

OIC-IPHRC joins international condemnation of blatant human rights violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IoK) and escalation in violence against the innocent civilians and renews its call for an independent investigation into these atrocities.

Jeddah, 19th April 2018: At the end of its 13th Regular Session, the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) condemned in unequivocal terms the escalation of atrocities and human rights violations by the Indian Occupation forces in IoK against the innocent Kashmiri Muslims who are denied their fundamental human rights in utter disregard to the international human rights law. The recent heavy-handedness of Indian forces in South Kashmir in response to the peaceful protests in support of the Kashmiris' well established 'right to self-determination' has resulted in killing of at least 20 civilians and injury to over hundreds.

The Commission was appalled by the violence against women and children in IoK including the recent incident of rape and murder of an eight-year-old young Muslim girl Aseefa Bano in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district who was held in a temple and repeatedly raped before being murdered in cold blood. The initial investigation pointed towards involvement of police officers in this horrific crime, which has not only shaken the conscience of the international community but has also exposed the widespread/grave human rights abuses prevalent in the IoK with no or little recourse to justice for the victims. The OIC-IPHRC echoes the appeal of the UN Secretary General to conduct an independent investigation to bring the alleged rapists and murderers of minor Muslim girl to justice.

Over the past two decades, more than 60,000 people have been killed in IoK and both national and international human rights organizations have criticized India for its brutal and oppressive policies in Kashmir. Repeated discovery of unidentified mass graves, forced disappearances, extra judicial killings, illegal and arbitrary use of force to inflict severe bodily harm, including mass blinding through pellet guns, upon the innocent civilians are the norms of daily life for Kashmiri Muslims. Even women, children and elderly are not spared. Restrictions on media and movement of Kashmiri leadership have become the order of the day. Despite growing criticism on these gross human rights violations from independent media and human rights organizations, Indian occupation forces blatantly continue to violate human rights with impunity.

IPHRC supports the call made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international human rights organizations upon India to allow access to IoK for 'an independent and fact-based analysis' of the human rights situation on the ground. In view of the deteriorating human rights situation in IoK, the OIC-IPHRC shall also brief the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir at the sidelines of the 45th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Dhaka, Bangladesh scheduled to take place on 5-6 May 2018.

For more information: Please visit IPHRC's website: www.oic-iphrc.org