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Human Rights Abuses in the Indian Occupied Kashmir

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In July, 2019 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued a 43 pages reports on human rights violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). Summary of report is available online on Aljazeera's website.

According to UN report Indian occupation forces have killed one hundred unarmed protestors in 2016, after Burhan Wanni's killing. UN criticized Armed Forces Special Powers Act. Indian forces are empowered to detain unarmed Kashmiris. Act empowers Indian security officials to carryout extra judicial killings of anyone in Kashmir valley. It serves as an umbrella to quell prosecution of armed forces personnel alleged of human rights violations in civilian courts. UN report recommended to carryout unbiased international investigation in human rights violations in Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) published report claims that Indian forces killed 160 civilians alone in 2017. JKCCS in another report published on December 31 indicates that security forces in Indian occupied Kashmir killed 33 civilian Kashmiris and another 22 alleged terrorists since August 5. Champions of democracy and liberal principles have remained mere spectators in the face of human rights violations. Kashmiris have been illegally detained and denied of their rights to live. JKCCS report claims that Bhat was electrocuted in genital. Kashmiri women are sexually harassed/ assaulted resulting in anxiety and psychological problems. Brutal use of force is exercised against unarmed Kashmiri civilians in the valley. Kashmiris living in India were also harassed by right wing student organizations and orthodox Hindus. Atleast 43 such incidents were reported in the first quarter of 2019. Indian police and security forces first introduced pellet guns in 2010, against Kashmiris. In January, 2019 Mahbooba Mufti, while addressing the state legislative assembly stated that 6221 Kashmiris were injured due to pellet guns. Many others were killed. A study carried in April, 2019 by Government Medical College,

Srinagar titled, "Psychiatric Morbidity in Pellet Injury Victims of Kashmir," highlights that 85% victims of pellet guns suffer from psychiatric problems. Indian government turned deaf ear to repeated calls from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to stop using pellet guns. Indian government uses pellet guns in the pretext of "non-lethal guns."

Situation in Kashmir is worrisome in present circumstances, due to the forced disappearances and lockdown of Kashmiri people since August. Forced disappearances are causing resentment in locals. It is feared that once the inhumane curfew is lifted situation will be difficult to control. Prime Minister Imran Khan during his address to UN General Assembly rightly warned of a bloodbath. Second, shutdown of internet and landline phones facilities in the valley. Third, Indian government is illegally detaining Kashmiri leaders, political activists and lawyers under Public Safety Act (PSA) to terrorize the population. In July Ghulam Muhammad Bhat was taken into custody by the Indian security forces. On December 20, Bhat victim of PSA died at the age of 65 in prison. It is replica of terrorists strategy employed in Pakistan's tribal areas. Fourth, General Bipin Rawat recently intimidated that situation along Line of Control (LOC) can escalate anytime. Indian military preparedness indicates operational readiness to launch preemptive strike across LOC. Aljazeera reported that Indian military deployed BrahMos supersonic cruise missile in Indian Occupied Kashmir. International community's response to lockdown endangered the lives of millions in Kashmir. Global community's preferential treatment and policy of appeasement towards India is endangering regional peace and stability. International

community should acknowledge that future crisis mismanagement will have global repercussions.

