



National Statement, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary, during the Interactive Dialogue with the SR on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association
53rd HRC Session
28 June 2023

Mr. President,

We thank the SR for his report.

We appreciate the focus of the report on the issue of gaps in accountability for serious human rights violations against activists and protestors.

We reaffirm our support for the promotion and protection of right to peaceful assembly in line with spirit of article 21 of the ICCPR. We agree with the SR that ensuring accountability for violations related to the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association remains an integral part of States's obligations.

We echo SR's recommendation to ensure that all national legislations, including national security and public order measures, must comply with international human rights law.

Unfortunately, we are witnessing some disturbing chain of events with pronounced impunity in situations of foreign occupation. The SR has referred to designation of Palestinian organizations as terrorists for their accountability work. These tactics are used by the Occupation Regime to silence the independent voices under the garb of anti-terrorism measures.

We also invite the SR's attention towards the human rights situation in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir where the Occupation Regime is obstructing access to justice, and depriving people of their inalienable right to self-determination, through draconian laws. Several Kashmiri leaders and human rights activists have been arrested under these draconian laws. We urge the SR to closely monitor the situation within the scope of his mandate and report it to the Council.

I thank you.