



## **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) for Children and Armed Conflicts at the 44<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

**(02 July 2020)**

Madam President,

Pakistan appreciates the work of the Special Representative. The Report's stark findings are a matter of grave concern.

One such grim situation, about which the UN Secretary-General has raised alarms in his Report, is the plight of Kashmiri children in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, braving atrocities of Indian occupation regime.

Pakistan echoes the Secretary-General's serious concerns over India's systematic use of torture, abduction during night raids and pellet gunshots against children in the occupied Kashmir.

The 68 verified instances of illegal detention of children between the ages of 9 and 17 in IoJ&K depict the scale and intensity of Indian brutality against Kashmiri children.

Since last August and amidst the COVID situation, Kashmiri children are facing double lockdown with no access to schools and restricted access to hospitals. Grisly reports of extra-judicial killing, torture, demolishing of houses and sexual violence against Kashmiri children and youth continue to shock the world. Their plight is compounded by denial of access to humanitarian actors, including ICRC, to IOJ&K.

Only last week (on 26 June) Indian army shot dead 9 year old Nihan Bhatt of Bijbehara. Hiba Nasir was eighteen months when pellet gunshots struck her eyes. Eighteen months later, she is yet to regain her eyesight.



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Indian use of violence against Kashmiri children is a long-standing issue, and has been documented in detail by the two OHCHR Kashmir reports.

Pakistan encourages the Special Representative to closely monitor the plight of Kashmiri children. We urge the Council to press India to pay serious heed to the Secretary-General's call for taking preventive measures to protect Kashmiri children, and refrain use of force, particularly use of pellets against Kashmiri children.

Madam President,

References made to Pakistan in the Report do not fall within the purview of the established mandate as laid out in UNSC Resolutions 1612 (2005) and 2225 (2015) which make a clear distinctions for the context of armed conflict situations. Such references should therefore be avoided in future reports.

I thank you.