



सत्यमेव जयते

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The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to the Joint Communication dated 19 November 2024 from some Special Procedures Mandate Holders.

2. It is surprising to receive a Communication that is so visibly biased and distortive of facts. The Special Procedures Mandate Holders have painted a picture of a certain individual that is grossly at variance with publicly available information on him, including his close association with, and leadership of, declared terrorist outfits. More importantly, the facts brought out by the investigative agencies, through due process of law, during investigations of serious crimes perpetrated by the individual have been totally ignored. The Special Procedures Mandate Holders have cast unwarranted aspersions on the Indian judicial and executive processes, including on the request for his extradition from Canada. The unresponsiveness of Canadian authorities on this matter, despite the circumstances of his entry into the country, should be understood in the larger context of their non-cooperation in deference to vote bank interests in Canada.

3. The Special Procedures Mandate Holders have repeatedly cited statements by Canadian Government as though these are uncontested and self-evident facts. In fact, the Government of India has repeatedly pointed out that these imputations have not been backed up by facts. Moreover, an objective account would have also noted the Canadian Prime Minister's statement that the information available with his Government does not match evidentiary standards. The Government of India has taken the position from the very start that it is open to examining any evidence. None has been forthcoming to date. Our public positions in that regard have conveniently been omitted in this Communication, even as all the allegations received by the Special Procedures Mandate Holders seem to be treated as unvarnished truth!

4. It is evident that the mindset behind the Communication is one of strong preconceived hostility towards India, its sovereignty and its integrity. It is also a matter of regret that this has extended to justifying terrorism and supporting a separatist agenda. There is little recognition that the Indian Constitution contains more than adequate safeguards with regard to the right to life, protection of human rights, and the freedom of religion, belief, expression, association and assembly. And that these are backed up by an independent judiciary and a free and robust media.

5. Since the Special Procedures Mandate Holders have completely ignored India's declared positions on the matter raised by them, a set of our statements and notifications is being forwarded with this Note. The only question that remains to be answered is why

the Special Procedures Mandate Holders have chosen to take such a completely one-sided and motivated view of this issue.

6. The Special Procedure Mandate Holders are well advised to ensure that this important mechanism created collectively by the Member States of the United Nations is not hijacked and co-opted by actors pursuing a malicious agenda.

7. The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations office and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
(Kind Attention: Ms. Federica Donati, Officer-in-Charge, Special Procedures Branch)
Geneva