



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

Pakistan's Right of Reply against Indian Right of Reply at the 43rd session Human Rights Council (Agenda Item-8) 16 June 2020

Madam President,

Indian delegation's bluster and animus towards Pakistan is neither new nor surprising. In fact, such outbursts are broadcast with almost religious zeal by Indian mainstream TV channels, during prime-time day, in and day out.

So much for the self-serving and empty rhetoric from the world's largest democracy and so-called champion of the values of tolerance!

Indian delegation's remarks have only reinforced global perception that this country is now in the firm grip of the lethal BJP-RSS combine, whose primary goal is to peddle hatred and foment violence to jack up its political ratings.

The followers of fascism and the present proponents of Hindutva did not hesitate to kill in cold-blood the father of their own nation nor did they think twice to orchestrate the Gujarat and more recently the New Delhi pogroms.

Madam President,

The OHCHR's two Kashmir reports, Special Procedures' numerous communications and press releases, hundreds of reports by civil society and media as well as hearings conducted by world parliaments have exposed India's industrial scale human rights abuses and its use of terrorism as an instrument of governance in Occupied J&K.

The UN mandate-holders laid bare India's dirty playbook to frame terrorism charges against its nationals to stifle dissent. For too long, India has used the bogey of terrorism to crush the legitimate freedom struggle in IOJK.

The Council should ask India to explain:

Why the world's so-called largest democracy continues to illegally imprison hundreds of politicians, human rights activists, and Kashmiri people, when many of them are as old as 80 years and as young as 09 years old since last August under draconian Public Safety Act;

What 'act of terror' the Kashmiri photo-journalist Ms. Masarat Zahra and writer Gohar Geelani have committed to deserve being booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act;

Why only in the last week, more than 25 innocent Kashmiri civilians were executed by trigger-happy Indian military forces, acting as judge, jury and executioner?;



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

Can the pellet-blinded 19 months old girl child Hiba Jan be a terrorist?

Madam President,

Under the garb of COVID response, India has further intensified its reign of terror in IOJK.

The Kashmiri people are fighting the deadly virus on one hand but also braving the more deadly use of brute force, torture, and extra-judicial killing by India.

The occupier has accelerated its illegal and unilateral measures to carve out a 21st century “Bantustan” for the Kashmiri people through demographic flooding and socio-economic disempowerment of the indigenous people.

Madam President,

And yet, India, which has systematically and repeatedly violated international law; which has not complied with a dozen UNSC resolutions; which has denigrated UN human rights machinery, is seeking re-election to UNSC next week.

Instead of indulging in denial and externalizing blame, India would be well advised to introspect, reverse course and heal itself.

On every indicator of democracy, rule of law and human rights, India’s track record is evidently abysmal. It is time for India to walk the talk. If it has nothing to hide, it should allow OHCHR, independent media and civil society access to Occupied J&K to independently verify facts on the ground.

Unless India does it, OHCHR should continue to closely monitor the human rights crisis in IOJK and persist with its reporting process.

I thank you.