

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### **OIC-IPHRC expresses deep concerns over the alarming rise in Islamophobia, hate-motivated violence, and targeted reprisal attacks against Muslim communities in India and Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) in the aftermath of a tragic attack on tourists in Pahalgam district of IOJK and calls for the protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of Muslims in India**

**Jeddah, May 3, 2025:** The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expresses profound concern and condemnation regarding disturbing reports from international media which suggested an increase in hate speech, targeted reprisal attacks, and acts of violence both online and offline, against Muslims in various parts of India, as well as Kashmiri Muslims in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). The reported incidents of hate-driven violence against Muslims appear to be fueled by far-right Hindu nationalist groups, which wrongfully blame Muslims for a recent violent attack on tourists in the Pahalgam district of IOJK. While the Commission offers its condolences for the loss of civilian lives in the Pahalgam incident, it reaffirms that such unprovoked acts of violence against innocent civilians are violations of human rights and human dignity. As such, the Commission calls for a prompt and impartial investigation into the incident and urges all to respect the sanctity of human life and ensure the protection of civilians at all times.

The Commission is deeply concerned about the unfounded scapegoating of Muslim communities in India following the Pahalgam incident. This represents a harmful attempt by far-right Hindu nationalists to incite communal violence. Such actions are exacerbated by lack of accountability and the growing systemic and systematic normalization of anti-Muslim rhetoric. It is important to note that India is home to over 200 million Muslims, who constitute nearly 14 percent of the country's population. The protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of Muslim minorities is a binding obligation for India under international human rights law. Key instruments in this regard include *Articles 2, 18, 26, and 27* of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), *Article 2(2)* of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and *Article 4* of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). These human rights instruments guarantee the right to life and dignity, freedom of religion or belief, protection against discrimination, and freedom from incitement to hatred and violence. It requires states to avoid discriminatory practices and take proactive steps to protect minorities from violence, systemic exclusion, hate speech, and marginalization.

To address the increasing Islamophobia and incidents motivated by hate, the Commission urges the Government of the Republic of India to fulfill its obligations under international human rights law. It is essential to ensure the safety and security of law-abiding and peaceful Muslim communities by implementing concrete measures at all levels to halt the cycle of violence and hatred, prevent its recurrence, and bring those who commit hate crimes against Muslims to justice. The Commission also calls on the international community, United Nations human rights mechanisms including Special Procedures, to closely monitor the situation and take necessary actions to protect the rights and dignity of Muslims in India.

In regard to the human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), the Commission's *"Standing Mechanism to Monitor the Situation of Human Rights in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir"* reaffirms its rejection of the unilateral and illegal actions taken by India since August 5, 2019. These actions aimed to alter the demographic composition of the occupied territory, violating international humanitarian law and UN Security Council resolutions and denying Kashmiri Muslims their inalienable right to self-determination. The Commission reiterates its call for the establishment of an international fact-finding mission or Commission of Inquiry under the auspices of the United Nations to investigate human rights violations in IOJK and to independently verify and report on the human rights situation.

Furthermore, the Commission urges the United Nations and the international community to press India to a) Abide by the relevant UN Security Council and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) resolutions by refraining from any administrative and legislative measures that would alter the geographical and demographic status of IOJK; b) Restore all fundamental freedoms of the Kashmiri Muslims, cease all forms of collective punishment, release all political prisoners, and repeal discriminatory laws; c) Allow the UN, OIC-IPHRC, and other human rights organizations to visit IOJK to assess and report on the human rights situation; and d) Enable the people of Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination through a free and fair referendum, as stipulated in the relevant UN Security Council and OIC resolutions. *noraalrshoud*

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