



Please check against delivery

**National statement delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan
Permanent Representative to the UN, during the Interactive Dialogue with the
UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide at the 47th
session of Human Rights Council**

28 June 2021

Madam President,

We thank the Special Adviser for her briefing.

Pakistan reiterates its deep concerns over the primacy of political considerations in operationalizing the concept of “Responsibility to Protect”.

We have seen time and again how some States championing the cause of R2P continue to turn a blind eye to application of R2P in the UN-recognized situations of foreign occupation. In doing so, they have clearly prioritized bilateral political and economic interests vis-à-vis the occupation powers.

This flawed and self-serving approach undermines well-meaning advocacy for universal respect for human rights. Failure to hold the occupation regimes breeds impunity, entails huge human costs and aids perpetuation of human rights abuses. In the absence of global scrutiny and accountability, these systematic violations run the highest risk of spiraling into genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a clear example of this dichotomy between rhetoric and reality. Since 05th August 2019, the occupation regime continues to accelerate its unlawful alteration of the demographic composition of the disputed territory, using an iron curtain of layered lockdowns, media blackout, mass incarcerations and brute use of force.

These unlawful actions reflect the willful defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, 4th Geneva Convention and international law. The heightened assault on every single basic human rights of Kashmiri people, as widely chronicled by the independent global human rights constituencies, constitute early warning signs of ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

In 2019, the Genocide Watch had issued a clear warning that atrocities committed by India in the illegally Occupied Kashmir meets the criteria of genocide in the territory.

The human rights situation has progressively deteriorated since the alert was issued nearly two years ago.



In February 2021, a group of UN Special Procedures have publicly warned the world community that the on-going demographic engineering in the occupied territory, bears long-term, devastating consequences for fundamental rights of Kashmiri people.

The consideration of situation in occupied Jammu & Kashmir on its human rights merits remains a litmus test for the credibility and impartiality of countries spearheading the R2P cause or lack thereof. We once again urge these countries to break their eerie silence on Jammu& Kashmir, and walk the talk.

Thank you.