



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN

Geneva

National statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate Agenda Item 2 at the 45th session of Human Rights Council

(15 September 2020)

Madam President,

We thank the High Commissioner for her oral update and acknowledge her reiteration of concerns yesterday on India's continued and multiple violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people in the occupied territory.

These concerns once again validate the widely documented violations by the global media. Independent civil society organizations have also been alerting the Council to this human rights crisis.

Only last month, 10 UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders characterized this grim situation "in a free fall". In the face of Indian stonewalling, they have called on the international community to step up.

These gross, systematic and continuing violations meet all the elements of the objective criteria.

Madam President,

India's illegal occupation and its state-sanctioned oppression are enabled by several draconian laws. For decades, not a single member of Indian security forces has been convicted due to the immunity provided under these laws.

India continues to reject any access to independent media, human rights organizations or to the OHCHR. Such is the level of impunity and arrogance on full display by the so-called largest democracy of the world.

Using COVID as a cover, India has accelerated demographic engineering in the occupied region by giving hundreds of thousands of Kashmiri domicile certificates in the past several weeks to non-Kashmiris. These illegal actions are aimed at transforming the Kashmiri majority into a minority and to deprive the Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination.

As the principal human rights defender, this Council cannot remain a silent bystander. It must heed to independent voices of extreme concern and seek full implementation of recommendations made by the civil society, SPMHs and those contained in the OHCHR Kashmir reports.



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Silence will incentivize India to commit further repression against Kashmiri civilians.

Lack of response will encourage the Indian regime to continue defying international law and norms.

And failure to hold India accountable for its continued human rights abuses will only erode the credibility of this Council, its members, and the global human rights agenda.

We therefore urge the High Commissioner and her office to continue the Kashmir monitoring and reporting processes, based on human rights merits and the objective criteria.

Thank you, Madam President.