



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

National statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence against Children at the 44th session of Human Rights Council

(02 July 2020)

Madam President,

We fully share the Special Representative's concerns that among other factors, protracted armed conflicts would contribute to staggering increase in number of children, scarred by violence for life.

The SRSG's concerns resonate with the grisly situation of children in Indian Occupied Jammu& Kashmir, which has further aggravated since 5th August 2019.

Last August, the renowned medical magazine "Lancet" had already alerted the world community that in wake of India's heavy militarization of the occupied territory, the mental health crisis there will only worsen, disproportionately affecting women and children.

Nearly a year later, the situation seems even grimmer.

Militarily cooped up in their homes under the suffocating 'double' lockdown, over 1.5 million Kashmiri children have endured the worst form of violence which the contemporary world has yet to witness.

From forced abduction during night raids to torture, from restricted access to medical help to no recourse to virtual educational facilities, from extra-judicial killing to sustaining permanent disabilities from pellets, Indian brutality against hapless Kashmiri children knows no bound.

Only yesterday, the world saw heart-breaking picture and video clips of a 3-old Kashmiri boy, crying and sitting on dead body of his grandfather, who was summarily executed by Indian occupation forces. This image sums up India's State-sanctioned terrorization of Kashmiri children, and life-long impact of such terror on their mental health.



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Madam President,

Indian long-standing use of violence against Kashmiri children and its impact on their mental health has been documented by the two OHCHR Kashmir reports, civil society organizations and global media.

We urge the Special Representative to remain seized of the situation of the Kashmiri children in the occupied territory, and call on India to halt its grave atrocities against them, in compliance with its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian laws.

I thank you.