



National Statement, delivered by Mr. Zaman Mehdi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under Agenda Item No. 4 at the 48th session of Human Rights Council

24 September 2021

Madam President,

Pakistan believes that dialogue and constructive engagement with the country concerned provides the preferred tools to address human rights concerns.

The Council should pay special attention to the human rights conditions in the UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation, given the occupation regimes' irresponsible behavior, as manifest from its willful defiance of international law. Armed with oppressive laws, these regimes act with impunity. Therefore, the imperative of global accountability in such situations remains invariably pressing.

Pakistan invites the Council's urgent attention towards the grave situation in the occupied Jammu & Kashmir, where India has violated international law, defied the UN Security Council resolutions and flouted the 4th Geneva Convention, particularly since 05th August 2019.

During the last two years, undeterred by global censure, India is pursuing with increasing intensity a colonization project-the parallels of which are difficult to find in modern history.

From issuing domicile certificates to 4.2 million non-Kashmiris to illegal land grabs, from usurpation of natural resources to plans of building settler colonies, India maliciously wants to transform the majority indigenous Kashmiris into a minority population, and deprive them of their inalienable right to self-determination.

In brutally imposing a demographic apartheid, the Hindutva Raj has scaled up its wide-ranging atrocities against the brave Kashmiris. During this year alone, according to various reports, Indian occupation forces have summarily executed over 100 Kashmiri civilians; illegally arrested and detained 537 Kashmiri leaders/activists; and destroyed over 50 homes as form of collective punishment.

Pakistan apprehends that the ground situation might be worse. India continues to deny access to OHCHR, UN Special Procedures, civil society and international media for independent investigation of its systematic violations in occupied Kashmir. The absence of meaningful global accountability has engendered a vicious cycle of impunity and continued violations. This month, Pakistan has presented a dossier, containing concrete evidence regarding India's widespread human rights transgressions, graduating to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

In order to cover up its atrocities, India continues to concoct false linkages between Kashmiri freedom movement and global terrorism. The Davinder Singh saga and Indian State patronage of ISIL-K in the region attests to this fact.



The UN experts have publicly warned about the devastating human rights impacts of India's demographic engineering of the disputed territory and appealed to the world community to step up.

We, therefore, call on the Council to implement the recommendations, addressed to it in the two Kashmir Reports, and institute a Commissioner of Inquiry for investigating India's human rights crimes in occupied Kashmir.

In exercise of her prevention mandate, we also urge the High Commissioner to continue monitoring and reporting on Jammu and Kashmir and ask India to give her Office access to the occupied territory.

There is growing human cost from appeasement and political expediency. We express hope that champions of global human rights would come forward in shaping HRC's credible response on Jammu & Kashmir. I thank you.