

# PEACE OF A GRAVEYARD

Bi-annual Human Rights Report on Kashmir



Peace of a Graveyard: Bi-annual Human Rights Report on Kashmir

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## Executive Summary

For the past 76 years, the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir have been struggling to exercise their UN-mandated right to self-determination. The Indian state's occupation of Kashmir and its persistent repression of the political aspirations of the Kashmiri population have resulted in ongoing and egregious human rights violations. While India claims that Kashmir is "peaceful," the report makes it clear that this purported peace is the *peace of a graveyard*, a peace and silence built on the dead bodies and repression of Kashmiris.

This report, prepared by Justice For All, offers an overview and analysis of the multifaceted human rights violations and political developments in Indian-occupied Kashmir, covering the period from January 2024 to June 2024.

Some of the major human rights violations observed during this period include: i) the denial of religious freedom, exemplified by the closure of mosques and the banning of prayer gatherings; ii) the implementation of policies and laws aimed at changing the Muslim-majority demographic of the region and promoting Hindutva; iii) ongoing arbitrary and illegal detentions of pro-freedom Kashmiri Muslims, along with the seizure or destruction of their homes and those of their supporters; iv) the suppression of press freedom, evidenced by the arrest and intimidation of numerous journalists; v) the suspension of Kashmiri Muslims from employment due to their pro-freedom views or beliefs; vi) extrajudicial killings of Kashmiri civilians falsely labeled as "combatants;" vii) internet shutdowns; and viii) increased militarization of the world's most militarized zone.

The report compiles information from local and international press, human rights organizations, government records, and the families of victims of human rights violations. However, during our documentation, we found that many Kashmiri families remain silent about the oppression they face due to fear of reprisals. Additionally, state officials heavily regulate the work of journalists, hindering the free flow of information about these violations. The report aims to make a significant intervention by presenting the Kashmiri perspective, countering the Indian government's narratives enforced on local journalists.

Human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir are systematic, organized and state-sanctioned, rather than isolated incidents. Kashmiris' efforts to seek redress through domestic legal avenues have been

persistently thwarted, with rare court orders often ignored and the state's legal machinery fostering a culture of impunity. While India's occupation of Kashmir is frequently framed as a land dispute between India and Pakistan, the human cost and personal sufferings are often overlooked. This report seeks to highlight and disseminate the human cost of the occupation. The following tables present numerical summaries of this human cost. Table One is a summary of human rights violations. Table Two is a monthly statistical account of the impact of Indian occupation. The report describes some of these in more detail; space constraints mean that not all of the human rights violations that occur can be fully explained.

## Bi-Annual Human Rights **VIOLATIONS** in the Indian occupied Kashmir

Killings and Injuries due to Indian occupation	205
Detentions/Arrests	657
Gunfights between pro-freedom armed fighters and occupation forces	32
Cordon and Search Operations/Military Raids	202
Structures Damaged	25
Internet Blockades	22

(With Input from Legal Forum for Kashmir)

## Monthly **ACCOUNT OF COST** of Occupation in the Indian occupied Kashmir

Month	Killings and Injuries due to Indian Occupation	Detentions/Arrests By India	Gunfights Between pro-Freedom Armed Fighters and Indian Army	Number of Cordon And Search Operations	Structuras Damaged	Number of Internet Blockades
January	20	108	5	33	4	3
February	8	52	3	49	2	2
March	11	145	2	27	1	2
April	19	177	8	31	6	4
May	59	109	7	42	5	5
June	88	66	7	20	7	6

(With Input from Legal Forum for Kashmir)

## Introduction

This report on the human rights violations India is committing in Kashmir covers the period January to June 2024. Justice For All has documented such abuses in a previous report, *Kashmir 2023: Annual Human Rights Review*.<sup>1</sup>

For the past 76 years, the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir have been struggling to exercise their UN-mandated right to self-determination. Kashmir is part of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, a contested region located in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent, bordered by India, Pakistan and China, and divided administratively between these three countries. This report focuses on Indian-occupied Kashmir, with occasional reference to Jammu when relevant. The Indian state's occupation of Kashmir and its persistent repression of the political aspirations of the Kashmiri population have resulted in ongoing and egregious human rights violations. While India claims that Kashmir is "peaceful," the report makes it clear that this purported peace is the *peace of a graveyard*, a peace and silence built on the dead bodies and repression of Kashmiris.

"Peace of a Graveyard" compiles information from local and international press, human rights organizations, government records, and the families of victims of human rights violations. However, during our documentation, we found that many Kashmiri families remain silent about the oppression they face due to fear of reprisals. Additionally, state officials heavily regulate the work of journalists, hindering the free flow of information about these violations. The report aims to make a significant intervention by presenting the Kashmiri perspective, countering the Indian government's narratives enforced on local journalists.

As we will see, human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir are systematic, organized, and state-sanctioned, rather than isolated incidents. Kashmiris' efforts to seek redress through domestic legal avenues have been persistently thwarted, with rare court orders often ignored and the state's legal machinery fostering a culture of impunity. While India's occupation of Kashmir is frequently framed as a land dispute between India and Pakistan, the human cost and personal sufferings are often overlooked. This report seeks to highlight and disseminate the human cost of the occupation.

The report contains brief descriptions of incidents followed by a short

<sup>1</sup> Justice For All, *Kashmir 2023: Annual Human Rights Review* (Chicago: Justice For All), <https://www.kashmiraction.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/02-KAHR-01-3.pdf>.

analysis that connects the events to the wider picture. The sections look at: Religious Freedom Violations; Social Media Surveillance and Repression; Property Confiscation, Land Dispossession and Economic Disenfranchisement; Arbitrary Detentions, Plight of Political Prisoners and Torture; Military Violence, Settler-colonies and Surveillance Technologies; India's War Against Kashmiri History and Academicians; Forcible Indianization of the Kashmiri People; and Political and Peaceful pro-Freedom Groups Banned and Targeted.

## Methodology

The primary and secondary sources of data gathered by Justice For All's Kashmir Action research team served as the foundation for this report. The report also draws upon data obtained from government sources in Indian-occupied Kashmir, reputable media outlets, fact-finding reports from non-governmental organizations, and multiple firsthand accounts from the families of the victims. To guarantee its veracity, every detail in this report has been verified from multiple sources.



## Religious Freedom Violations

This section of the report focuses on the ongoing restrictions on religious practices and assembly rights in the Kashmir region, highlighting specific incidents that underscore a continued pattern of interference by the occupying authorities in the religious activities of the Muslim population.

### Religious Clerics Persecuted and Detained

The State Investigation Agency of India carried out on February 7 a raid at the residence of religious preacher and cleric Sarjan Barkati in south Kashmir's Shopian district.<sup>2</sup> Barkati is a religious preacher who has been incarcerated for his involvement in the Kashmiri right to self-determination movement.

India arrested Barkati in September 2022 and he has been under arbitrary detention ever since. This is not the first time Barkati was arrested. In 2016, Barkati was kept under arbitrary detention for more than four years, only to be released in October 2020.

His pro-freedom peaceful rallies had huge participation, sometimes numbering in the thousands. His nickname was "Azadi Chacha" (Uncle Freedom) and he was also called "the Pied Piper of South Kashmir" for his unique sloganeering and unconventional style of speeches.

Barkati has not been a victim of state repression alone: his wife, Shabroza Bano, has also been targeted by India. In November 2023 India's State Investigation Agency arrested her under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Barkati and Bano have small children who now have lost both their parents to incarceration.

The raid is designed to further torment the incarcerated couple, whose children now live at their home alone.

### Mosques Shut, Religious Festivals Banned and Preacher Detained

Similarly, Mirwaiz Dr Umar Farooq was placed under house detention on February 9 in order to prevent him from leading prayers at the prominent

<sup>2</sup> "SIA Raids Sarjan Barkati's Home in South Kashmir's Shopian," *Kashmir Observer*, February 7, 2024, <https://kash-mirobserver.net/2024/02/07/sia-raids-sarjan-barkatis-home-in-south-kashmirs-shopian/>.

Jamia mosque in Srinagar, Kashmir's largest city.<sup>3</sup> ("Mirwaiz" is a title given to the chief Muslim preacher of Kashmir.) This was part of an arbitrary pattern of the ever-present police outside his house, sometimes allowing him to leave and sometimes not.

The detention distressed the Muslim population of Srinagar as the Mirwaiz was supposed to give a special sermon on the occasion of *Shab-e-Meraj* (Night of Ascension). The night has great importance in Islam, and Muslims in the valley observe the occasion with fervor.

A large number of people were expected at the mosque for the Mirwaiz's sermon, but the Indian government-stationed police vehicles and military outside the main gate of Farooq's residence prevented him from leaving.

After having been released in 2024, on March 28, India again placed him under illegal house arrest. This was ahead of a sermon that he was scheduled to deliver at a prominent mosque in Srinagar, known as *Aali Masjid*.<sup>4</sup> The restrictions came after the Mirwaiz called for the release of Kashmiri political prisoners during one of his sermons in Ramadan.

India again shut down the historic Jamia mosque, which is the center of religious life for Kashmiri Muslims, on April 5, the last Friday of Ramadan. Because it is the last Friday of Ramadan, this was especially grievous for the worshippers. The historic Jamia mosque in Srinagar was closed again the next day, April 6, ahead of Laylat al-Qadr (the *Night of Destiny*), an exceptionally blessed night in Ramadan; India disallowed the special night prayers in the mosque. The mosque gate was locked with a heavy military presence outside it. All the worshippers who had reached the mosque to participate in the religious services were forcibly sent back. Also, the Mirwaiz was again put under house-arrest and not allowed to go to the mosque.

For the fifth straight year since the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's nominal political autonomy in 2019, India did not allow Eid-al-Fitr prayers (signifying the end of Ramadan) on April 10 at the historic mosque. Local religious leaders and communities protested this closure.<sup>5</sup>

Yet a few days later, India allowed Indian Hindus to celebrate their festival, *Ram Nawami*, publicly and with great fervor in Lal Chowk, the symbolic and economic center of Srinagar city.<sup>6</sup> The observance of Hindu festivals with state patronage and police protection, while the Muslim majority of the valley is being denied basic religious freedoms, clearly reflects the systemic

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3 "Yusuf Jameel, "Srinagar's Grand Mosque locked again; Mirwaiz Umar barred from leaving home," *Deccan Chronicle*, April 5, 2024, <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/news/srinagars-grand-mosque-locked-again-mirwaiz-umar-barred-from-leaving-home-888496>.

4 "Mirwaiz Umar Farooq placed under house arrest, claims outfit," *The Economic Times*, March 28, 2024, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/mirwaiz-umar-farooq-placed-under-house-arrest-claims-outfit/article-show/108844470.cms?from=mdr>.

5 "Eid Prayers Not Allowed at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid, Mirwaiz 'Under House Arrest' Again," *The Wire*, April 10, 2024, <https://m.thewire.in/article/communalism/eid-prayers-not-allowed-at-srinagars-jamia-masjid-mirwaiz-under-house-arrest-again>.

6 Auqib Salam, "Ram Navmi celebrated with religious fervor in Srinagar," *Greater Kashmir*, April 18, 2024, <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/city/ram-navmi-celebrated-with-religious-fervour-in-srinagar/>.

Islamophobia and Hindu supremacist nature of the Indian political apparatus.

## Analysis

The documented violations of religious freedoms in Kashmir highlight a severe and systematic infringement of religious rights. The persecution and detention of religious clerics like Imam Sarjan Barkati and Mirwaiz Dr. Umar Farooq represent an ongoing effort to suppress religious leaders and, by extension, the religious practices of the Kashmiri Muslim population. Imam Barkati's repeated arbitrary detentions, along with the imprisonment of his wife under stringent laws, not only strip them of personal liberty but also inflict psychological and emotional trauma on their family and congregants, particularly their children. Such targeted persecution based on religious and political activities violates fundamental human rights, including freedom of religion, freedom of expression and protection from arbitrary detention.

The closures of the Jamia mosque a-during these holy periods prevent Muslims from practicing a core aspect of their faith, which is to pray in congregation. These bans not only violate the right to freedom of religion but also the right to peaceful assembly, indicating an orchestrated strategy to marginalize the religious practices of the Muslim community.

While Muslim religious gatherings are suppressed, Hindu festivals are celebrated with state support and protection. This differential treatment underscores a broader agenda of religious and cultural domination, contributing to the marginalization and alienation of the Muslim majority in Kashmir.

These actions contravene several international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which India is a party. Article 18 of the UDHR and ICCPR guarantees the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, while Articles 19 and 21 protect the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, respectively.

# Social Media Surveillance and Repression

## Detaining Civilians for Social Media Use

On January 25, Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Reasi area of occupied Jammu and Kashmir registered two cases and arrested three people for allegedly posting “objectionable” posts on social media platforms.<sup>7</sup> The government of India determines all calls for Kashmiris’ right to self-determination as objectionable and criminalizes it, whether or not they occur inside or outside Kashmir region. Phones and electronic devices of pro-freedom Kashmiri social media users are regularly seized.

Even in India, students face such detentions and harassment for questioning Hindu nationalist practices. Sohrab Qayoom, a student from the Poonch area of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and pursuing a bachelors of Pharmacy at Mewar University, Rajasthan, was arrested on January 26 by the Rajasthan police for commenting on the demolished Babri Masjid and the construction of the Ram temple on the mosque site.<sup>8</sup>

A Kashmiri social media user in the Pulwama district of Kashmir valley, Sameer Ahmed, was arrested and booked on March 27 for a post he made on Facebook. In the post, he had stated that a Kashmiri boy from his area had decided to join the Kashmiri freedom movement.<sup>9</sup> Sameer’s family is facing serious troubles due to his arrest. They maintain that Sameer was not involved in any anti-state political activity and was detained only for sharing the news. The police First Information Report (FIR) against Sameer, accessed and verified by Justice For All, also states that he “has been found circulating incriminating content on social media, thereby disrupting public peace and tranquility.”

## Analysis

The government of India charges any use of social media that goes against

7 “Three arrested for objectionable social media posts in Reasi, says police,” *Free Press Kashmir*, January 25, 2024, <https://freepresskashmir.news/2024/01/25/three-arrested-for-objectionable-social-media-posts-in-reasi-says-police/>.

8 “JK student arrested in Rajasthan for comments on Babri Masjid, Ram temple,” *Free Press Kashmir*, January 27, 2024, <https://freepresskashmir.news/2024/01/27/jk-student-arrested-in-rajasthan-for-comments-on-babri-masjid-ram-temple/>.

9 “Man booked for Spreading Fake News on Social Media: Police,” *Kashmir Life*, March 27, 2024, <https://kashmir-life.net/man-booked-for-spreading-fake-news-on-social-media-police-349120/>.

state interests as a criminal activity, under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The Act defines as terrorism any action that is taken by an individual or association that disclaims, questions, disrupts or is intended to disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, causes or is intended to cause disaffection against India and which is intended or supports any claim to bring about the cession or secession of a part of the territory of India, whether through actions, spoken or written words, signs, visible representations, or other methods.<sup>10</sup>

India's definition of any social media activity counter to state interests as a criminal offense under the UAPA warrants critical analysis. The UAPA categorizes as terrorism any actions—whether through deeds, speech, writing, symbols or visual representation—that challenge, question or disrupt India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This includes actions intended to cause disaffection against the state or to advocate for the cession or secession of any part of its territory.

In addition, the vagueness and ambiguity of the scope of law is deliberate and has allowed India to use the UAPA against a wide set of people in Kashmir, from social media users to journalists and human rights defenders. By criminalizing dissent and equating it with terrorism, the Act raises significant concerns about the suppression of free speech, the potential for governmental overreach, and the implications for democratic principles and human rights within the country.

From a human rights perspective, these actions violate fundamental freedoms enshrined in international human rights law, including the right to freedom of expression and the right to privacy. The deliberate vagueness of laws like the UAPA facilitates state repression, contributing to a climate of fear and inhibiting open discourse. Addressing these violations is crucial to upholding human rights and fostering a more open and democratic society in Kashmir.

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<sup>10</sup> “WE ARE BEING PUNISHED BY THE LAW,” *Amnesty International*, August 31, 2022 [https://www.amnesty.be/IMG/pdf/rapport\\_we\\_are\\_being\\_punished\\_by\\_the\\_law.pdf](https://www.amnesty.be/IMG/pdf/rapport_we_are_being_punished_by_the_law.pdf).

# Property Confiscation, Land Dispossession and Economic Disenfranchisement of Kashmiris

## Exploiting the Resources of Kashmiri People

The government of India has always eyed Kashmir's water resources and its capabilities to generate electricity for the rest of India, while intentionally depriving Kashmir of the electricity it produces. Currently, Kashmir is facing an unprecedented electricity crisis. Speaking to Justice For All, several Kashmiri families reported that they receive only 2-3 hours of electricity per day during the winter. Winters in Kashmir are extremely cold; the limited electricity supply makes life exceedingly difficult and harsh.

The Hindu-nationalist Jammu and Kashmir administration's recent electricity deal with the state of Rajasthan will further deplete the occupied region's resources despite its chronic power deficiency. The January 7 deal allows Rajasthan to buy Kashmiri electricity for the next 40 years.<sup>11</sup>

Political parties have criticized the administration's decision, pointing out that Jammu and Kashmir is itself experiencing a "severe power crisis." Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief, Mehbooba Mufti, has stated that supplying electricity to Rajasthan from Kashmir would "rob" the people of Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>12</sup>

## Confiscating the Properties of Kashmiris under Flimsy Pretexts

On January 29, the police released an official statement that it had seized the residential house of a Kashmiri civilian, Mohammad Ramzan Mir, a resident of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. He had allegedly provided shelter to a Kashmiri pro-freedom rebel.<sup>13</sup> Mir's house was seized under the Unlawful

11 "JK Admin sets power deal with Rajasthan, to sell electricity for 40 years; politicians react," *Free Press Kashmir*, January 7, 2024, <https://freepresskashmir.news/2024/01/07/jk-admin-sets-power-deal-with-rajasthan-to-sell-electricity-for-40-years-politicians-act/>.

12 *Free Press Kashmir*, "JK Admin sets power deal."

13 "Police Seize Property of LeT Associate in Budgam," *Kashmir Life*, January 29, 2024, <https://kashmirlife.net/police-seize-property-of-let-associate-in-budgam-339982/>.

Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), which has been systematically used to detain Kashmiris and Indian Muslims and deprive them of their properties, lands and livelihoods.<sup>14</sup>

According to Kashmiri rights groups, around 37 properties of Kashmiris have been seized by India in 2024 till date.<sup>15</sup> In 2023, around 250 properties of pro-freedom Kashmiris had been identified by the Indian state and were expected to be seized, with 60 properties in Jammu division and the rest in the Kashmir valley. Many of these properties have already been sealed.<sup>16</sup> In November and December 2023, around 12 such properties were seized.<sup>17</sup>

## Kashmiri Muslim Job Losses

On June 8, the government of India fired four Kashmiri Muslim employees for their alleged involvement in anti-India and pro-freedom activities.<sup>18</sup> The expelled employees include two police officers, a water-department worker and a teacher. The decision was made under Article 311 of India's Constitution, which allows the government the arbitrary authority to take such actions in the interest of "national security" without an inquiry or accountability.

The expulsion is part of the systematic dispossession of Kashmiri Muslims. In November 2023, for example, India similarly ordered the termination of four Kashmiri Muslim employees for their "anti-India" and pro self-determination views. The expelled employees included a medical doctor and a teacher.

## Analysis

The documented actions reveal a coordinated strategy to marginalize and oppress the Kashmiri people through resource exploitation, property confiscation and employment expulsions. These measures not only infringe on fundamental human rights but also perpetuate a cycle of economic and social disenfranchisement. Addressing these violations requires urgent international attention and intervention to uphold the rights and dignities of the Kashmiri population. India's actions contravene several international standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Since the Modi government took charge of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 when Article 370 was removed, more than 55 employees have been terminated

14 "India is arresting Kashmiris for anything & everything under the 'UAPA law,'" *Stand with Kashmir*, December 20, 2021, <https://standwithkashmir.org/india-is-arresting-kashmiri-for-anything-everything-under-the-uapa-law/>.

15 "Bi-Annual Review – 2024: Human Rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir," *Legal Forum for Kashmir*, July 1, 2024, <https://lfkashmir.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Bi-Annual-Review-2024-1.pdf>.

16 "House of jailed Kashmiri man accused of supporting militants sealed in Shopian," *The Kashmiriyat*, accessed July 9, 2024, <https://thekashmiriyat.co.uk/house-of-jailed-kashmiri-man-accused-of-supporting-militants-sealed-in-shopian/?amp=1>.

17 "Three houses seized in Pulwama and Kulgam: NIA," *Free Press Kashmir*, December 7, 2023, <https://freepress-kashmir.news/2023/12/07/three-houses-seized-in-pulwama-and-kulgam-nia/>.

18 "Four 'anti-national' government employees sacked, teacher suspended, militants' land attached in J&K in post-poll crackdown," *The Hindu*, June 8, 2024, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jammu-and-kashmir/four-anti-national-government-employees-sacked-teacher-suspended-militants-land-attached-in-jk-in-post-poll-crackdown/article68266464.ece>.

from employment using Article 311. (Article 370 had given Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir some autonomy, which is now scrapped. Article 311 of India's Constitution relates to State civil employees.<sup>19</sup>) India is forcing Kashmiri Muslims to choose between employment and their right to self-determination and dignity. While Article 370 of the Indian constitution guaranteed Kashmir's nominal autonomy, its abrogation has eroded Kashmir's special status in the Indian constitution.

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<sup>19</sup> "Article 370: What happened with Kashmir and why it matters," *BBC*, August 5, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-49234708>; "J&K Govt terminates 4 employees for involvement in anti-India activities," *Greater Kashmir*, August 13, 2022, <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/kashmir/jk-govt-terminates-4-employees-for-involvement-in-anti-india-activities/>.



# Arbitrary Detentions, Plight of Political Prisoners and Torture

## Continued Arbitrary Detention of Kashmiri civilians under Draconian Laws

On January 29, two Kashmiri civilians, Fayaz Ahmed and Safeer Ahmed, were booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and incarcerated in Central Jail Kot-Bhalwal jail Jammu for so-called “anti-India” activities.<sup>20</sup> The prison is miles away from their home. Speaking to Justice For All on the condition of anonymity, one of their family members stated that their family cannot even afford visits to such a distant prison. The detained civilians were also breadwinners for their families. Their detention is a source of great economic distress for their families.

On April 8, three Kashmiri civilians, Mysir Majeed Malik, Abdul Ahad Dar and Ahmad Waza, were booked under the Public Safety Act in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district for their alleged involvement in pro-freedom activism. They were detained and subsequently incarcerated in district jails of Kupwara and Anantnag (called Islamabad by Muslim locals).<sup>21</sup>

At time of writing, around 108 Kashmiris were detained under this act.<sup>22</sup> The PSA allows detention without trial for up to two years. According to Amnesty International, “[p]eople detained under the PSA also run a high risk of being tortured, as many are denied access to family or lawyers for long periods of time. Torture is widely used in police stations and interrogation centres in Jammu and Kashmir to extract confessions or information, to humiliate or punish detainees, leading to dozens of reported deaths in custody.”<sup>23</sup>

This is not surprising as the PSA allows India to jail any Kashmiri for up to

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20 “Two booked under PSA for ‘anti-India’ activities, shifted to Kot-Bhalwal jail,” *Free Press Kashmir*, January 29, 2024, <https://freepresskashmir.news/2024/01/29/two-booked-under-psa-for-anti-india-activities-shifted-to-kot-bhalwal-jail/>.

21 “3 Detained Under Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir: Cops,” *India News*, April 8, 2024, <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/3-detained-under-public-safety-act-in-jammu-and-kashmir-cops-5401861>.

22 *Legal Forum for Kashmir*, “Bi-Annual Review – 2024: Human Rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.”

23 “India: A ‘lawless law’: Detentions under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act,” *Amnesty International*, March 21, 2011, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa20/001/2011/en/>.

two years without being required to provide the grounds of his/her arrest. The PSA also denies a Kashmiri detained under the PSA the right to a trial. A report by J&K Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) and Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) said 662 persons were booked under the PSA in 2019 alone.

There is a long history of India using the PSA to detain Kashmiris:

- 366 Kashmiris in 2008;
- 711 Kashmiris in 2009 and 2010 for protesting against a gang-rape of two Kashmiri women by Indian military personnel;
- 734 Kashmiris from 2011 to 2015;
- At least 921 Kashmiris after 2016, when India killed a popular Kashmiri pro-freedom commander;
- 410 Kashmiris in 2017; and
- 510 Kashmiris in 2018.

In 2015, the Indian government revealed that 16,329 persons had been detained under the PSA since 1988. Among these detainees, 95% of the detainees were from Kashmir. This percentage reflects how India has weaponized the PSA against Kashmiris for demanding their fundamental rights.

## Inhumane Treatment in Prison and Denial of Medicine

On April 15, families of Kashmiri female political prisoners currently lodged in Tihar jail, while speaking to Justice For All, bemoaned the denial of medicine and healthcare to their incarcerated loved ones.

Three Kashmiri pro-freedom activists, Asiya Andrabi, Nahida Nasreen and Fehmeeda Sofi have been incarcerated in New Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2018. The trio have been jailed for their advocacy for Kashmir's right to self-determination. Their families say that the women have been cut off from essential medication that they were previously allowed. Asiya Andrabi, 62, suffers from life-threatening diseases such as angioedema, urticaria, arthritis, asthma and bronchospasm. Similarly, 33-year-old Sofi Fehmeeda has serious back ailments, is currently bedridden and cannot move without a wheelchair. Nahida Nasreen also suffers from multiple ailments. The families fear that the denial of medicine is being used to systematically murder their family members in prison and then present their deaths as "natural."

In the past, Kashmiri political prisoners like Ashraf Sehrai were similarly murdered in custody through prolonged denial of basic and critical healthcare. Sehrai's family would send him medicine every month from home, but the prison authorities withheld it.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Rifat Fareed, "Ashraf Sehrai: Pro-freedom Kashmir leader dies in detention," *Al Jazeera*, May 5, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/5/kashmirs-incarcerated-separatist-leaders-dies>.

## The Denial of Relief in Heatwave and Weaponization of Climate Change

Families of Kashmiri female political prisoners informed Justice For All on June 2, that their incarcerated loved ones are at severe risk due to an unprecedented heatwave in New Delhi, where they are held. Hundreds of Kashmiri political prisoners are currently illegally incarcerated in New Delhi's Tihar jail for their pro-freedom activism and advocacy for Kashmiris' right to self-determination. In the final days of May, temperatures in parts of Delhi reportedly reached 52.9 degrees Fahrenheit, marking the highest ever recorded in India. Extreme heat in India has killed more than 100 people in the past three and a half months.<sup>25</sup>

Speaking to Justice For All, a family member of a female Kashmiri political prisoner stated, "Our people's skin is peeling off in the heat of Tihar (jail). They keep towels dipped in water on their heads to survive. High voltage bulbs are kept on all day that also emit additional heat and you are not allowed to turn them off." Kashmiri political prisoners are at a higher risk as their bodies are not acclimatized to Delhi's weather. The temperature in Kashmir barely ever rises above 35 degrees Fahrenheit. The highest temperature reliably recorded was long ago - 38.3 degrees Fahrenheit in early July 1946.<sup>26</sup> The average temperature in Kashmir at time of writing was 30 degrees Fahrenheit. This is way below the average temperature in Delhi this summer, which is around 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

The female prison in Tihar, called Jail No. 6, is headed by a pro-Modi Brahmin police officer who has been particularly hostile to Kashmiri female political prisoners. She has cut off their medicines routinely and does not respond to any petitions made to her.<sup>27</sup> Almost all the Kashmiri political prisoners are under-trial prisoners, meaning that they have not faced any conviction.

Kashmiri prisoners, who already suffer from various ailments and a denial of medical healthcare, have not been allowed any means of cooling in this severe heat. When they asked jail authorities to allow them to buy an air cooler with their own money, they were turned down. Family members who have sent lighter clothes to prison have also complained that the prison authorities are not allowing the clothes to reach their incarcerated loved ones. Prisoners have informed their loved ones of skin-burns and frequent loss of consciousness.

Yet, according to the families of Kashmiri political prisoners who communicate with their loved ones, notorious criminals including gangsters and rapists are allowed means of cooling as they bribe the jail officials. Delhi's High Court recently ordered jail authorities in Tihar to provide an air cooler to

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25 Sibi Arasu and Krutika Pathi, "Extreme heat in India has killed more than 100 people in the past three and a half months," *AP News*, <https://apnews.com/article/india-heatwave-deaths-heat-stroke-climate-change-880f26e3b8eeb066d2db2308502783d2>.

26 World Meteorological Organization Climate Normals for 1991-2020, [https://www.nodc.noaa.gov/archive/arc0216/0253808/2.2/data/0-data/Region-2-WMO-Normals-9120/India/XLS/SRINAGAR\\_42027.xlsx](https://www.nodc.noaa.gov/archive/arc0216/0253808/2.2/data/0-data/Region-2-WMO-Normals-9120/India/XLS/SRINAGAR_42027.xlsx).

27 "Political prisoners in New Delhi's Tihar jail suffer in immense heat," Muslim Network TV, June 14, 2024, <https://www.muslimnetwork.tv/political-prisoners-in-new-delhis-tihar-jail-suffer-in-immense-heat/>.

a conman.<sup>28</sup> Such a privilege is not extended to Kashmiri political prisoners who are stripped of their fundamental rights.

It is clear that the state's incarceration of Kashmiri political prisoners in a climate that harms their bodies, and where relief is denied to them, is a systematic way of torturing them.

## Custodial Torture and Killing of Kashmiris

On June 7, a 38-year-old Kashmiri man from Pulwama district, Kashmir, was killed in police custody, amidst credible allegations of custodial torture. The deceased, Imtiyaz Ahmad Pala, a father of two and the sole provider for his family, was detained by the military on June 2 during a search operation in a neighboring village. His family claims he was interrogated and beaten. It seems that security personnel were looking for an electrician to fix a dysfunctional generator and so detained him. When he did not return, his family filed a missing report after learning from the locals that he was interrogated and beaten.

Despite efforts to locate him at neighboring police stations, they were unsuccessful. Ghulam Hassan, Pala's father-in-law, recounted that when he brought Pala's mobile phone to the Pulwama police lines as requested by the police, authorities informed him of Pala's deteriorating health and advised Hassan to return the next day for a meeting. Upon his return to the Pulwama police lines on June 4, Hassan was again denied a meeting with Pala. Hassan claimed that following a meeting between the Senior Superintendent of Police and the detaining officers, a senior police official directed him to the Srinagar Police Control Room, where the family waited all day. In the evening, Hassan alleged that police presented him with two choices: either Pala would be implicated in a militancy case, leading to his body being buried far away and their home demolished, or he would be framed in a drug-related matter, allowing the family to claim his body.

Hassan asserted Pala's innocence, stating he did not smoke or use drugs. He questioned why Pala was killed even if guilty, detailing disturbing injuries discovered during the post-mortem, including a deep head wound and severe genital injuries. Pala was detained under sections 8 and 22 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, but his involvement was not clarified by the police.<sup>29</sup>

Custodial killings in Kashmir are a norm. In December 2023, for example, the Indian army tortured three Kashmiris to death in custody.<sup>30</sup>

Throughout Indian rule in Kashmir, not a single army personnel has been prosecuted for their widely documented war crimes and human rights

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28 Vineet Upadhyay, "Delhi court approves air cooler in Tihar jail for conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar amid heat-wave," *The Times of India*, June 19, 2024, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/court-allows-provision-of-air-cooler-in-jail-for-sukesh/articleshow/111095722.cms>.

29 Gafira Qadir, "Kashmiri man allegedly dies in Police custody; family demands probe," *Maktoob Media*, June 5, 2024, <https://maktoobmedia.com/india/kashmiri-man-allegedly-dies-in-police-custody-family-demands-probe/>.

30 "Protests in Kashmir after three civilians killed in Indian army custody," *TRT World*, December 2023, <https://www.trtworld.com/asia/protests-in-kashmir-after-three-civilians-killed-in-indian-army-custody-16360386>.

violations.<sup>31</sup>

## Analysis

The inhumane treatment and denial of medicine to Kashmiri political prisoners, including Asiya Andrabi, Nahida Nasreen and Fehmeeda Sofi, reflect systemic human rights violations. Their incarceration under harsh conditions, exacerbated by denial of essential medical care, contravenes basic human rights principles. The denial of medicine, especially for those with serious ailments, not only endangers their health but can be perceived as a method of systemic murder under the guise of “natural” deaths. This pattern of neglect mirrors past incidents, such as the death of Ashraf Sehrai due to prolonged denial of healthcare, highlighting a deliberate strategy to undermine the well-being of Kashmiri political detainees. Such actions underscore the urgent need for international scrutiny and accountability to prevent further abuses and uphold the fundamental rights of all prisoners.

These incidents are part of a broader pattern of systematic repression against the Kashmiri population. The arbitrary use of laws like the Public Safety Act, denial of medical care, inhumane prison conditions and custodial torture reflect a deliberate strategy to undermine the rights of Kashmiris. This systematic repression is designed to quell any form of dissent or demand for self-determination, effectively stifling the voices and rights of the Kashmiri people, and creating an atmosphere of fear. According to Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, torture under any circumstances is banned, and no individual can be “subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” While India has signed the UN Convention Against Torture, **it has not ratified it.**<sup>32</sup> Arguably, this is because torture has been consistently used by the military and police forces in Kashmir against various detainees and prisoners.<sup>33</sup>

A report on state-sanctioned torture in Kashmir, which studied 432 cases, discovered that out of the 432 victims, 222 (51.4%) suffered some form of health complications after being tortured.<sup>34</sup> Out of these 222, 209 (94.1%) suffered health issues with long-term ramifications, and among them, 49 (23.4%) suffered acute ailments e.g. cardiac problems, nephrological issues, complete or partial loss of eyesight or hearing ability, amputations, sexual impotency and so on. Three-hundred-and-one out of 432 torture victims in the report were non-combatant civilians. The civilians who were tortured include political activists, human rights workers, journalists and students. Of the 432 victims, 27 were minors when tortured.

31 Rifat Fareed, “UN report on Kashmir calls for probe into human rights violations,” *Al Jazeera*, July 8, 2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/7/8/un-report-on-kashmir-calls-for-probe-into-human-rights-violations>.

32 Sanchita Kadam, “Why has India still not ratified UN Convention against torture?” *CJP*, July 23, 2021, <https://cjp.org.in/why-has-india-still-not-ratified-un-convention-against-torture/>.

33 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kashmir: Developments in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir from June 2016 to April 2018, and General Rights Concerns in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan,” June 14, 2018, <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IN/DevelopmentsInKashmirJune2016ToApril2018.pdf>.

34 Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons and Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society, “Torture: Indian State’s Instrument of Control in Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir,” February 2019, <https://www.congress.gov/116/meeting/house/110143/witnesses/HHRG-116-FA05-Wstate-ChatterjiA-20191022-SD003.pdf>.

# Military Violence, Settler-colonies and Surveillance Technologies

## The Growing Settler-colonization in Kashmir

On January 15, Jammu and Kashmir's Hindu-nationalist Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, stated that the Indian administration had allocated huge tracts of land in Kashmir for the construction of *Sainik Colonies* (Army Colonies) to accommodate families of Indian occupying armed forces personnel.<sup>35</sup>

With the recent changes to provide "domicile" to Indians in Kashmir, India is systematically attempting to bring a drastic demographic change to Kashmir. With this change, the Indian population in Kashmir will exponentially increase, which will make the right to self-determination even more difficult for Kashmiris to achieve.

India's ruling BJP party has constantly advocated for the formation of segregated Hindu colonies in Kashmir.<sup>36</sup> These settlements are designed to have their own militarized infrastructure, such as additional troops, walls, checkpoints, military watchtowers, and their own economy and systems of governance. It is designed to be a system of legalized discrimination or segregation known to us as apartheid. Such heavily militarized segregated colonies already exist in Kashmir; local Kashmiris are denied access to these spaces.<sup>37</sup>

## Census as a Tool for Controlling Kashmiri Population

Since the beginning of 2024, without any explanation or reasoning, the Jammu and Kashmir Police and security forces have been demanding residents of Kashmir fill in census forms seeking their personal details.

A Kashmiri who has received this form told Justice For All that the police

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35 "JK Admin allocates land for Sainik Colonies to accommodate families of slain armed forces personnel," *Free Press Kashmir*, January 15, 2024, <https://freepresskashmir.news/2024/01/15/jk-admin-allocates-land-for-sainik-colonies-to-accommodate-families-of-slain-armed-forces-personnel/>.

36 "Indian diplomat calls for 'Israel model' in Kashmir," *TRT World*, November 28, 2019, [https://youtu.be/dhj0E-HLhbh8?si=9vc\\_scrsHC11QAqE](https://youtu.be/dhj0E-HLhbh8?si=9vc_scrsHC11QAqE).

37 "Sainik Colonies: India Intensifies Its Settler Colonial Project in Kashmir," *Stand with Kashmir*, January 24, 2024, <https://standwithkashmir.org/sainik-colonies-india-intensifies-its-settler-colonial-project-in-kashmir/>.

demanded that he fill the form at the earliest and return it to the nearest police station. The form seeks details on properties owned, vehicles owned, possible connections with Kashmiri self-determination movement, foreign visits and one's political beliefs. The Kashmiri informed us that he was told by the security official that the form is meant for "security" needs.<sup>38</sup>

Last year, a similar "census" form was distributed in Srinagar by the police, with many Kashmiris asserting that the forms were fulfilling the purpose of "political profiling" and "surveillance." In 2022, the then chief of Kashmir Police, Vijay Kumar, had stated that the police were attempting to profile "80% of Kashmiris."<sup>39</sup> It is as if the police seek to tell Kashmiris that they are being constantly "watched." The police also make use of a Global Positioning System gadget to keep track of the pro-freedom activists who are released on bail by courts, drawing criticism from human rights activists. This is akin to the use of such surveillance tools by the totalitarian Chinese government, which also uses artificial intelligence to systematically track Uyghurs in Chinese cities and generate individual movement profiles.<sup>40</sup>

According to a report, Indian occupational forces have been undertaking similar drives for decades in rural areas of Kashmir where houses are "alphanumerically marked by the soldiers of the local unit of Rashtriya Rifles, the Army's so-called counter-terrorism force, and the house owners are warned against erasing these markings."<sup>41</sup> The Rashtriya Rifles were recently involved in the custodial torture of many Kashmiri civilians, including the death of three.<sup>42</sup>

## India Incentivizes Spying against Pro-Freedom Activists

Jammu and Kashmir Police announced rewards to people who shared information regarding pro-Kashmiri self-determination activities on February 12: informants whose information led to the arrest of pro-freedom Kashmiris were offered a long list of monetary rewards. For example, a reward of approximately \$1100 USD has been announced for individuals who give information about mosques, Islamic seminaries, schools or colleges where any sympathetic activity towards Kashmiri right to self-determination is carried out. According to Kashmiri rights group, Stand With Kashmir, "mosques and Islamic seminaries form an important part of the daily lives of

38 "Surveillance Census — JK Police Launches Drive to Collect Personal and Sensitive Information of All Kashmiris," *StandwithKashmir*, February 20, 2024, <https://standwithkashmir.medium.com/surveillance-census-jk-police-launches-drive-to-collect-personal-and-sensitive-information-of-c1170a804110>

39 Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar, "Journalists in J&K Harassed for Not Toeing Govt Line,' Press Council's Fact-Finding Report," *The Wire*, March 13, 2022, <https://thewire.in/media/journalists-in-jk-harassed-for-not-toeing-govt-line-press-councils-fact-finding-report>.

40 "Exclusive: How Shanghai uses AI cameras to monitor and track Uyghurs," June 13, 2024, <https://table.media/en/china/analyse/exclusive-how-shanghai-uses-ai-cameras-to-track-and-trace-uyghurs/>

41 "J&K Police Conducts 'Census' on People's Personal Details, Foreign Visits, Militancy Links," *The Wire*, January 26, 2024, <https://thewire.in/government/jk-conducts-census-on-peoples-personal-details-foreign-visits-militancy-links>.

42 Snehesh Alex Philip, "Poonch Brigadier 'attached' pending probe into civilians deaths, torture videos. New officer takes over," *The Print*, <https://theprint.in/defence/poonch-brigadier-attached-pending-probe-into-civilians-deaths-torture-videos-new-officer-takes-over/1899582/>.

Kashmiri Muslims. Encouraging spying in these spaces makes individuals feel uncomfortable in spaces where they are supposed to gain some respite.”<sup>43</sup>

The move also aims at exploiting the all-time high poverty and unemployment rates in Kashmir. This poverty has been systematically created and encouraged by India, through acts such as the implementation of the world’s longest communication blockade in 2019 after the abrogation of Kashmir’s nominal political autonomy, or the persistent dismantling of local businesses such as the apple trade.<sup>44</sup> The region’s economy suffered losses worth \$7 billion in two years of consecutive lockdowns imposed by India in Kashmir.<sup>45</sup> Therefore, at a time when people are struggling for economic survival, the announcement of cash-rewards for spying against pro-freedom activism is part of a sinister design.

The move also aims to sow discord and disunity among the people of Kashmir. India has perceived the close-knit nature of the Kashmiri community as a threat; promoting spying within the community is likely to foster mistrust and create acrimonious social relations.

## Reported Indian use of White Phosphorus

On May 6, the Indian army used white phosphorus during a military operation in South Kashmir’s Kulgam district against alleged pro-freedom armed fighters.<sup>46</sup> White phosphorus burns human skin and dissolves tissues deep inside the body, leaving dead bodies scorched. Its smoke is known to cause long-term respiratory problems.

Locals maintain that white phosphorus was used as the bodies of three Kashmiris recovered from the site were completely “charred” to death. Two of the deceased were alleged to be pro-freedom armed fighters and one of them confirmed an unarmed civilian. The phosphorus attack burnt down multiple houses.

This is not the first time India has deployed white phosphorus during its military operations in civilian zones. In 2017, India was similarly accused of using it in the Pulwama area of Kashmir, after five houses were burnt down. The bodies recovered in the debris of the destroyed houses were completely charred, burnt beyond recognition.<sup>47</sup> A Kashmiri living in the area where it was deployed told Justice For All that his mother, a patient of asthma, has suffered a lot since the attack, due to the inhalation of the smoke from white phosphorus. Leading up to the operation, the Indian army also arbitrarily detailed dozens of Kashmiris in the area and also in the surrounding villages.

43 “India Incentivizes Spying Against Kashmiri, Resistance,” *Stand with Kashmir*, January 23, 2024, Instagram Post: [https://www.instagram.com/p/C2c9R2Vxh0C/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/C2c9R2Vxh0C/?img_index=1).

44 Haris Zargar, “The Distinct Disposessions of Indian Settler Colonialism in Kashmir: Land, Narrative and Indi-geinity,” *Wiley Online Library*, January 4, 2024, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/dech.12809>.

45 Rifat Fareed, “Two years of Kashmir unrest, political void and a sinking economy,” *Al Jazeera*, August 5, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/5/kashmir-special-status-india-two-years-human-rights-economy>.

46 “Indian Military’s Deployment of White Phosphorus in Kulgam Sparks Outcry in Occupied Kashmir,” *Stand with Kashmir*, May 10, 2024, Instagram Post: [https://www.instagram.com/p/C6y-qkQIWaB/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/C6y-qkQIWaB/?img_index=1).

47 Dr. Shaista Tabassum, “India’s use of chemical weapons against Kashmiris,” *The Express Tribune*, August 5, 2017, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1474143/indias-use-chemical-weapons-kashmiris>.



The media has not been allowed to report on the incident, a part of India's systemic silencing of the free press in Kashmir. Neither is an independent investigation allowed by India in such occurrences: the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) grants the Indian army complete liberty in killing Kashmiris with impunity. The AFSPA also gives Indian armed forces wide powers to shoot to kill, arrest on a flimsy pretext and conduct warrantless searches. With these special powers, Indian soldiers have raped, tortured, "disappeared" and killed Kashmiris for decades without fear of being held accountable. The Act violates provisions of international human rights law, including the right to life, the right to be protected from arbitrary arrest and detention, and the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

Section 7 of AFSPA 1990 prohibits the prosecution of security forces personnel unless the Government of India grants prior permission to prosecute. This has resulted in virtual impunity for security forces against prosecution for any human rights violation. In the nearly three decades that the law has been in force in Jammu and Kashmir, there has not been a single prosecution of armed forces personnel granted by the central government.

During India's Universal Periodic Review at the UN in 2008, 2012 and 2017, several United Nations Member States recommended that India repeal or revise the AFSPA. However, in March 2018, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs told the Indian Parliament that there was no proposal to repeal or amend AFSPA in Jammu and Kashmir. It is still in force and according to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions, AFSPA grants far-reaching powers to soldiers that violate the right to life and legitimizes excessive use of force.<sup>48</sup>

## Under the Wheels of the Military: Indian Army Vehicle Killing Kashmiris

Although army officials present the death of the civilians struck by army vehicles as accidents, the pattern of such incidents suggests otherwise. The following is an incomplete list:

- A civilian named Qaiser Amin Bhat was killed in 2018, after he was run over by a paramilitary vehicle during a peaceful protest. The Indian security personnel drove an armored vehicle wildly into a crowd of protesters in Srinagar, slamming into a half-dozen people and crushing Qaiser beneath its wheels, leaving him with fatal injuries.<sup>49</sup>
- In 2019, a thirteen-year-old boy was crushed to death by an Indian army vehicle in the Poonch district of the occupied region.<sup>50</sup>

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48 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Report on the Situation of Human Rights in Kashmir."

49 "Indian forces fire at funeral procession of man crushed by armored vehicle in held Kashmir," *Dawn*, June 2, 2018, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1411576>.

50 Gafira Qadir, "We want justice': Man crushed to death by CRPF vehicle in north Kashmir," *Maktoob Media*, March 21, 2024, <https://maktoobmedia.com/india/we-want-justice-man-crushed-to-death-by-crpf-vehicle-in-north-kashmir/>.

- In April 2021, for over three weeks, 16-year-old Safran Ahmad Kathjoo battled for life in Srinagar’s hospital before he was discharged. The teenager was critically injured after being hit by an army vehicle in Srinagar’s Saida Kadal area.
- An elderly woman was killed in July 2021, after she was hit by an army vehicle in the Nadihal area of North Kashmir’s Bandipora district.<sup>51</sup>
- In November 2023, Manzoor Ahmad Wani died after his bike was hit by an army vehicle in Srinagar’s Baghat Chowk.<sup>52</sup>
- A scooty-driver, Ghulam Hassan Magray, was killed In December 2023, after being hit by an army vehicle in central Kashmir’s Ganderbal district.
- In March 2024, an elderly man was killed after being hit by an Indian army vehicle in Gulshan Chowk area of north Kashmir’s Bandipora district. He had already crossed the road when they drove over him; locals allege that it was done with intent.<sup>53</sup>
- A six year old boy lost his life in April 2024 after he was hit by an army vehicle in Budhal area of Rajouri District.<sup>54</sup>
- On June 1, 2024, an elderly man was crushed to death by a police vehicle when he was crossing the road in Hawal area of Srinagar, following which he was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.
- Ghulam Mohammad Hajab was crushed to death on May 15 by an Indian army vehicle as he was walking through a pedestrian area in the Bemina area of Srinagar.

## Analysis

The ongoing settler-colonization in Kashmir represents a systematic and deliberate attempt to alter the demographic and cultural landscape of the region, undermining the rights and identity of its indigenous population. This violates Article 49 of the Geneva Convention (IV), which says, “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.”<sup>55</sup> The use of census forms by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and security forces to gather extensive personal information from Kashmiri residents is another tactic to control and surveil the population, an intrusion into their rights of privacy.

Oppressive regimes often employ financial incentives to encourage spying within dissenting communities, undermining solidarity and weakening

51 “One dead after hit by CRPF vehicle in Srinagar,” *The Kashmiriyat*, November 4, 2023, <https://thekashmiriyat.co.uk/one-dead-after-hit-by-crpf-vehicle-in-srinagar>.

52 “Man Dies After Allegedly Hit By CRPF Vehicle in Ganderbal,” *Kashmir Life*, December 8, 2023, <https://kashmirlife.net/man-dies-after-allegedly-hit-by-crpf-vehicle-in-ganderbal-334836/>.

53 “Man crushed to death by vehicle in Bandipora,” *Rising Kashmir*, March 9, 2024, <https://risingkashmir.com/man-crushed-to-death-by-vehicle-in-bandipora/>.

54 “Boy dies after hit by army vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir’s Rajouri,” *Greater Kashmir*, April 4, 2024, <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/latest-news/boy-dies-after-hit-by-army-vehicle-in-jammu-and-kashmirs-rajouri/>.

55 ICRC, International Humanitarian Law Databases, [ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949/article-49](http://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/ihl-treaties/gciv-1949/article-49).

resistance movements. By offering cash for espionage, these regimes exploit economic vulnerabilities, incentivizing individuals to betray their community members. This tactic not only disrupts social cohesion but also instills fear and suspicion, making collective action against oppression more difficult. Consequently, the community's ability to organize and advocate for their rights is severely hampered, allowing the regime to maintain control and suppress dissent more effectively. This is what is being done by India in Kashmir.

Events such as military vehicles trampling Kashmiris are either not reported at all in the local media, or *mis*-reported as mere accidents, due to the pervasive crackdown on free press in Kashmir. The recurrent nature of these events also reflects the excessive militarization of life in Kashmir. Such "accidents" are bound to happen due to the never-ending military convoy movements throughout Kashmir. No army person has been prosecuted for these deaths, nor has there been any investigation launched into these incidents.

India's military is also using white phosphorus against Kashmiris as part of its domination. It is important to note that white phosphorus is a lethal substance and its use is proscribed and banned in civilian zones under International Law, especially the United Nations Convention on Conventional Weapons (UNCCW). Its use, possession, and procurement is also deemed unlawful by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). India is a signatory to both UNCCW and CWC, yet it flagrantly violates them in Kashmir with impunity.

The following tables present numerical summaries of the human cost of India's occupation of Kashmir. Table One is a summary of human rights violations. Table Two is a monthly statistical account of the impact of Indian occupation. The report has described some of these in more detail; space constraints meant that not all of the human rights violations that occur can be fully explained.

## Bi-Annual Human Rights

# VIOLATIONS

## in the Indian occupied Kashmir

<b>Killings and Injuries due to Indian occupation</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Detentions/Arrests</b>	<b>657</b>
<b>Gunfights between pro-freedom armed fighters and occupation forces</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Cordon and Search Operations/Military Raids</b>	<b>202</b>
<b>Structures Damaged</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Internet Blockades</b>	<b>22</b>

(With Input from Legal Forum for Kashmir)

## Monthly

# ACCOUNT OF COST

## of Occupation in the Indian occupied Kashmir

Month	Killings and Injuries due to Indian Occupation	Detentions/ Arrests By India	Gunfights Between pro-Freedom Armed Fighters and Indian Army	Number of Cordon And Search Operations	Structures Damaged	Number of Internet Blockades
January	20	108	5	33	4	3
February	8	52	3	49	2	2
March	11	145	2	27	1	2
April	19	177	8	31	6	4
May	59	109	7	42	5	5
June	88	66	7	20	7	6

(With Input from Legal Forum for Kashmir)

# India's War Against History of Kashmiris and Targeting of Academicians

## Renaming Institutions after Kashmir's Oppressors

On January 30, the Hindu-nationalist administration of Jammu and Kashmir ordered that 33 educational institutions, including schools and colleges, and roads be renamed using the names of members of Indian occupying forces and other pro-India personalities of Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>56</sup>

## Prosecuting Academicians who Speak Truth to Power

On June 14, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Vinai Kumar Saxena, sanctioned the prosecution of author-activist Arundhati Roy and Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a former professor at the Central University of Kashmir, under Section 45 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act in connection with a 2010 first information report (FIR).

Roy and Hussain are accused of "delivering provocative speeches in public" and supporting Kashmir's right to self-determination at a conference organized under the banner of "Azadi – The Only Way" in October 2010 in Delhi.

Showkat was first expelled as principal of Kashmir Law College at the Central University of Kashmir in 2022 due to his political views and closeness with deceased Kashmiri pro-freedom leader, Syed Ali Geelani. The postgraduate diploma in human rights course that he had established in the college was also banned by the state.

The UN rights chief has urged India to withdraw the cases against Roy and Hussain.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> "JK Admin renames 33 institutions, roads after slain armed forces personnel, others," *Free Press Kashmir*, January 30, 2024, <https://freepresskashmir.news/2024/01/30/jk-admin-renames-33-institutions-roads-after-slain-armed-forces-personnel-others/>.

<sup>57</sup> "UN Rights Chief Urges India to Withdraw UAPA Case Against Arundhati Roy, Sheik Showkat Hussain," *The Wire*, June 28, 2024, <https://m.thewire.in/article/rights/un-rights-chief-urges-india-to-withdraw-uapa-case-against-arundhati-roy-sheikh-showkat-hussain>.

## Analysis

The actions described here illustrate the systematic efforts by the Indian government to suppress dissent and enforce conformity in Kashmir through renaming institutions and prosecuting individuals who advocate for Kashmiri self-determination. Renaming educational institutions and roads after Indian occupying forces and pro-India figures not only erases Kashmiri identity but also perpetuates psychological trauma among the local population.

Additionally, the prosecution of author-activist Arundhati Roy and former professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain under draconian laws like the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act for advocating Kashmir's right to self-determination reflects a broader pattern of stifling academic freedom and silencing voices critical of state policies.

# Forcible Indianization of the Kashmiri People

## Kashmiris Forced to Welcome Modi

India's Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, arrived in Kashmir on March 7, for his first visit to the valley after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Ahead of his arrival, the Hindu nationalist administration installed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) flags throughout the valley. Srinagar was transformed into a military colony, with army personnel positioned every 50 meters. The city was designated as a "Temporary Red Zone," with pervasive operation of surveillance drones, quadcopters and snipers. Srinagar Police had warned locals of serious consequences in case anyone engaged in any pro-freedom activity or criticized the ruling Hindu nationalist political party. Barricades were raised throughout the city and the public was denied the right to movement. Kashmiris speaking to Justice For All on the condition of anonymity stated that they faced invasive frisking, interrogation and harassment upon leaving their homes to buy essentials such as medicine or food. While locals were frisked and their vehicles searched, Indian tourists were allowed to roam freely.

In addition to this, numerous Kashmiris were taken into illegal detention prior to Modi's arrival. These were largely those Kashmiris who had a record or history of having participated in the popular movement advocating for Kashmir's right to self-determination. The families informed Justice for All that when they challenged the detention, police officials told them that their detained family members would be released after Modi left Kashmir.

Modi addressed a rally in Srinagar. Thousands of employees, both men and women, were forced to assemble for his speech and were even transported from their homes to the venue. Attendance was mandatory, and employees who failed to comply were threatened with action by their department heads, including suspension from employment. Some employees also were bribed into attending the speech, lured by free food and money.

According to Kashmiri rights group Stand With Kashmir (SWK), Modi's visit was strategically timed right before the nationwide elections held in April. The visit allowed Modi's base to feel that he had "conquered" Kashmir and put an end to the self-determination movement. Moreover, SWK asserts that the visit was part of an attempt to create an impression of normalcy for Indian and international audiences. Additionally, given the dire economic situation in

Kashmir since August 2019, the Indian government knew that it would be able to force Kashmiris to comply and feign support for the very same occupying administration which wrecked them and their economy.<sup>58</sup>

## India Enforces the Mandatory Recital of National Anthem in all Schools

On June 13, in a directive from India's School Education Department, a department under the control of the Hindu-nationalist government, it was made mandatory that morning assemblies in all Kashmiri schools must commence with India's national anthem.<sup>59</sup>

This "forced patriotism" however is not new, but is part of India's systematic imposition of Indian identity over Kashmiris. In August 2023, the Hindu-nationalist Jammu and Kashmir administration ordered Indian flags be hoisted in all schools for Indian Independence Day.<sup>60</sup> The refusal to hoist the flag resulted in intimidation and harassment of the individual. Employees were suspended for failing to hoist the flag, and schools were shut down for refusing to participate.<sup>61</sup>

## Analysis

The directive to recite the Indian anthem, to welcome Modi and hoist the Indian flag is seen by locals as an imposition of Indian nationalism on Kashmiri identity. They view it as an attempt to suppress their cultural and political aspirations. Such directives are a tool to reinforce Indian control over Kashmiri education, rather than respecting the region's distinct identity and aspirations for self-determination.

This imposition is part of a broader strategy of cultural assimilation and political subjugation, aimed at erasing the unique Kashmiri identity and replacing it with a homogenized nationalistic Indian narrative. By mandating such acts of allegiance, the Indian government seeks to delegitimize Kashmiri demands for autonomy and self-determination, portraying any resistance as unpatriotic or subversive.

These actions exacerbate feelings of alienation and resentment among Kashmiris, fueling further discontent and resistance against Indian rule. The directive also highlights the authoritarian tendencies of the Indian government in managing the region, despite international concerns over human rights abuses.

58 "Kashmiris Forced to Welcome Modi, or Face Suspension," *Stand with Kashmir*, March 7, 2024, Instagram post: [https://www.instagram.com/p/C4NqszQSLIM/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/C4NqszQSLIM/?img_index=1).

59 "Now, National Anthem Recitation Mandatory in Morning Assemblies in Jammu and Kashmir Schools," *The Wire*, June 13, 2024, <https://m.thewire.in/article/government/now-national-anthem-recitation-mandatory-in-morning-assemblies-in-jammu-and-kashmir-schools>.

60 "I-Day: Authorities orders decoration of educational institutions, hoisting of national flag," July 31, 2023, *The Kashmir Walla*, <https://thekashmirwalla.com/i-day-authorities-orders-decoration-of-educational-institutions-hoisting-of-national-flag/>.

61 Hakeem Irfan, "J&K government warns five schools over refusal to participate in Republic Day function," *The Economic Times*, January 24, 2018, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/jk-government-warns-five-schools-over-refusal-to-participate-in-republic-day-function/articleshow/62637202.cms>.



# Political and Peaceful Pro-freedom Groups Banned and Targeted

## Pro-freedom Peaceful Political Groups Banned by India

On January 1, India banned a pro-freedom amalgam of organizations, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH), for their advocacy and struggle for Kashmiri right to self-determination. The amalgam was banned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), which has been systematically used by India to repress Kashmiri calls for self-determination and human rights.<sup>62</sup>

The leaders of the amalgam are already facing prolonged illegal detentions. Mass arrests and detentions are carried out under a wide variety of vague and overly-broad draconian security laws and powers. These include, as we mentioned above, the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).<sup>63</sup>

On February 29, the Home Ministry of India similarly declared both factions of Muslim Conference, a nonviolent pro-freedom political organization in the Kashmir valley, headed by activists Professor Abdul Gani Bhat and Ghulam Nabi Sumji, as unlawful associations under the infamous Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.<sup>64</sup>

According to the notification of the Home Ministry, the Muslim Conference has been indulging in “unlawful activities,” which are prejudicial to the “integrity, sovereignty and security of India.” The notification further stated that the members of the organization were involved “in generating feelings of hatred and disaffection against India to separate Jammu and Kashmir from India.”

Both organizations advocate Kashmiri right to self-determination, as sanctioned and promised by the United Nations. They also maintain that Kashmir is not an integral part of India, but instead view it as a disputed territory, as asserted by multiple United Nations resolutions.

62 Deeptiman Tiwary, “Kashiri students held: How UAPA has become more draconian over the years,” *Indian Express*, November 29, 2023, <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/kashmiri-students-uapa-draconian-over-the-years-9047478/>.

63 Release Kashmiri Prisoners, *Stand with Kashmir*, accessed July 9, 2024, <https://standwithkashmir.org/release-kashmiri-prisoners/>.

64 “Gol bans both factions of Muslim Conference in JK,” *Free Press Kashmir*, February 29, 2024, <https://freepress-kashmir.news/2024/02/29/gol-bans-both-factions-of-muslim-conference-in-jk/>.

The banning of such organizations by India has been exponentially and systematically growing:

- On February 27, India's government announced the extension of ban on a socio-religious organization called Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) by another five years. This is despite the fact that the JeI focuses largely on welfare and educational activities. Many leaders of the organization are in illegal detention currently for their alleged support for Kashmiri right to self-determination.<sup>65</sup>
- The government similarly banned, on March 13, a non-violent pro-freedom political party, Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF), led by incarcerated pro-freedom leader Nayeem Ahmad Khan.<sup>66</sup>
- On March 16, the government declared Kashmiri pro-freedom leader Yasin Malik's nonviolent and political group, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), as an "Unlawful Association" for a further period of five years.<sup>67</sup>

The banning of pro-freedom political groups, however, is not a surprising or novel development in Kashmir. Numerous other groups have similarly been banned.<sup>68</sup>

## Analysis

India's systematic banning of pro-freedom political groups in Kashmir, including Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH), Muslim Conference factions, Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Jammu Kashmir National Front (JKNF), and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), highlights its stringent repression of dissent and advocacy for Kashmiri self-determination. These bans, enacted under laws like the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), reflect India's strategy to suppress peaceful and nonviolent voices challenging its control over Kashmir. These bans represent a significant suppression of the right to peaceful assembly and association, guaranteed under international human rights law.

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65 "Centre extends ban on Jamaat-e-Islami-J&K for five years," *The Hindu Bureau*, February 27, 2024, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-extends-ban-on-jamaat-e-islami-jk-for-five-years/article67892439.ece>.

66 "Govt bans Nayeem Khan-led Jammu Kashmir National Front for 5 years under UAPA," *Mint*, March 12, 2024, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-bans-jammu-kashmir-national-front-jknf-declares-unlawful-association-under-uapa-5-years-mha-11710257544826.html>.

67 Zulfikar Majid, "Ban on Yasin Malik's JKLF extended for five years; four Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League factions also banned," *Deccan Herald*, March 16, 2024, <https://www.deccanherald.com/india/ban-on-yasin-maliks-jklf-extended-for-five-years-2939360>.

68 Bashaarat Masood, "Decode Politics: What is the banned Muslim League, who is Masarat Alam," *Indian Express*, December 29, 2023, <https://indianexpress.com/article/political-pulse/decode-politics-what-is-banned-muslim-league-who-is-masarat-alam-9086068/>; Sayantani Biswas, "Jailed separatist Shabir Ahmad Shah-led JKDFP banned for 5 years for 'pro-Pakistan' activities," *Mint*, October 5, 2023, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/jailed-separatist-shabir-ahmad-shah-led-jkdfp-banned-for-pro-pakistan-activities-11696521442205.html>.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

This report by Justice For All comprehensively documents the severe human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir from January to June 2024. These include systematic infringements on religious freedoms, targeted persecution of religious leaders, suppression of press freedom, arbitrary detentions and extrajudicial killings.

India's systematic banning of pro-freedom political groups, under laws like the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), highlights its stringent repression of dissent and advocacy for Kashmiri self-determination. The ongoing settler-colonization aims to alter the demographic and cultural landscape, undermining the rights and identity of the indigenous population.

The collection of extensive personal information by security forces, incentivizing espionage within communities, and the suppression of free press further exemplify the oppressive tactics used to control and surveil the population. Incidents of military vehicles causing civilian casualties without accountability and the use of banned substances like white phosphorus in civilian zones underscore the excessive militarization and impunity with which these actions are carried out.

The coordinated strategy to marginalize and oppress the Kashmiri people through resource exploitation, property confiscation and employment expulsions not only infringes on fundamental human rights but also perpetuates a cycle of economic and social disenfranchisement. These actions contravene several international standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Addressing these violations requires urgent international attention and intervention to uphold the rights and dignity of the Kashmiri population.

**Based on the findings of this report, Justice for All proposes the following recommendations to address the ongoing human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir and to support the rights and dignity of the Kashmiri people:**

## For the US Government:

### 1. Leverage Diplomatic Influence:

- Use diplomatic channels to consistently raise concerns about human rights abuses in Kashmir with Indian officials during bilateral meetings and in international forums. Highlight the importance of adhering to democratic principles and human rights.
- Urge diplomatic visits to prisoners in Tihar Jail in Delhi to assess their conditions and ensure their rights are being upheld according to international human rights standards.

### 2. Legislation and Congressional Action:

- Encourage Congress to pass resolutions condemning human rights violations in Kashmir and calling for specific actions by the Indian government. Utilize congressional hearings to bring attention to the issue and hold India accountable.

### 3. Human Rights Conditionality on Aid and Trade:

- Implement conditionality clauses in foreign aid and trade agreements that require India to improve its human rights record in Kashmir as a prerequisite for receiving certain benefits or engaging in trade deals.

### 4. Sanctions and Visa Restrictions:

- Have the US State Department impose targeted sanctions and visa restrictions on Indian officials and entities responsible for human rights abuses in Kashmir. Use mechanisms like the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to hold perpetrators accountable.

### 5. Support Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders:

- Provide financial and technical support to Kashmiri civil society organizations and human rights defenders. Facilitate their participation in international forums and provide them with platforms to share their experiences and advocacy efforts.

### 6. Enhance Refugee and Asylum Policies:

- Strengthen policies to provide asylum and refugee status to Kashmiri individuals facing persecution. Expedite the processing of applications and provide legal assistance to those seeking refuge in the US.

## **For the Canadian Government:**

### 1. Parliamentary Advocacy:

- Initiate a parliamentary inquiry into human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir. This parliamentary investigation should examine and report on human rights conditions in Indian-administered Kashmir. The findings should inform Canada's foreign policy and humanitarian advocacy regarding the region.

### 2. International Collaboration:

- Collaborate with other countries and international organizations to form a coalition advocating for human rights in Kashmir. Work towards joint statements and actions in international bodies such as the UN.

### 3. Human Rights-Based Foreign Policy:

- Integrate human rights considerations into Canada's foreign policy towards India, ensuring that trade agreements, aid and diplomatic relations prioritize the protection of human rights in Kashmir.
- Urge diplomatic visits to prisoners in Tihar Jail in Delhi to assess their conditions and ensure their rights are being upheld according to international human rights standards.

### 4. Sanctions and Accountability Measures:

- Impose sanctions under the Canadian Magnitsky Act on the Home Minister of India and the Governor of Indian-administered Kashmir.
- Impose targeted sanctions on Indian military officers and troops stationed in Kashmir. The justification for such sanctions would be their alleged role in perpetuating settler colonialism and committing serious human rights abuses against the Kashmiri Muslim majority. These measures aim to hold accountable those implicated in actions that violate international human rights standards.
- Sanction officials in Indian detention facilities such as Tihar, Rohini and Jammu jails, for their involvement in the arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of Kashmiri prisoners. This would address concerns regarding violations of prisoners' fundamental civil and religious rights, ensuring that those responsible for these abuses are held to account.

### 5. Support for Media and Information Freedom:

- Provide grants and resources to support independent journalism and media freedom in Kashmir. Offer training and legal aid to journalists facing persecution and work to counteract internet and communication

blackouts in the region.

## 6. Engage the Diaspora:

- Engage with the Canadian Kashmiri and broader South Asian diaspora to advocate for human rights in Kashmir. Support community-led initiatives and amplify their voices in Canadian and international forums.

## 7. Refugee and Asylum Support:

- Enhance support for Kashmiri refugees and asylum seekers in Canada by providing legal assistance, expedited processing, and resettlement programs tailored to their needs.

## For the United Nations:

### 8. General Assembly Action:

- Urge the United Nations and other international bodies to hold India accountable for its human rights violations in Kashmir. Advocate for a special session of the UN Human Rights Council to address the situation in Kashmir and consider appointing a special rapporteur to investigate the abuses.

### 9. Diplomatic Channels:

- Use diplomatic channels to pressure India to comply with international human rights obligations, including those under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), that it is signatory to.

### 10. Demilitarization:

- Pressure India to demilitarize civilian areas in Kashmir and reduce the presence of armed forces to alleviate the impact on daily life and restore a sense of normalcy for residents.

### 11. International Monitoring Body:

- Establish an independent international monitoring body to regularly assess and report on the human rights situation in Kashmir. This body should have the mandate to conduct on-the-ground investigations and provide recommendations to the UN and other international entities.

### 12. Women's Rights:

- Address the specific needs and rights of women in Kashmir, who are often disproportionately affected by the conflict. Support initiatives that protect women from violence, provide healthcare and promote their participation in decision-making processes.

### 13. Education and Economic Development:

- Invest in educational and economic development programs in Kashmir to improve living conditions and provide opportunities for the youth. These should include scholarships, vocational training and support for small businesses.

## For Civil Society Groups

### 1. Action on International Trade and Investment:

- Urge governments to use international trade and investment policies as leverage to encourage India to improve its human rights record in Kashmir. Governments and multinational companies can condition trade agreements and investments on India's compliance with human rights standards.

### 2. Action on Sanctions:

- Advocate that governments implement targeted sanctions against Indian officials and entities responsible for human rights abuses in Kashmir. These sanctions could include travel bans, asset freezes and restrictions on financial transactions. Some of these individuals have been named in this report.

### 3. Freedom of the Press:

- Advocate for the protection of journalists and the restoration of press freedom in Kashmir. Support independent media outlets and journalists reporting on the region through grants, training, and legal assistance.

### 4. Legal Action:

- Provide legal assistance and support to Kashmiri victims of human rights abuses, including those arbitrarily detained or facing unfair trials. Also, advocate for the establishment of an independent judiciary in Kashmir to ensure fair trials and the protection of legal rights.

### 5. Indian Military:

- Advocate for the reform of the Indian Armed Forces' conduct in Kashmir, including the implementation of strict accountability measures for human rights violations. This should include repealing draconian laws like Armed Forces Special Powers Act, and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.