



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Right of Reply by Pakistan in Response to India's Right of Reply

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Madam President,

Pakistan is exercising its right of reply to respond to the rhetorical outburst of Indian delegation.

Let me remind the Indian delegation that its tactics of deflection and obfuscation may serve its domestic audiences but not this Council.

We would counsel India to shun hysteria, take a deep breath and introspect.

The facts are clear. India has become deeply infected with the deadly virus of racial discrimination; xenophobic hatred and violence, whose source is none other than the ruling BJP-RSS combine, and its neo-fascist Hindutva project.

The reality is that India now has the dubious distinction where Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains have been officially declared Hindus under its Constitution; where anti-conversion laws are being increasingly promulgated by States to maintain Hindu majority; where organizers of massacre become Prime Minister and Chief Minister; and where sitting Ministers and parliamentarians publicly dehumanize minority groups by calling them 'termites', 'traitors' and 'unequal citizens'.

India is also a country, where every 24 hours a church is attacked and vandalized; where hate crimes against Dalit community in BJP-ruled States have increased as high as by 47 percent; and where culprits of cow lynching, such as in barbaric cases of Muhammad Akhlaq and Pehlu Khan, are not prosecuted.

The State sponsored hate is amplified by pro-government media, dubbed as "Godi media". Instead of blaming Pakistan would the Indian delegation care to explain why the instigator of recent pogrom in Delhi, BJP leader Kapil Mishra, has yet to be charged, despite one of the main social media companies having declared that statement as a signature case of incitement to violence.



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Madam President,

The COVID pandemic has further exposed the decadence of an Indian State, failing its minorities. There has been a distressing surge in State-sponsored Islamophobia in India. An apartheid regime is being enforced against Muslims using the COVID as a smokescreen.

There have been well-documented, widespread incidents of denial to health services and segregation of patients in hospitals on the basis of religion and caste; socio-economic boycott; forced conversion and violence against Muslims and other minority groups.

Madam President,

India's deeply-rooted racial problem extends beyond its borders and has come to impact the territory of J&K that it has illegally occupied.

This is illustrated by derogatory remarks made by a BJP leader, saying that BJP workers were "excited" by the illegal change of 5th August, as they can now marry "fair girls from Kashmir". This is the hand of militarist mindset that is now implementing new citizenship domicile law in IOJ&K so as to convert a majority from Kashmiris into minority in their own territory.

Madam President,

This Council should not fall for Indian delegation's rhetoric and grandstanding.

The UN institutions, independent human rights organizations and commissions, and world parliaments have spoken out against India for its systematic, widespread discrimination against, and persecution of its minorities, and its gross human rights abuses in IOJK.

If India has nothing to hide and wants an independent verification of its democratic and pluralist credentials, it should open itself for international monitoring and reporting by the UN human rights system. We ask again, is India ready for an objective scrutiny?

I thank you.