



National Statement by Ambassador and Permanent Representative Bilal Ahmad during Urgent Debate on “Protection of Children and Educational Institutions in International Armed Conflicts: The Aerial Attacks on Shajareh Tayyebbeh Girls’ School in Minab, Iran, as a Grave Breach of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law”

61st Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 27 March 2026)

Mr. President,

Across conflict zones and situations of foreign occupation around the world, millions of children are growing up amid rubble and trauma, rather than in classrooms or playgrounds.

Pakistan offers its sincere condolences to civilian victims, their families and communities. The unconscionable deaths of schoolgirls in Iran weigh heavily on our minds, as do those of civilian victims in Gulf countries, including Pakistani expatriates.

Across the Middle East, tens of thousands of innocent victims have seen their lives cut short. Others bear lifelong injury or psychological scars that may never heal.

The haunting voice of Hend Rajab will always echo for the children of Gaza.

Countless child victims and war orphans remind us of how far we are from an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child promised by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We reiterate our condemnation of the unwarranted attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in violation of international law.

We condemn also the unjustifiable attacks against our brotherly countries of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) and Jordan. Their continued restraint is commendable.

This war must end. A comprehensive and lasting peace must be our goal. All actions that prolong the conflict and increase its immense human costs must be avoided.

Thank you.

-end-