



Pakistan's Right of Reply against India, delivered by Mr. Umair Khalid, Third Secretary, at the High-Level Segment of 49th session of Human Rights Council

3 March 2022

Mr. President,

I am exercising our right to reply to reject India's fallacious statement.

The Indian representative has once again chosen to repackage its disinformation against Pakistan, already exposed in detail by the independent EU Disinfo Lab.

Let be there no mistake. India's dubious assertions reflect its desperate attempts to deflect global scrutiny of its criminal human rights record, both in Occupied Kashmir and on its mainland.

It is hardly any surprise that the RSS-BJP terror regime would go to any extent to deploy deceit and deception to target my country. After all, this fascist regime, by mainstreaming hatred against Pakistan and Muslims, seeks to win elections.

The Indian leadership is clearly complicit in inciting discrimination, stigmatization and violence against its minorities. How else can this absolute silence of Indian leadership be explained in the face of public calls for genocide of Muslims in Hardiwar and systematic attacks on Muslims women and girls wearing hijabs in Karnataka?

What else independent observers can expect from the instigators of anti-Muslim violence and pogroms, who now hold some of the highest public offices of the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Chief Minister?

Mr. President,

Let us be very clear. Occupied Jammu & Kashmir never was and never will be the so-called 'integral part' of India.

Under international law, India is an illegal occupier of an UN-recognized disputed territory. India's unlawful actions, imposed upon the Kashmiri people by the barrel of gun since 05th August, have only re-validated its status as an illegal occupier.

That is why the Security Council has met thrice since 05th August to consider the extremely worrying situation in the occupied territory; that is why the UN position on Jammu & Kashmir has been publicly re-affirmed by UN Secretary General; that is why UN Special Procedures have publicly warned about the devastating human rights impacts of India's demographic engineering; and that is why Jammu & Kashmir remains on the Security Council's agenda.

Mr. President,

India must end its self-serving policy of 'running with the rabbits and hunting with the hounds' when it comes to terrorism.

India has the dubious distinction of being one of the world's pioneers and largest purveyors of state terrorism. India has instigated, sponsored and abetted state terrorism in each of its neighbouring countries, including against my country.

At home, the Hindutva Raj is unleashing the worst form of state-directed terrorism against its minority populations and civil society. Anyone daring dissent against BJP-RSS' Nazi-inspired policies, practices and laws is branded as 'terrorist', and muzzled. The misogynist and vile attacks on Ms. Rana Ayyub; shuttering of Amnesty International Office; and custodial murder of globally respected activist Mr. Swamy are only a few examples of India's fascism.

With such horrendous track record on democracy, rule of law and human rights, India surely does not deserve a place at this very Council, and in the wider law-abiding world community.

Mr. President,

Today, as this hall resonates with the calls to uphold international law, India must not be allowed to hide its seven decade long illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir.

India is well advised to introspect, set its own house in order, and abide by its international obligations. As a first step, India must accept an international commission of inquiry on Jammu & Kashmir. We dare ask India if it has nothing to hide why it continues to deny access of OHCHR, UN Special Procedures, global civil society and media to the occupied territory?

I thank you.