



**National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan
Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under Agenda Item
8 at the 48th Session of Human Rights Council**

04 October 2021

Madam President,

The landmark VDPA and faithful adherence to it remains critical to meaningful advancement of universal respect for human rights, dignity and freedoms.

VDPA provisions are unequivocal that foreign occupation constitutes a systemic obstacle to realization and enjoyment of basic rights. Such UN-recognized situations are today's hotspots of gruesome atrocities, being fed by pervasive impunity afforded to occupation regimes. This Council has a duty to speak and stand up for people, struggling to free themselves from occupation and to realize their right to self-determination.

The nexus between the deplorable human rights abuses, Indian occupation and its illegal demographic changes in occupied Kashmir is just one case in point.

During the last two years, India has scaled up its suppression of the brave Kashmiri people, flouting all fundamental human rights norms, principles and international law. Today, death echoes in every neighborhood, as Indian forces continue to terrorize, summarily kill, and demolish homes with full impunity.

In imposing a 'final solution' through military force, the Hindutva regime is systematically disenfranchising the Kashmiri people of their right to freely pursue their socio-economic and cultural development.

Kashmiri lands, property, and natural resources are being doled out to non-Kashmiri Indian entities. Administrative rules have been eased for Indian army to illegally grab lands. Despite mounting unemployment caused by the world's longest running military siege, local jobs have been opened for foreign settlers.

India has also changed the status of Urdu and Kashmiri languages associated with Muslims, and their identity.

The ultimate aim of India's illegal steps is to make the Kashmiri majority into a minority in their own homeland, and to prevent them from exercising their right to self-determination.

The UN human rights machinery, civil society and global media continue to chronicle these troubling warning signs. Since the second Kashmir report in July 2019, the human rights situation in the occupied territory has gone from bad to worse.



We, therefore, urge the High Commissioner and UN Special Procedures to continue to monitor and report to the Council on this growing human rights crisis in the occupied region.

We once again call on India comply with its obligations under international law by reversing its illegal actions taken since August 2019 and uphold fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people, in particular their inalienable right to self-determination. I thank you.