



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement

43RD SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Agenda Item-1 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the minority issues

Remarks by Pakistan
11 March 2020

Madam President,

Pakistan takes note of the Rapporteur's proposed working definition of minority in the report, and would study it closely from legal perspective.

Pakistan appreciates the Rapporteur's continued focus on issues related to statelessness, hate speech and prevention of ethnic conflict in the context of his mandate.

These themes are relevant to recent events in our neighbouring country, which have once again corroborated that intersecting human rights violations, when instigated and sponsored by populist and fascist regimes, can lead to pogrom of minorities.

In only four days of pre-planned and targeted violence against Muslim minority, whose basic right to citizenship is already under severe threat, over 50 people have been killed and hundreds injured.

International media and human rights organizations have widely reported gruesome violence against Muslims, burning of mosque and shrines. Those, who survived this senseless carnage, fled for their lives, leaving behind their homes, life savings and missing, perhaps deceased, relatives.

Regrettably, State officials of the fascist regime, including police, were accomplice in the pogrom.

Madam President,

As global custodian of human rights, we, therefore, urge the Council as well as the Rapporteur to continue to objectively assess this disturbing situation, press the concerned country to end this State-sponsored wanton bloodshed of its minorities, and protect and promote their basic rights and freedoms in line with its international obligations.

I thank you.