



Pakistan’s Right of Reply delivered by Second Secretary Rabia Ijaz, in response to RoR by India at the General Assembly Debate on “Responsibility to protect”

1 July 2024

Mr. President,

My delegation is taking the floor to respond to the inflammatory remarks just made by the delegation of India. This delegation once again refuses to confront the facts presented by my delegation about India's abysmal treatment of minorities, opting instead to present fabricated assertions to the Assembly. It is rather ironic for a country to give sermons to others when its own minorities, including Christians, Muslims and Dalits, are publicly lynched at the hands of Hindutva zealots on a daily basis.

Mr. President,

2. Pakistan condemns any incident of religious violence within our borders. Our leadership swiftly intervenes, condemns the acts, and ensures swift justice for the perpetrators.

3. In stark contrast, India's leadership appears bent on escalating communal tensions. Can the representative of India justify the recent incident where a BJP leader openly threatened to slaughter 200,000 Muslims? We witnessed India's leadership's unabashed use of anti-Muslim rhetoric for political gain, including their Prime Minister calling Muslims "infiltrators" during one of his campaign speeches. Moreover, Hindu priests have openly called for genocide of Muslim minorities in India.

4. Mr. President, normally, if such incidents occur in any country, swift and scrupulous action is taken to create deterrence. However, India stands out where the government not only endorses but is complicit in these serious crimes. There is a glaring lack of political will to curb these atrocities in India, unlike Pakistan's unequivocal stance in similar circumstances.

5. This despicable record against minorities in India has alarmed UN human rights experts, which issued a statement in March earlier this year stating and I quote "We are alarmed by continuing reports of attacks on religious, racial and ethnic minorities, on women and girls on intersecting grounds, and on civil society, including human rights defenders and the media in India,"

6. We would like to remind the Indian delegation that instead of making vitriolic remarks and fabricating information with no evidence against my country, they should better address the concerns being consistently raised by the UN experts and reverse the dangerous Islamophobic trend in their country.

7. Mr. President, the delegation of India referred to the events of 1971, which were not a question of genocide but of India's foreign aggression and attack on national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan. I would like to request the Indian delegation to refer to the General Assembly resolution of December 1971 which upheld the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against the foreign invasion.

8. As far as terrorism is concerned, it is rather ironic for a country that uses terrorism as an instrument of State policy against its neighbors to point fingers at others. It is surprising to see that this country is lecturing on terrorism when it is itself a state sponsor of terrorism, running a global franchise of assassination campaigns and has abused sanctions regimes in the UN Security Council to prevent the listing of its nationals involved in various terrorist activities.

Mr. President,

9. India knows all too well that its illegal annexation would never be accepted by the occupied people of Jammu and Kashmir. However, it stubbornly refuses to acknowledge a simple fact that the Jammu & Kashmir dispute is neither a constitutional nor an internal matter of India. It has always been and continues to remain an internationally recognized dispute under relevant Security Council resolutions. It cannot be wished away by India through legal acrobatics.

10. Considering that actions taken by India in the Indian occupied Kashmir transgress all limits of legality, human rights and humanitarian norms, the international community must work towards alleviating the suffering of the people of Jammu & Kashmir by granting them their right of self-determination as enshrined by the UN Charter as well as numerous UNSC resolutions.

I thank you, Mr. President.