



**National statement delivered by Amb. Zaman Mehdi, during General Debate under**  
**Agenda Item 2**  
**52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**  
**07 March 2023**

Mr. Vice President,

We thank the High Commissioner for his oral update.

We want to draw the High Commissioner and this Council's attention towards the continued international concerns on the oppression in the internationally recognized disputed territory of Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

For over 70 years, India has blatantly disregarded the UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, denying the Kashmiris their legitimate right of self-determination and reneging on its own promises made to the international community and the Kashmiris.

The occupied Kashmir is a classic case study of indivisibility, interlinkages, and interdependence of all human rights.

The singular denial of the right to self-determination is at the root of denying all other rights to occupied Kashmiris.

In a failing effort to curb their free will, Kashmiri men, women, and children are subjected to extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, torture, restrictions on public assembly, curbs on press and freedom of speech, detention of journalists and human rights defenders, and prolonged incarceration of political leaders. Over 700 Kashmiris have been killed in fake encounters since August 2019's illegal actions.

Stepping up its campaign to alter Kashmir's demography, 4.2 million non-Kashmiris have been granted domiciles enabling them to buy properties and register on electoral rolls. The Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (procedure) rules, 2020, provided a fast-track procedure for issuing Kashmiri citizenship to non-Kashmiris and settling in people from all over India.

Time and again, the UN mandate-holders have raised alarm on the state of human rights in occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

Credible International organizations, media, and UN experts are denied access to the occupied territory, and Kashmiris in the occupied territory are denied physical and electronic access to the rest of the world.



Mr. Vice President,

Most recently systematic evictions, land grabbing, and demolitions of residents in four districts, including Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, and Baramulla, in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir demonstrate a blatant violation of the Kashmiris' right to adequate housing, work, and health.

Kashmiris are also victims of one of the most well-organized state-sponsored disinformation campaigns against any minority worldwide. This includes presenting the desire for self-determination as an act of terrorism and subjecting non-combatant civilians to the blunt force of counter-terrorism actions and draconian laws.

Mr. Vice President,

The international community must speak for occupied Kashmiris' rights and call for reversing the ongoing demographic transition, allow access to the occupied territory for independent investigations, and take concrete steps to grant Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

Mr. Vice President,

In our national capacity, we join other delegations in condemning Islamophobic incidents of burning of the Holy Quran. Free speech is no free license to spread hatred and incite violence with no consequence.

I thank you!