



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43RD SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL **General Debate Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require** **the Council's attention**

Statement by Pakistan
(March 10, 2020)

Madam President,

As the custodian of the third UN pillar, this Council is mandated to pay attention to human rights situations, with objectivity and by applying equal standards.

A country specific situation, confined to a sovereign territory, needs to be addressed through dialogue and cooperation of the concerned country.

Situations of internationally recognized disputes, where the occupying power avoids dialogue, need the full attention of this Council. The situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, where the occupying power India refuses any dialogue, falls in this category.

India's unilateral and illegal measures of 05 August in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir openly defy the UN Security Council's resolution and numerous recommendations of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The resulting situation warrants closer scrutiny within the mandate of the Human Rights Council and under the ambit of the 4th Geneva Convention.

In 07 months of physical and digital lockdown, every basic right and fundamental freedom of 08 million Kashmiri people has been violated with full impunity by over 800,000 Indian security forces.

Hundreds of Kashmiri people have been arbitrarily detained and imprisoned without trial under the draconian Public Safety and Armed Forces Special Power Acts. The count of enforced disappearance is increasing.

International media and civil society organization continue to report extensively that dissent is being crushed with excessive force, extra-judicial killings, and torture.

With sham awards of mining leases to Indian entities and free land for Indians in Jammu & Kashmir, attempts to change the demographics for consolidating illegal annexation are clear.

We all know from historic evidence that altering demography is always a dangerous precursor to mass atrocities and possibly genocide.



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

Statement

The Council's members and observers cannot hide behind political expediencies and economic interests to ignore the clear warning signs in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

The BJP extremist government in India continues to thrive on fostering hate speech and fake news for electoral gains. Appeasing such a government will only breed impunity for more violence and human rights abuses.

We, therefore, strongly urge the Council to call on India to stop its egregious violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, and implement recommendations of the two Kashmir reports by the OHCHR.

I thank you.