



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Pakistan's Right of Reply against India, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, Second Secretary, during Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflicts at 44th session of Human Rights Council

(02 July 2020)

Madam President,

India's doctored statement against my country is its signature move to distract the Council from addressing the urgent issue at hand i.e. India's own well-documented, widespread and grave human rights abuses in Occupied Jammu&Kashmir.

One cannot expect anything less from a country, which carries the insidious trademark of being ruled by a once banned terrorist organization-RSS.

The deep Hindutva State, run by the RSS-BJP elite, has the dubious track record of wreaking mayhem against its own minorities, through its over 600,000 brown-shirts and 57,000 country-wide terror outfits. It is not a coincidence that the poster child of this neo-fascist State was the Chief Minister during the 2002 pogrom in Gujarat and the Prime Minister during the recent New Delhi massacre.

Madam President,

The Secretary-General's Report adds to the growing amount of evidence that India is a persistent violator of international human rights and humanitarian laws in Occupied Jammu&Kashmir. It also reinforces the central reality that Kashmir is a disputed territory and no matter what India wishes, it cannot change its status, as established by the UNSC resolutions and international law.

And yet, in its illegal, immoral and inhumane pursuit of territorial ambition, India has callously scarred three generations of Kashmiri children through excessive use of force, under the cover of draconian laws.

The mass rape of 08 years old Asifa; pellet-blinding of 19 months old Hiba Jan; and extra-judicial killing of over 110 Kashmiri boys/youth in last five months clearly demonstrate what it means to be a child, especially a girl child, in IOJ&K.



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Since 05th August, there has been only a worrying upsurge in Indian atrocities against Kashmiri children and youth.

According to India's own civil society, hundreds of Kashmiri boys-as young as 09 years old-have been forcibly picked up by occupation forces during night raids; illegally detained; and savagely tortured with electric shocks and iron rods. Victims of these abuses have developed permanent disabilities and mental health problems, with many reportedly committing suicides.

Amidst the COVID outbreak in the region, 1.5 million Kashmiri children remain militarily cooped up under an inhumane double lockdown, with no or scant access to health facilities, humanitarian aid and virtual educational facilities.

Even more concerning is the fact that today, the Kashmiri children face an uncertain future darkened by a genocidal climate as the occupier finalizes plans to build settlers colonies; dole out lands, properties, and livelihoods to aliens; and ultimately disenfranchise the Kashmiris of their basic civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, in particular their birth-right to self-determination.

Madam President,

In view of these developments in IOJ&K, the Council should strongly echo the Secretary-General's call; advise India to comply with its obligations under applicable international law; and halt its widely reported grave abuses against Kashmiri people, including children.

The Council and the wider UN human rights machinery should not fall for India's political gimmickry and distortion of facts. Instead, it should ask India for an immediate access so as to undertake an impartial monitoring and reporting of the situation in the occupied territory.

I thank you.