



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

Statement

43rd Session of Human Rights Council **Right of Reply by Pakistan**

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture
28 February 2020

Mr. Vice-President,

My delegation is taking the floor to respond to the statement made by the Indian representative.

India can no longer hide its despicable torture record in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, behind a façade of falsehoods.

Mr. Vice-President,

Since 5 August 2019, the intensified use of torture in the occupied Kashmir by the Indian forces has been well-documented and widely reported by the UN human rights machinery, international media and civil society organizations.

According to these reports, Kashmiri people, including young boys, have been picked up by Indian forces from their homes in the middle of night. In other instances, they have been stripped naked, tortured and humiliated publically. Women are being molested on false pretext of arbitrary body searches. Victims of brute force, including pellet gunshots, are reluctant to go to hospitals for treatment due to fear of intimidation and harassment by the occupation authorities.

Unfortunately, this is not something new. The High Commissioner' two reports on Jammu & Kashmir have documented in detail the gross, systematic, and systemic use of torture against the Kashmiri people by Indian forces.

We dare ask if India's torture record is so clean, as it claims to be, why does not it accede to the UN Convention against Torture, as prohibition of all forms of torture remains tenet of a democratic society.

Mr. Vice-President,

The horrific torture, to which Indian minorities are subjected daily by the fascist Government in the form of institutionalized discrimination and violence, is another matter of grave concern for the international community. We do not need to look far for its evidence.

Mr. Vice-President,

We, therefore, reiterate our call that the Special Rapporteur, and in fact the entire UN human rights machinery should urge India to abide by the minimum international human rights standards on torture, and immediately halt these grave human rights abuses.

I thank you.