



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement, delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue with Working Group on Arbitrary Detention at the 45th Session of Human Rights Council

(21 September 2020)

Madam President,

Pakistan thanks the Working Group for this year's report and appreciates its thematic focus on women prisoners, right to legal assistance and modern technology.

We wish to draw the attention of the Working Group to the situation in occupied Jammu & Kashmir, where Indian systematic use of arbitrary imprisonment has scaled new heights since its illegal and unilateral actions of last August.

In the run-up to 05th August 2019 and weeks following it, Indian forces reportedly detained more than 13,000 Kashmiri people, which, according to India's own admission, included at least 144 minor, as young as 09-years old.

From political leaders Yasin Malik and Asiya Andrabi to journalist Asif Sultan, civilians from all walks of life are imprisoned without any legal recourse or assistance.

Draconian laws like AFSPA and PSA enabled prolonged detentions with total impunity to Indian regime.

Young children and adults were picked up by Indian forces during midnight raids and sent away to far-flung prisons on Indian mainland because local jails could not accommodate the sheer number of prisoners.

During the COVID outbreak, torture and killing of inmates in congested jails, is rampant.

Last week, 23 years old Irfan Ahmad Dar was killed in security forces' custody in Sopore.

Hundreds of innocent Kashmiris languish in jails on mere verbal orders, making them disappear in official record as well.

Judiciary in India is subservient to the brutal occupation regime as more than thousand of habeas corpus petitions remain pending before the Courts in IOJ&K and in India.

With mass incommunicado detention of hundreds of Kashmiris under the cover of draconian laws, many detainees never return home. Presence of thousands of unmarked, mass grave sites in north Kashmir attests to this distressing reality.

We urge the Working Group to closely follow the situation of arbitrary detentions in IOJ&K and report on it in its next report.

I thank you.