



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43rd Session of Human Rights Council Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment

Statement by OIC
28 February 2020

Madam President,

The OIC Member States thank the Special Rapporteur for his detailed presentation.

We have taken note of the Report, which aims to illustrate the conceptual framework on psychological torture and would closely study its contents from a legal perspective.

Madam President,

Upholding and advancing respect for human dignity and liberty is the ultimate goal of the global human rights agenda. Likewise, it is the *raison d'être* and key objective of Islam.

The abominable practice of torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment is contrary to international human rights law.

OIC unequivocally condemns all forms and manifestations of torture, and remains fully committed to preventing and combating this menace.

Madam President,

OIC is gravely concerned about the systematic use of psychological torture as a tool of oppression against people living under the yoke of foreign occupation and striving for one of their fundamental rights i.e. the right to self-determination.

We are also dismayed over growing incidents of psychological torture being meted out to migrants and refugees, ostensibly for security reasons.

Furthermore, OIC urges that the sharp rise in intolerance, discrimination, negative stereotyping, and violence against people, on basis of religion, race or ethnicity, must also be seen through the prism of psychological torture.

We would welcome the Rapporteur's views about these troubling global trends related to psychological torture and the role of the UN human rights machinery in halting these serious human rights abuses.

I thank you.