



**National Statement delivered by Mr. Umair Shakoor, Assistant Director, during the Interactive Dialogue with the SR on Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**  
**53rd HRC Session**  
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**Mr. President,**

We thank the SR for his report and acknowledge the importance of thematic focus on the issue of deaths in prisons. The rights to life, fair trial, and security of a person are well codified in international human rights law.

We agree with the SR that every death in custody must be investigated. Under no circumstances can derogation of the right to life be justified except as stipulated in Article 6 of the ICCPR.

At the same time, however, prisoners in UN-recognized disputed territories require equal attention, if not more. Prisoners in such situations are often victims of torture and custodial deaths at the hands of occupying authorities, who may be operating with impunity and no accountability.

In this regard, we are deeply concerned over the illegal detention of Kashmiri leaders in occupied Jammu and Kashmir under the garb of draconian laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act or Public Safety Act.

Kashmiri leaders Ashraf Sahrai, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Ghulam Muhammad Bhatt, Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, Khurshid Ahmad Wani, and Ghulam Hussain Malik have become the victims of custodial deaths.

We are seriously concerned over the safety and security of Kashmiri leader Yaseen Malik who has been given a life sentence through a dubious and sham trial.

We request SR's immediate attention to such situations and call for an immediate halt to outrageous human rights violations including extrajudicial, summary executions and custodial deaths.

I thank you.