National statement by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, during General Debate under Item 2

63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

(Geneva, 8 September 2026)

Mr. President,

Human rights situations must always be assessed objectively and impartially. Pakistan is a thriving democracy that will uphold all human rights and rule of law but cannot compromise on public safety.

We urge the High Commissioner to continue monitorig and reporting on the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019 have enabled and entrenched human rights violations. A brief summary[1] of the occupation's latest grave breaches is included in the statement uploaded to the Extranet.

Cloaked in promises of development and shielded by draconian laws, India's actions, disenfranchise the Kashmiri people and erase their identity. Aiming to alter the demography and convert the Muslim majority into a minority, India denies Kashmiris' inalienable right to self-determination promised in relevant UNSC resolutions.

India also seeks to weaponise the waters of the Indus Basin that flow through IIOJK into Pakistan. India continues to violate the Indus Waters Treaty. Such illegal actions are a grave threat to Pakistan's 240 million people and their rights, including the right to life itself.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban interim authorities continue with their disregard for international law. In addition to the human rights concerns raised before this Council yesterday, the Afghan Taliban regime remains unable or unwilling to block operational space for terrorist groups. Their attacks against Pakistan have claimed the lives of more than 900 civilians, soldiers and officials thus far in 2026 alone.

Pakistan will continue to protect its citizens and uphold their rights by any means necessary.

Thank you.

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[1] *Since 5 August 2019, more than 1,000 Kashmiris have been killed, including at least 295 extrajudicial or custodial killings. There are over 2,700 cases of torture, and 34,000 detentions. More than 1,200 homes and shops have been demolished as collective punishment. India has issued 4.2 million domicile certificates to alter the territory's demographic structure, in breach of UNSC resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention.*