



**National statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative, during General Debate under Agenda Item 2: 49th session of the Human Rights Council**

**08 March 2022**

**Mr. President,**

We thank the High Commissioner for her oral update.

We draw the High Commissioner's attention towards growing global concerns about Indian State oppression of Kashmiris amidst its illegal colonization of the disputed territory.

The UN mandate-holders have raised alarm that India has by design simplified the process of acquiring Kashmiri citizenship for non-Kashmiris than a local permanent resident.

Already, over 4 million illegal citizenship certificates have been issued to non-Kashmiris. Clearly aimed at subverting Kashmiris' inalienable right to self-determination, these unlawful actions are transforming the Kashmiri majority into a minority, in willful breach of international law.

Only a few weeks ago, the UN Mandate Holders have warned about India's use of anti-terrorism law "as a means of coercion" against Kashmiris.

It is a matter of record that India has unleashed a reign of terror in the occupied territory by inflicting torture, summary execution of Kashmiri civilians, use of live ammunitions and pellet gunshots against peaceful protestors, and illegal detention of hundreds of Kashmiri leaders, journalists and activists.

Armed with draconian laws, facilitated by a pliant judiciary and an oppressive military force, the Hindutva Raj is acting with absolute impunity.

The Indian regime has drawn the 21<sup>st</sup> century version of an iron curtain in occupied Kashmir. The so-called world's largest democracy continues to block any independent assessment of the ground situation. It also continues to deny access to OHCHR, Special Procedures and independent observers.

Such widely documented human rights abuses meet any objective criteria for triggering prevention mandate of the Council and OHCHR'. The UN experts have rightly described the grim human rights situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir "in a free fall" and called on the international community to "step up".



Silence and appeasement in the face of Indian impunity has and will further undermine the credibility of members of this Council and “international rules-based order”.

We urge the High Commissioner to continue monitoring the situation in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and publish an updated report.

We call on the Council to implement recommendations made to it in the two Kashmir Reports, and establish a Commission of Inquiry.

We call on the Council members and observers to walk the talk on respect for international law and call India out for human rights crimes against Kashmiris. **Thank you.**