



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

### **Pakistan Right of Reply against India, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, Second Secretary, during Interactive Dialogues with the Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly at the 44<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**

**(10 July 2020)**

Madam President,

Indian representative's pedantry is a desperate attempt to deflect the Council's attention away from his country's appalling and globally documented human rights violations against its own people as well as in the Occupied J&K.

But the Council has not forgotten the bitter reality that in today's intolerant, fascist India, freedom to express opinion and peacefully protest was battered, lynched and burnt alive in the Delhi pogrom of February 2020.

Shamelessly, the ruling party leaders took the lead in instigating this State-sanctioned massacre by denigrating peaceful protestors as 'traitors', and issuing incendiary calls for 'shooting' and 'serving them bullets' through a pliant media.

One such 'traitor' is the pregnant Delhi student Ms. Safoora Zargar, who had to endure two long months of solitary detention for her crime to peacefully protest against the discriminatory citizenship law.

Another such 'traitor' was Ms. Gauri Lankesh, the journalist-turned-women human rights activist, who was gunned down for her valid criticism of the ruling party's extremist policies.

Just yesterday, student activist Mr. Sharjeel Usmani was arrested without warrant in a continuing witch-hunt against Muslims in India.

The Indian media, a trumpet of Hindutva chauvinism, is a conveyor belt of fake news. No wonder, Indian news channels are banned by its neighbouring countries.

Madam President,



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Outside India's sovereign territory, in IOJ&K, state repression of free speech continues. Just today, as the HRC is in session with India as its member, Kashmiri journalist Fahad Shah, Editor of "The Kashmir Walla" is being held by Indian forces.

Few days ago, the "Sangh Parivar" online brigade launched a vile attack with threats of rape, and even death against the renowned Indian journalist, Ms. Rana Ayyub, when she exposed the truth behind extra-judicial killing of 65-years old Kashmiri civilian, Mr. Bashir Ahmad, by Indian forces.

As Amnesty International puts it, India is 'the world's deadliest country for journalists and human rights activists', where such incidents have unfortunately become a routine matter under the ruling elite.

One cannot forget the cold-blooded murder of Kashmiri journalist Mr. Shujaat Bokhari whose only crime was to welcome the OHCHR's factual Kashmir report in 2018.

The Council has itself witnessed India's vile attacks against legitimate criticism and dissenting views, when its delegation, from the floor of this House, attacked the High Commissioner with undignified language, when she presented the OHCHR's Kashmir reports. We hope this Council and OHCHR will not be cowed by Indian browbeating and continue to monitor and report on the human rights crisis in Occupied J&K.

If Indian representatives can launch verbal attacks in this Hall, one can only imagine the plight of Kashmiris, civilians, human rights defenders who are daily victims of physical assaults by India.

Sadly, India wants to gobble up the territory, and colonize it, but will not grant the Kashmiris their rights, freedoms and dignity. This is the true face of a self-styled largest democracy of the world, a state that has mastered the art of deceit, deception, deflection and defiance of international law.

Madam President,

The UN human rights machinery, independent human rights commissions, civil society and global media have rightly spotlighted Indian grave human rights crimes in Occupied Jammu&Kashmir



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Indian fabricated and cacophonous statements against Pakistan can neither change these well-documented facts nor silence these strong voices of concerns.

And yet if India still wants another independent and impartial evaluation of the human rights situation in the J&K, we ask: why it continues to refuse access to foreign media, civil society, OHCHR and SPMHs?

I thank you.