



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

Pakistan's Right of Reply against India, delivered by Mr. Junaid Suleman, Second Secretary, during the General Debate under Agenda item no. 4, at the 45th session of Human Rights Council

(28 September 2020)

Madam President,

Old habits die hard.

Such is India's perversity and willful violation of UN Charter, UNSC resolutions and international law in occupied Jammu & Kashmir for the last seven decades.

And when India's transgressions are called out, the Council is treated to the same fabricated script, laced with falsehoods and self defeating narratives.

In occupied Jammu & Kashmir, this visceral reaction invariably takes a violent shape, as evidenced by scores of well-documented incidents of reprisals and attacks against Kashmiri human rights activists. Only last week, we heard news of cold-blooded murder of Kashmiri lawyer and activist, Babar Qadir, whose only crime was exercising his freedom of expression and to call out India's on-going colonialization of the disputed territory.

Madam President,

India cannot defend the indefensible.

Under Modi's Raj, India's credentials as a fascist State are well-established. Today, religious fanatics such as Yogi Aditya Nath, Amit Shah, and Kapil Mishra are the faces of an intolerant India.

The country where Chief Minister of its largest State has publicly called for rape of Muslim women; where the sitting Prime Minister has been implicated by his own country's Supreme Court for masterminding the killings in Gujarat in 2002; and where the executioner of these killings now sits as Home Minister, is surely disqualified to sit in this Council as its member and lecture others about human rights.

From Delhi pogrom to brutal crackdown of peaceful protestors, from State-sanctioned public lynching of minorities to the destruction of Babri Mosque, the Modi Raj's tradition of killing and persecuting Indian minorities lives on.

Madam President,

Indian delegation and certain NGOs with dubious credentials have continued their rant against Pakistan. We reject these manifestly false statements.



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We wish to remind the Council that the Government of India sponsored over 250 fake news outlets in over 65 European countries, as disclosed by the independent EU Disinfo Lab.

Within India, the media cell of the ruling BJP party is notorious for churning out vitriolic trolls against political opponents and minorities.

Some of these trolls and fake news outlets have found voice through spurious NGOs in the HRC, spreading venom against Pakistan.

These Indian GONGOs have abused the space for legitimate civil society at the Council. Such behavior calls for accountability. Also, we call on legitimate civil society to identify and isolate such GONGOs.

Madam President,

The UN institutions, world leaders, parliaments and global human rights community have given a clear verdict on India's illegal and unilateral actions of last August and its grave human rights consequences for the Kashmiri people.

India cannot hide behind sophistry and semantics.

If India, as it claims, is a responsible member of this Council, we call on it to fully implement the recommendations contained in the two Kashmir Reports by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and:

- a) Give unhindered access to the OHCHR, and UN Special Procedures to occupied J&K;
- b) Repeal draconian laws such PSA, AFSPA and UAPA;
- c) Rescind its illegal actions of 5 August 2019 as well as subsequent unlawful actions to change IIOJ&K's demography and its distinct cultural and religious identity;
- d) End torture, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance of Kashmiri people;
- e) Investigate and prosecute its army personnel for their well-documented human rights violations; and
- f) Fully comply with its international human rights obligations, relevant UNSC resolutions and international law including the holding of UN-supervised plebiscite to decide on the final disposition of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.

Thank you.