has now codified the choice between extermination or total submission for India's minorities.



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Indian State machinery has launched anti-Muslim campaigns such as Love Jihad, Land Jihad, incited public lynching and violence, and legislated mass ostracization under the patently discriminatory citizenship law.

With a documented history of pogroms in Gujarat, Muzaffarnagar, Malegnon, and most recently in Delhi, many independent observers have been obliged to conclude that in India, a cow is safer than an Indian Muslim.

India has failed and will continue to fail in hiding its brutal repression of the Kashmiri people behind the self-serving smokescreen of terrorism.

No amount of empty rhetoric and dubious grandstanding can alter these hard facts.

We, therefore, reiterate our call on the Council to establish a Commission of Inquiry on India to investigate the well-established pattern of impunity and grave violation of human rights as first step towards global accountability.

I thank you.