



National Statement ,delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative to the UN, during Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism at the 46th session of Human Rights Council

(04 March 2021)

Madam President,

We thank the SR for her detailed report.

We concur with the SR that women and girls, particularly those belonging to Muslim communities, are among the primary victims of CT and CVE policy measures that are incompatible with human rights law and principles.

Mass surveillance, ban on wearing Hijab, arbitrary deprivation of citizenship rights, police harassment, surveillance and efforts by some states to take over control of religious schools and mosques continue to trample upon fundamental rights and freedoms of Muslims women and girls.

We, therefore, echo SR's call for upholding rights of women and girls, especially hailing from Muslim communities, while states administer laws and policies in the name of counter terrorism and "violent" extremism.

Countering terrorism and various forms of extremism requires addressing their drivers, not just the manifestations. Tackling the new and old conflicts, foreign occupation, and widening socio-economic inequalities is essential to both countering terrorism and extremism as well as to complying with international human rights law and principles.

The human rights impacts of CT and CVE policies in situation of foreign occupation on women and girls are often overlooked. Consequently, the effects of these policies on the lives of women, girls and the family in occupied territories do not get the attention they demand. This aspect must be addressed.

We wish to draw attention towards the Occupied Jammu & Kashmir where India has long employed rape, torture, and killings of Kashmiri women as instruments of its state terrorism under the cover of draconian security laws.

Just last week, three Indian soldiers were found to have abducted and molested a 9 years old girl child in Bandipora in the occupied territory. This is just one example of a pattern of impunity and violence against Kashmiri women, girls and families which has intensified since India's illegal actions of 05 August 2019. Body searches, ill-treatment and molestation of young women during fake "CT operations" are the tools of state repression to stifle dissent against India's demographic engineering of the disputed territory.

Night raids, arbitrary abduction, detention and enforced disappearance of their male family members have also exposed Kashmiri women to a heightened level of physical and psychological torture.

The Rapporteur should therefore closely monitor India's state-directed tools of terror in occupied J&K, and report to the Council within her mandated work. I thank you.