



National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan Permanent Representative to the UN, during General Debate under Agenda Item No. 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention at the 46th session of Human Rights Council

12 March 2021

Madam President,

Pakistan believes that specific human rights situations requiring Council's attention should be considered through dialogue and constructive engagement with the concerned State.

Human rights conditions in UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation warrant enhanced focus of the Council as the Occupation Regimes are less prone to dialogue. These regimes act with greater impunity and disregard State responsibility. Hence, the imperative of accountability.

Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) is one such situation, where India has flouted international law, defied UN Security Council resolutions and violated the 4th Geneva Convention, particularly since 05th August 2019.

As part of its colonization project, India has granted Kashmiri citizenship to over 3.5 million non-Kashmiris. Indian army has illegally grabbed over 50,000 hectares of land. Plans are afoot to build gated colonies and 100,000 temples to efface the religious and cultural identity of the indigenous Kashmiri people.

Such demographic engineering is always an early warning sign of ethnic cleansing.

Only last month, the UN Special Procedures warned the global community about India's demographic engineering and its grave implications for the basic rights of Kashmiri people.

To make the demographic changes irreversible, over 900,000 Indian troops continue to wilfully usurp every right and freedom of the Kashmiri people and are carrying out horrific abuses ranging from summary execution, torture, illegal imprisonment, and curb democratic rights of Kashmiri people through use of lethal force. Reprisal attacks against political and human rights activists, mass pellet-blinding, home demolitions during staged encounters, and sexual violence are routine occurrences.

A pliant judiciary is 'rubber stamping' India's human rights crimes, leaving no room for domestic remedy. Independent humanitarian and human rights actors continue to be denied access. Civil society and human rights defenders are being silenced. Even the UN human rights machinery is being frowned upon.



The human rights situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir meets all the objective criteria for consideration by this Council. Silence by this Council has and will further embolden India. There is growing human cost from appeasement and political expediency.

We, therefore, urge the Council to consider the crisis in Jammu and Kashmir on human rights merits, as advised by OHCHR reports in 2018 and 2019.

We also urge the High Commissioner to continue reporting on Jammu and Kashmir and not be deterred by India's belligerence. OHCHR's reluctance to press India on its atrocities in Kashmir erodes its credibility to comment on other such situations requiring Council's attention.

We also call on global champions of human rights to practice what they preach, speak out, and prevent continuation of Indian crimes in occupied Kashmir. I thank you.