



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR

April 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024

SUMMARY

In April 2024, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least six people and continued their ongoing and systematic campaigns of mass arbitrary detention and property expropriation, including houses and agricultural land. Indian authorities continued to criminalize any form of dissent, including by pursuing at least two people for online expression.

Numerous Kashmiri journalists, human rights defenders, political activists, and dissenters continued to be arbitrarily detained. In a case emblematic of Indian repression targeting Kashmiri human rights defenders, Khurram Parvez has been illegally imprisoned in a maximum-security facility in New Delhi for almost two and half years (922 days). In a case emblematic of Indian repression targeting Kashmiri journalists, Aasif Sultan was illegally imprisoned for almost six years (2,086 days) – details on his May 14, 2024 release will be included in our forthcoming May 2024 update.

Our reporting relies on already public information (primarily based on self-reporting by violators) to limit the risk of further reprisals. Due to ongoing repression by Indian authorities, key developments in the human rights situation in IAK continue to not be reported at all. In their reporting, Indian officials and media utilize false, demonizing labels to legitimate violations in IAK, including labeling pro-self-determination and pro-human rights activity as “terrorist” or “secessionist,” victims and dissenters as “terrorists,” “militants,” “secessionists,” “overground workers” (or “OGWs”), “hybrid militants,” “hybrid terrorists,” “terrorist associates” or “militant associates” (or, if the violation occurs near the Line of Control (LOC), “foreign terrorists,” “intruders” or “infiltrators”) and journalists and human rights defenders as “narrative terrorists” or “white collar terrorists.”

KILLINGS AND EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

Extrajudicial killings continued, including near the LOC

On April 4, 2024, the Indian Army’s Rashtriya Rifles 60th Battalion [killed](#) a six-year-old boy in Budhal, Rajouri district by running him over on Palma road.

On April 5, 2024, the Indian Army [killed two](#) unnamed individuals Uri, Baramulla district and labeled them “terrorists” and “infiltrators.”

On April 11, 2024, the Indian Army [killed](#) Danish Shiekh of Srinagar after a cordon-and-search-operation (CASO) in Fressipora, Rajpora, Pulwama district and labeled him a “terrorist.”

On April 25, 2024, the Indian Army [killed two](#) unnamed individuals after a CASO in Nowpore, Sopore, Baramulla district, labeling them “terrorists.”

CASO resulted in maiming of at least one individual

On April 26, 2024, Farooq Ahmad Dar, was [shot](#) in the shoulder during a CASO in Check Mohalla, Nowpore, Sopore, Baramulla district.

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Individuals were criminally charged for online expression

On April 15, 2024, the Indian administration in Jammu and Kashmir [criminally charged an individual](#) in Rainawari, Srinagar for a post on X labeled “objectionable content.”

On April 30, 2024, the Indian administration in Jammu and Kashmir [criminally charged](#) “Ilyas Mir Magami” for posting a video on X.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS

Indian authorities continued their systemically campaign of mass arbitrary detention in IAK

On April 1, 2024, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Asif Ali Bhat of Badipora, Tangmarg, Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat of Tantraypora, Palhallan, Waseem Mehraj Farash of Khanpora, Bashir Ahmad Sualiah of Mohalla Jadeed, Baramulla and Bilal Ahmad Dar of Wussan Khoie, Pattan, under the Public Safety Act (PSA), labeling them “miscreants” and incarcerating them at Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu and District Jail, Udhampur.

On April 4, 2024, Indian authorities [detained](#) Nasir Ali of Srinagar in Uttar Pradesh, India and labeled him a “terrorist.”

On April 6, 2024, Indian authorities [criminally charged](#) Abdul Rashid Sheikh of Lalpora, Kharkhal, Kunzer and Mohd. Akbar Malik of Lalpora, Wanikhal, Kunzer under the PSA, labeling them “miscreants” and incarcerating them at Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

On April 8, 2024, Indian authorities [criminally charged](#) Mysir Majeed Malik of Seriwarpura, Pattan, Abdul Ahad Dar of Dar Mohalla, Palhallan and Khursheed Ahmad Waza of Tantraypora, Palhallan under the PSA for alleged “anti-national activities,” incarcerating them at District Jail, Kupwara and District Jail, Anantnag.

On April 11, 2024, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Owais Ahmad Waza and Basit Fayaz Kaloo of Ganie Hamam, Baramulla and Faheem Ahmad Mir of Old Town Baramulla under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and labeled them “terrorist associates.”

On April 12, 2024, Indian authorities [criminally charged](#) Ikhlq Imtiyaz Sheikh of Watergam, Rafiaband and Irfan Farooq Zargar of Soin Sadnar, Rafiaband, under the PSA, labeling them “militant associates” and incarcerating them at District Jail, Kupwara and District Jail, Anantnag.

On April 15, 2024, Indian authorities [criminally charged](#) Waqar Ahmad Bhat of New Colony, Kreeri, Danish Hussain Gojree of Takisultan, Drangbal, Taseen Ahmad Hurra of Pethpora, Hamrey, Mohd. Abdullah Bhat of New Colony, Palhallan, Mohd. Ashraf Wani of Utikoo, Kunzer, Suhail Ahmad Sheikh of Sheikh Mohalla, Kunzer,

Touseef Ahmad Akhoun of Khanpora, and Abdul Majeed Shah of Iqbal Colony, Pattan under the PSA, labeling them “miscreants” and incarcerating them at Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu and District Jail, Udhampur.

NIA raided multiple locations in Srinagar

On April 22, 2024, India’s National Investigation Agency (NIA) [raided nine locations](#) in Srinagar district.

Court ordered compensation to victim of arbitrary detention under PSA for first time

On April 27, 2024, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [ordered](#) that compensation should be paid to Advocate Zahid Ali (aka Ali Mohammad Lone), former spokesperson of Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JeI). Ali was a victim of the practice of repeated or “revolving” detention under the PSA, cumulatively detained for 1,080 days between 2019 and March 2024.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT, AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Indian tribunal upheld the ban on Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP)

On April 5, 2024, a UAPA tribunal [upheld](#) the Indian government’s October 2023 ban of the JKDFP.

BJP leader targeted Pahari Muslims with hate speech

On April 30, 2024, a BJP leader in Jammu and Kashmir [threatened](#) a “repeat of the events of 1947” (when state forces and Hindu supremacists killed approximately 200,000 and forcibly displaced approximately 500,000 Muslims in Jammu in approximately six weeks) if Muslims failed to support a BJP-backed candidate.

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

Indian authorities continued their systematic campaign of property expropriation

Residents of Reshipora, Shopian, Kashmir, have defied reprisal threats to [protest](#) the expropriation of their land, which is prime agricultural land, for an Indian railway project. This is an example of expropriation in IAK in the name of “development” with devastating economic, social, cultural, and ecological [consequences](#).

On April 24, 2024, Indian authorities [expropriated the properties](#) of the relatives of Mumtaz Ahmad Khwaja, Lateef Ahmad Bhat, Mushtaq Ahmad Mir and Ghulam Nabi Ganai of Qaziabad, Kupwara district accused of supporting armed resistance in IAK and allegedly in Pakistan-administered Kashmir for at least thirty years.

On April 28, 2024, the Jammu and Kashmir police [expropriated property](#) in Pulwama district for its alleged use by “terrorists” for shelter.

VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Indian authorities forcibly closed Muslim religious spaces

On April 5, 2024, Indian authorities [forcibly closed Jamia Masjid](#), Srinagar to prevent congregational Jumat-ul Vida worship (on the last Friday of Ramadan). Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the mosque's designated sermon-giver, was again placed under house arrest.

On April 10, 2024, Indian authorities [forcibly closed Jamia Masjid](#), Srinagar to prevent congregational Eid-ul-Fitr worship and again placed Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest.

On April 11, 2024, the Indian administration in Jammu and Kashmir [prohibited](#) the imam of Hazratbal, Dr Kamal-ud-din Farooqi, from leading prayers after he acceded to a Hindu man's request to convert to Islam.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On April 2, 2024, Reporters Without Borders [called for](#) the immediate release of arbitrarily detained Kashmiri journalist [Aasif Sultan](#), saying: "Terrorism laws are being manipulated politically to stifle independent media voices and prevent reliable journalistic coverage in Kashmir. As general elections approach in India, we call for a drastic change in policy towards journalists in this region, which has become a black hole for news and information as a result of wholesale persecution over the years. These unacceptable abuses must stop."

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