

**IPHRC condemns the repeated human rights violations in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) and fully supports UN High Commissioners for Human Rights' demand to allow a fact-finding visit to comprehensively investigate the human rights violations**

**Jeddah 25 April 2019:** During its ongoing 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), held a meeting of its "*Standing Mechanism for monitoring the human rights situation in the IOK*", which expressed grave concerns on the unabated gross human rights violations against the innocent Kashmiri Muslims by the Indian occupation forces. The Commission was appalled at the excessive use of force by Indian forces involving torture and extrajudicial killings of innocent civilians as well as arbitrary and unlawful detentions of the Kashmiri Hurriyat leadership (True Representatives of Kashmiri People) to counter their indigenous struggle for the right to self-determination, which is in stark violation of their fundamental human rights and freedoms.

All possible means of violence are used by Indian occupation forces in IOK, including mass blinding through pellet guns; rape and molestation of women as a method of collective punishment; enforced disappearances and extra judicial killings to quell Kashmiris' legitimate and well recognized demand for self-determination. Referring to these widespread human rights abuses, with no or little recourse to justice for the victims, the Commission stressed that these systematic and systemic human rights violations have a well-defined pattern and design of State collusion with all the hall marks of ethnic cleansing and genocide of Kashmiris, which fall under the definition of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

The Commission deplored the persistent denial of the Indian Government to allow any fact finding visit to the IOK to carry out an independent and impartial investigation of the human rights situation, including from the OIC and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). To this end, the IPHRC fully supported the recommendation made in the corresponding UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' report to establish a Commission of Inquiry under the UN auspices to investigate the allegations of human rights violations. To this end, the Commission welcomed the adoption of OIC resolutions during the 46<sup>th</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers which called upon the Indian Government to stop human rights violations and bring to justice its perpetrators. Also, the Commission lauded adoption of a resolution by the All Parties Parliamentary Group of British Parliamentarians, which inter-alia, urged the international community to resort to Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions regime to pressurize the India to comply with her international human rights obligations.

The international community must pressurize Indian Government to put an immediate end to the on-going human rights violations in the IOK, release all the political prisoners, repeal its discriminatory laws, which contravene international human rights laws and standards as well as to allow fact finding visits of the OHCHR, OIC-IPHRC, International Committee of the Red Cross and other human rights bodies, it added.

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