



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN**  
Geneva

Statement

**43<sup>rd</sup> Session of Human Rights Council**

**Agenda Item-3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders**

04 March 2020

Right of Reply by Pakistan

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to respond to comments made by the representative of India.

Indian hysteria towards states and organizations that expose its shameful reprisals against human rights defenders should not come as a surprise to this Council. India has mastered the art of deceit, deflection and externalization of blame.

Pakistan is not alone in drawing attention to India's state sponsored repression and reprisals against human rights defenders in IOJ&K. The OHCHR has documented these reprisals in its reports. Numerous civil society organizations have also done the same.

Similarly, India's muzzling of independent media and human rights defenders shining light on State's complicity with Hindutva zealots committing communal violence in Delhi and elsewhere in India stands exposed again.

India cannot hide these facts by leveling hackneyed and absurd allegations against Pakistan.

Pakistan requests the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, other Special Procedure Mandate Holders (SPMHs), the OHCHR and all UN Member States not to be deterred by India's belligerence; continue to raise concerns about India for failing to uphold its international human rights obligations in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as in India.

I thank you.