



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Second Secretary, during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Situation of Human Rights Defenders**

**55<sup>th</sup> Session**  
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**Mr. Vice President,**

Pakistan thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report and note of her recommendations regarding the protection of human rights defenders.

As a participatory democracy, Pakistan appreciates the work of the civil society to promote respect for human rights values.

Pakistan enacted the Protection of Journalists Act to enhance protection of journalists, media professionals and human rights activists and for providing them with an enabling and safe environment to carry out their work.

Mr. Vice President,

The horrifying and targeted assassinations of numerous human rights defenders in Occupied Palestinian Territory should be a cause of great distress and alarm for all human rights mechanisms.

Collective punishment, deliberate targeting, arbitrary arrests and torture of these brave Palestinians continues with impunity.

We request the SR to continue monitoring the situation.

Mr. Vice President,

The predicament of civil society in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is demonstrative of the grave human rights violations perpetrated against them.

The vicious crackdown on Kashmiri human rights defenders continues; all voices of dissent are brutally crushed and various activists such as Khurram Pervez, Atikur Rehman, Muhammad Zubair, Fahad Shah, and countless others have been deprived of liberty under the draconian laws.

We urge the SR to continue monitoring and report the situation of the Kashmiri civil society to the Council.

I thank you.