

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

October 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024

SUMMARY

In October 2024, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least four people and continued their ongoing campaign of mass arbitrary detention. In the context of pervasive, longstanding repression, grave international crimes and the denial of fundamental rights and freedoms, a [disempowered local government](#) was formed under Indian auspices.

Numerous Kashmiri journalists, human rights defenders, political activists and dissenters continue to be arbitrarily detained. Emblematic cases include those of human rights defender Khurram Parvez—illegally imprisoned for over almost three years (1,107 days), journalist Irfan Mehraj—illegally imprisoned for over a year and a half (623 days) and academic Abul Ala Fazili—illegally imprisoned for over two and half years (961 days).

Note: Due to ongoing repression by Indian authorities, key developments in the human rights situation in IAK have gone unreported. Indian authorities have criminalized independent journalism and human rights work; all reporting from IAK is state-controlled. Indian authorities label pro-human rights and pro-self-determination activity “terrorism” and systematically legitimate violations against people in IAK through unsubstantiated, demonizing labels, including: “terrorist,” “militant,” “secessionist,” “militant,” “overground worker” (or “OGW”), “hybrid militant,” “hybrid terrorist,” “terrorist associate,” “militant associate,” “intruder,” or “infiltrator.”

KILLINGS AND EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

On October 28-29, 2024, Indian forces killed [three people](#) in Akhnoor, Jammu and labelled them “terrorists.”

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS

Indian authorities continued their campaign of mass arbitrary detention in IAK

On October 3, 2024, Indian forces [conducted a Cordon and Search Operation](#) (CASO) in Salosa, Kreeri, Baramulla district.

On October 19, 2024, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Abdul Aziz and Manwar Hussain of Hari, Dundak, Surankote, Poonch district and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On October 22, 2024, the Indian authorities [raided](#) various locations in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kulgam, Budgam, Anantnag, and Pulwama districts.

On October 22, 2024, Indian authorities [arbitrarily detained at least 40 people](#) in Ganderbal district and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On October 23, 2024, Indian authorities [conducted a CASO](#) in Wanigam, Pattan, Baramulla district.

On October 29, 2024, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Ishfaq Majeed of Sopore, Baramulla district and labelled him a “terrorist associate.”

Nazir Ahmed Ronga, a prominent lawyer, who was most recently [arbitrarily detained in July 2024](#), continued to be arbitrarily detained under the Public Safety Act.

Sajad Gul, a journalist, was released on bail after over [two years of arbitrary detention](#).

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

On October 14, 2024, the Indian government's Lieutenant Governor [amended recruitment regulations](#), eliminating the local government's authority to appoint police and civil services.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On October 2, 2024, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) published "[Your Land is Our Land - India's Land Rights Violations in Kashmir](#)" which examines the effects of the abrogation of Jammu & Kashmir's statehood on land-related laws and documents the impact of such changes on a variety of socioeconomic and political rights. *"The Indian government's obliteration of Jammu & Kashmir's legal framework, which had protected land rights for decades, has already had a disastrous impact on the Kashmiri people. Thousands have already been evicted from their lands and lost their homes. Key European Union and United Nations institutions, including the UN Human Rights Council, must wake up to this human rights crisis and start putting public pressure on the Indian government to adhere to its own international legal obligations"* - Juliette Rousselot, FIDH Asia Desk Deputy Director

On October 12, 2024, [Arundhati Roy](#) received the PEN Pinter Prize and addressed political prisoners around the world, including Kashmiri human rights defenders Khurram Parvez and Irfan Mehraj.

On October 24, 2024, [Reporters Without Borders \(RSF\)](#) demanded that repression targeting Kashmiri reporters stop. *"Over the past five years, a quarter of the journalists imprisoned under false pretexts in India have come from Jammu and Kashmir. This reign of terror targeting Kashmiri media professionals must come to an end. RSF calls on the authorities to immediately release Abdul Aala Fazili, Irfan Mehraj and Majid Hyderi."* - Célia Mercier, Head of RSF's South Asia Desk

On October 26-27, 2024, KLJP published briefs on [Is Kashmir Occupied? Is it Colonized?](#) and [What is the Instrument of Accession and Why Does it Matter?](#).

On October 31, 2024, Prof. Hafsa Kanjwal published "[Colonies of Former Colonies](#)" analyzing contemporary colonialism through India's colonial occupation of IAK.

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