

Lord Ahmed of Rotherham  
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Members of the Human Rights Council  
Geneva  
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Your Excellency

I write this appeal on behalf of the people of Indian Held Kashmir. As you discuss and debate the second UPR report for India I offer my thoughts on the ongoing situation in Indian Held Kashmir.

India, a country of over one billion people, is still failing to adequately address a whole range of human rights problems in Kashmir. The Government of India continues to apply a range of laws that are contrary to human rights norms and even a number of the treaties that they have signed - including the Geneva Conventions and the ICCPR. It is estimated that as many as one hundred thousand civilians have been killed since the early 1990's and as many as twenty thousand people have been victims of enforced disappearance. Instances of torture, extra-judicial execution, rape, and disappearance are commonplace and the Government of India has failed entirely to put systems in place that would stop such gross human rights violations from being perpetrated on a grand scale.

You may be aware of the report by the International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-administered Kashmir, which documents the buried evidence of 2,700 unknown and unmarked mass graves containing more than 2,943 bodies across 55 villages. These graveyards contain victims of murder and fake encounter killings between 1990 and 2009. The bodies include those extra judicially, summarily and arbitrarily executed and the victims of massacres committed by Indian military and paramilitary forces

Laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, the Public Safety Act, the Criminal Procedure Code (to name but a few), allow wide-ranging powers and immunities to the armed forces and the police that result in torture, murder, rape, disappearance and extrajudicial execution. India has even failed to ratify the Convention against Torture despite a commitment to sign it "as soon as possible" during its previous UPR.

I cordially bring these matters to the attention of the Council and very much hope that these ongoing concerns are raised during the 2012 UPR for the state of India.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Najid Ahmed', written over a circular stamp.

Lord Ahmed of Rotherham