

Annex to the letter dated 10 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 9 March 2020 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan addressed to the President of the Security Council

In continuation of my letters dated 1, 6, 13 and 26 August, 16 September, 31 October and 12 December 2019, I wish to draw the attention of the Security Council to the latest developments relating to the grave human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the accompanying serious threat to peace and security in South Asia.

Pakistan appreciates the Security Council's deliberations, once again, on the Jammu and Kashmir situation, held on 15 January 2020.

The atrocities and human rights violations being perpetrated by 900,000 Indian occupation troops on the Kashmiri people in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir have neither diminished, nor has there been a let-up in the continuous lockdown and communications blackout as well as the continued incarceration of the Kashmiri leadership since 5 August 2019.

Despite that, India is advancing a false narrative of "normalcy" in order to mislead the world community. Among other things, "guided" tours for some diplomats have been organized by the occupation authorities. However, reports about the situation on the ground continue to belie India's false and misleading claims, confirming that Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir is far from normal and stable.

Meanwhile, the apprehensions of Kashmiris were further vindicated when the newly appointed Indian Chief of Defence Staff made the atrocious public statement on 17 January 2020 that Kashmiri youth "need to be taken out separately, possibly taken into some deradicalization camps". He added: "We've got deradicalization camps going on in our country." As is well known, Indian civil society groups have reported that over 13,000 young Kashmiri boys have been abducted from their homes and sent to different parts of India. Some of the boys are as young as 9.

The situation on the line of control remains a matter of serious concern. There have been 744 ceasefire violations by India since my letter of 12 December 2019. Strong protests have been lodged with India through military and diplomatic channels in instances of loss of human life and serious injury. These ceasefire violations by the Indian side are regularly reported to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

Against this backdrop, we trust that the Security Council will take cognizance of the UNMOGIP reporting on the ceasefire violations and also take steps to reinforce the UNMOGIP presence in the area.

We have also been getting credible signals that, in its desperation to divert the world's attention from its unacceptable actions in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India may resort to a "false flag" operation and then blame Pakistan. Pakistan has been consistently forewarning the international community about this eventuality and would like to, once again, emphasize that India's belligerent rhetoric and aggressive actions on the ground continue unabated. The serious consequences for peace and security are self-evident.

No less than the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, himself asserted, on 20 January 2020, that "our [Indian] armed forces will not take more than 7 to 10 days to make

Pakistan bite the dust". This threat violates Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibits "the threat or use of force".

The Indian Prime Minister's threatening statement follows the earlier boast of the Indian Minister for External Affairs that India will "one day" assume "physical jurisdiction" of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

India's new Army Chief, while addressing a press conference on 11 January 2020, had declared readiness to take military action for this purpose. These military threats follow public declarations by senior Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, including the Indian Minister of Defence, regarding changes in India's nuclear doctrine.

Pakistan does not want war. However, if the Indian belligerence is translated into yet another misadventure, Pakistan would – consistent with its right to self-defence granted under the Charter – respond swiftly and effectively to Indian aggression.

I had earlier cautioned the Security Council that India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019 were aimed, inter alia, at altering the demographic structure of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Recent developments provide further corroboration of these Indian designs. The Indian Government is evidently and forcibly confiscating properties of Kashmiris and has decided to allocate over 6,000 acres of land to non-Kashmiris, especially Hindu businessmen. There are confirmed reports of settlement of non-Kashmiris, especially Hindus, in gated communities in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. This, I wish to remind the Council, is an egregious violation of the relevant Council resolutions, as well as the Fourth Geneva Convention (art. 49), which prohibits the establishment of settlements, as these are a form of population transfer into occupied territory.

Quite evidently, the "Hindutva" ideology that asserts religious and ethnic supremacy of only one group in India remains the driving force behind the pattern of targeted violence against Muslims – from Gujarat in February 2002 to New Delhi in February 2020. This majoritarian mindset impels recurring communal violence and has also been responsible for India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Given these developments, it is imperative that the Security Council remain seized of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. This is essential to avert the clear and present threat to peace and security and to end the gross and systematic violations of human rights in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan desires peace and stability. However, durable peace and stability in South Asia would remain contingent upon a just and lasting solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. I urge the Council to play its role and enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination as promised to them in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and agreed by the international community, including India and Pakistan.

(Signed) Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi