



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

Pakistan's Right of Reply against India, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, Second Secretary, during General Debate on Agenda item no. 3 at the 45th session of Human Rights Council

(24 September 2020)

Madam President,

Words spoken in this august Council bear real-time human consequences, and therefore, should be based on facts.

Unfortunately, Indian delegation continues to double-speak and promote double-standards at this important human rights forum.

Only last week, when the High Commissioner reiterated her serious concerns over the human rights situation in occupied Jammu & Kashmir, India once again manufactured falsehoods with repugnant bluster.

India's selective amnesia is reflective of its violent Hindutva mindset which has come to define the lethal BJP-RSS combine and its inhumane actions against its own minority populations and the occupied people of Jammu & Kashmir.

We dare ask India how illegal imprisonment of 13,000 Kashmir civilians, summary executions of over 500 people, imposition of world's longest internet shutdown and use of excessive force, including pellet gunshots, to alter demography of an occupied territory qualify as 'reviving grass-root democracy' and 'delivering socio-economic justice' to Kashmiri people.

The UN institutions, world parliaments and independent human rights organizations, have long rejected India's hollow claims of 'development', 'normalcy' and 'Kashmir being an integral part' and resoundingly indicted it for its grave and continuing atrocities against Kashmiri people.

As representative of the world's self-professed largest democracy, it would have been a welcoming change if Indian delegation had stood up and admitted responsibility for its egregious violations of UN Charter, UNSC resolutions and international law in the occupied territory.

But, as expected, what the Council has witnessed is shameless persistence to divert international attention away from the grave human rights abuses, being inflicted daily by over 900,000 Indian colonial forces with complete impunity.

Madam President,

The undeniable fact remains that India's illegal actions of last August have brought more injustice, more human rights abuses and more terrorization of Kashmiri people at the hands of Indian forces.



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Just last month, 40 Shia Muslims participating in Moharram prayer services were blinded or injured by pellet gunshots.

The world can clearly see India's double-face in eyes of the pellet-blinded 19-months old Hiba Jan or in the agony of grandson of 65-years old Bashir Ahmed who was summarily killed before this unfortunate minor or in tragic death of 12 years old Bisam Aijaz who succumbed to burn injuries resulting from demolition of his home by Indian forces.

The Kunan Poshpora rape incident of 1991 and presence of thousands of unmarked mass graves tell an unremitting tale of Indian atrocities against Kashmiri people.

Madam President,

There is one final undeniable fact. No amount of state-sponsored terrorism by India can crush Kashmiri people's desire for self-determination, freedom and justice. This is a fact that Indian occupation force face every day in Kashmir.

We reiterate our call on India to fulfill its international obligations, reverse its unlawful action, stop atrocities and allow the Kashmiris to freely exercise their basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including their birthright to self-determination, as guaranteed by the UN Charter, UNSC resolutions and international law.

I thank you.