



Pakistan's Right of Reply against India, delivered by Mr. Danval Hasnain, Third Secretary, at Debate under Item 2 of 52nd Session of Human Rights Council
On 7 March 2023

Madam Vice President,

I am exercising my right to respond to the misleading comments and baseless allegations made by the Indian delegation in the Council yesterday and today.

Yesterday, the Council was misled by the same delegation about the human rights situation in occupied Jammu & Kashmir by justifying the legality of illegal and unilateral actions in the occupied territory. Ironically, the High Commissioner was advised that his office had no role in the so-called union territory. By any criteria of any civilization, India lacks credibility to talk about the UN Charter, primacy of decisions of UN bodies and above all universal human rights values.

One thing remains clear that there can be no impunity for violations of international law and UNSC resolutions and perpetrators must be held accountable.

Let us see the truth in these claims.

First, matters related to the occupied Jammu & Kashmir are **not** an internal affair of India.

Jammu & Kashmir has been an internationally recognized disputed territory for over seven decades. Only three days after the unilateral changes on 5th August, India was reminded by the UN Secretary-General that the UN Charter and applicable UNSC resolutions governed the position of the UN on Jammu & Kashmir.

Second, if the occupied Jammu & Kashmir had seen unprecedented progress and development since 2019, then India should provide access to the international civil society organizations, independent media, and human rights groups in the occupied territory to see the fruits of this development.

The reality is that all independent observers have been locked out of the occupied territory.

Third, if people's participation in the grassroots democratic process has been enhanced, then why are Kashmiri political leaders, journalists, and human rights defenders in arbitrary detentions and some facing terrorism charges?

The reality is that an unprecedented illegal demographic engineering project is underway in occupied Jammu & Kashmir to change its ethnic, cultural, and religious character permanently.



Madam Vice President,

The truth is that this relentless campaign of disinformation, deflection, and peddling of false narratives characterizes India's diplomacy on occupied Jammu & Kashmir and on the treatment of its minorities elsewhere in India. Where needed, the playbook includes terrorizing foreign media outlets on their reporting.

But despite these attempts, various independent experts have repeatedly exposed India's prevarications.

The High Commissioner's two Kashmir reports and various documentation by the UN Special Procedures have uncovered the reality in the Occupied region.

Madam Vice President,

A country that tirelessly regurgitates the mendacious claims of terrorism must not forget that its terror mastermind, Commander Kulbushan Jhadav. A serving Indian Navy officer was caught inside our territory on espionage and terror financing charges.

India should also focus on the abysmal situation that the minorities in India are subjected to. There are deep-seated fears among Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and other minority communities due to increasing incidents of outright discrimination and violence by vigilante groups.

Madam Vice President,

Instead of advising the UN human rights system to stay away, it is time for India to confront its human rights record in occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

Thank you!