



Pakistan's Right of Reply delivered against India by Mr. Sumair Gul, Second Secretary, during Interactive Dialogue on UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' Annual Report at the 47th session of Human Rights Council

22 June 2021

Madam President,

The Indian representative has resorted to a diversionary litany of lies, disinformation, and baseless allegations to obscure and obfuscate his country's atrocities in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as on its sovereign territory.

Pakistan's statement had only echoed the numerous public warnings, issued by the UN human rights machinery, world parliaments, independent human rights organizations and global media with regards to India's shameful human rights record.

In a series of joint letters, leading UN Special Procedures have documented in harrowing details India's systematic repression of Kashmiri human rights activists, daring dissent against its illegal demographic engineering of the occupied territory.

To quote one example: in a recent letter, UN experts have raised alarm how Kashmiri activist Mr. Waheed Para was tortured by Indian forces, 'deprived of sleep, stripped naked, and hung upside down in a dark underground cell'. His only crime was spotlighting India's human rights crimes against Kashmiri people with the UN institutions.

In May, the octogenarian political leader of Hurriyat conference Ashraf Sehrai died in prison, which the Kashmir Bar Association has termed as "custodial murder".

Such horrendous incidents are not isolated. They represent a systematic pattern of India's brutalization of Kashmiri people through state-led repression, draconian laws and wholesale lockdowns of the occupied territory. No amount of 'guided tours' and self-serving narrative of 'normalcy' can alter these hard facts.

Instead of introspection, India continues with its signature state-directed disinformation campaign against Pakistan while muzzling human rights defenders and bullying civil society actors.

The independent EU Disinfo Lab has exposed in detail India's State-sponsored global disinformation campaign against my country, including at this very Council.

The truth remains, Madam President, that Mr. Modi's India today is a complete hellscape for human rights, rule of law and democracy.

We need to look no further than the Delhi pogrom of last year for confirmation of this sad reality. This senseless violence, perpetrated against Muslims over the course of three days with full connivance of State machinery, was planned by the Hindutva clique in order to teach



the “traitors” a lesson. Many Muslims were killed; their homes burned; their properties looted; and their worship places desecrated with complete impunity.

Among the victims was 85-years old Akbari, who was too frail to flee her burning home, and succumbed to death.

The Delhi carnage has once again exposed that hatred, exclusion and violence against minorities are deep-seated in the DNA of Indian State. The prodigies of RSS-the dangerous trio of Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath-have their hands stained with blood of innocent people from Gujarat in 2002 to Delhi in 2020.

Just as the victims of Gujarat, the victims of Delhi pogrom still await justice as its instigator, a BJP leader, Kapil Mishra boasts to ‘redo’ this communal violence if needed.

Pakistan, therefore, reiterates its call for initiating global scrutiny and accountability of India for the widely documented atrocities in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and in order to protect basic rights of minorities and marginalized communities in India.

I thank you.