



**Right of Reply 2 by Mr. Naeem Sabar, Counsellor during the 4th
Committee Meeting
(9th October 2023)**

Madam Chair,

I am exercising this right of reply in response to the statement of the distinguished delegate of India. A short while ago, he forecasted that my delegation will exercise a right of reply. I am happy to oblige him.

Let me reiterate that the Declaration of 1960 decrees that 'all peoples', not some peoples but all peoples under alien subjugation have the right to self-determination. The right is also enshrined in the first article of the United Nations Charter, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Year after year, India continues to present a factually incorrect position on this forum. Jammu and Kashmir is an 'internationally recognized' 'disputed territory' and not an integral part of India. Multiple resolutions of the United Nations Security Council define it as a "disputed territory". This is also printed on all official UN maps.

Security Council resolution 47 clearly states that "the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan should be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite". India accepted this decision and is bound to comply with it in accordance with Article 25 of the UN Charter.

Since 5 August 2019, India is on its way to transforming occupied territory from a Muslim-majority state to a Hindu-majority territory in barefaced violation of the 4th Geneva Convention and international law.

Madam Chair,

The statement of India's delegate today is merely an attempt to camouflage its state terrorism and the treatment of its minorities. It will be appropriate to put a spotlight on the Indian State-sponsored terrorism here - a franchise that has gone from regional to global. Pakistan along with other countries is now facing this state-sponsored terrorism.

I would also like to draw the attention of the committee to the recent report of Amnesty International titled 'Weaponizing Counterterrorism: India's exploitation of terrorism financing assessments to target civil society'. The report highlighted that India is using Financial Action Task Force (FATF) assessment reports to supplement its arsenal of counter-terrorism and money laundering laws, many of which are routinely used to target civil society organizations and human rights defenders including in the Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Amnesty International called on the FATF and its member states to not allow these laws to further the clampdown on dissent in India, which has systematically eroded the rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression in the country.

Madam Chair,

Today, more than 200 million Muslim, Christian and other minorities face blatant discrimination in India. The terrifying rise in Islamophobia within India is a distressing consequence of the blind pursuit by the BJP-RSS government of the majoritarian 'Hindutva' agenda and its explicit support for anti-Islam and anti-Muslim rhetoric. Today, no minority is safe in India.

Pakistan calls on the international community, particularly the United Nations and its human rights machinery, to take cognisance of the rapidly deteriorating situation of Islamophobia in India and hold India accountable for its failure to ensure the security and well-being of its Muslim citizens.

We also ask the UN to demand that India end its state terrorism and abide by its obligations under international law, including the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir.

I thank you.