

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

September 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

SUMMARY

In September 2024, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least ten people, continued their ongoing campaign of mass arbitrary detention and continued to criminalize dissent in the region.

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 almost 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. To the extent reported, Indian officials label pro-self-determination or pro-human rights activity as “terrorist” activity in IAK. Indian authorities typically label any victim of state violence or violations (and not just armed resistance fighters) as a “terrorist” or “militant” and any dissenter in IAK as a “terrorist,” “secessionist,” “militant,” “overground worker” (or “OGW”), “hybrid militant,” “hybrid terrorist,” “terrorist associate” or “militant associate.” If a violation occurs near the Line of Control (LOC), the victim is labeled a “foreign terrorist,” “intruder,” or “infiltrator.” If the individual is a journalist, scholar, or human rights defender, they are often labeled a “narrative terrorist” or “white collar terrorist.” These unsubstantiated, demonizing and dehumanizing labels are used to legitimate violations against civilians, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, raids, and the forcible taking of property.

KILLINGS AND EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

Indian forces continued to extrajudicially kill people in IAK

On September 9, 2024, Indian forces killed [two people](#) in Lam, Rajouri district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On September 14, 2024, Indian forces [killed three people](#) in Chak Tappar, Pattan, Baramulla district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On September 28, 2024, Indian forces [killed](#) Aqib Ahmad Shergojri of Khanpora Sarai, Chadoora and Umair Wani of Chawalgam, Kulgam in Arigam, Devsar, Kulgam district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On September 29, 2024, Indian forces [killed one](#) person in Kog-Mandli, Billawar, Rajouri district and [two people](#) in Adigam, Kulgam district and labelled them “terrorists.”

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On September 12, 2024, Jammu and Kashmir Police [issued an advisory](#) threatening chat administrators with legal consequences if information is posted or shared in chats that authorities deem not “correct and verified.”

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS

Indian authorities continued their campaign of mass arbitrary detention in IAK

In September 2024, Indian authorities preventively detained [dozens of people](#) in IAK.

On September 20, 2024, Indian authorities again [house-arrested](#) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the authorized sermon-giver at Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, and prevented him from leading Friday prayers.

On September 23, 2024, Indian authorities [detained](#) Hassam Shahzad near the LoC in Mendhar, Poonch district and labelled him an “intruder.”

Kashmiri prisoners continued to be denied due process

Jamshed Zahoor Paul, a 25-year old arrested by India’s National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2018 and [detained for six years](#) without a trial, was denied bail by India’s Supreme Court.

Indian court upheld life sentence of Ashiq Hussain Faktoo

On September 27, 2024, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh again [upheld the life sentence](#) of Kashmiri political prisoner Ashiq Hussain Faktoo. Faktoo was arbitrarily detained in 1993, tortured, framed for crimes he did not commit and previously acquitted because the only evidence against him was a confession extracted through torture. See [Complete Injustice: The Indian Supreme Court and the misrule of law in Kashmir](#).

Systematic raids continued in IAK

On September 26, 2024, the NIA [raided at least seven locations](#) in IAK.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

On September 11, 2024, the Delhi High Court [upheld the Indian government's ban](#) on the pro-self-determination political parties Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat faction) and the Jammu and Kashmir People's League (four factions) for their pro-self-determination stance.

VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Indian Army opened museum to promote ahistorical Indian military propaganda in Gulmarg

On September 1, 2024, the Indian Army [opened the Gulmarg Army Museum](#) which “bears testimony to the bravery of [Indian] soldiers and tales of battles.”

Muslim religious leaders urged rejection of Waqf Act amendments

On September 10, 2024, Muslim religious leaders [urged the rejection of proposed amendments](#) to the Waqf Act, 1995, which further threatened the interests of the Muslims in IAK.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On September 17, 2024, Amnesty International issued a press release demanding that Indian authorities [End Repression of Dissent in Jammu and Kashmir](#), including through arbitrary detentions, passport revocations, “no flying lists” and denial of entry. “The Indian authorities are using arbitrary restrictions and punitive actions to create a climate of fear in Jammu and Kashmir. Anyone daring to speak out – whether to criticize the government or to stand up for human rights – faces a clampdown on their rights to freedom of expression and association and are unable to move freely within and outside the country.”

On the September 19, 2024, on the 64th anniversary of the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), Kashmir Law and Justice Project released [Blood Flows with the Water: An International Legal Assessment of the Indus Waters Treaty](#). Through accessible legal analysis, the report demonstrates that the IWT violates multiple regimes of international law, continues to cause various grave violations and is legally invalid.

On September 28, 2024, Newslandry published a ground report on [Kashmir’s media crisis](#), describing an intensifying clampdown on media (see also [this](#)). The state-supported Jammu and Kashmir Press Corps launched a [disinformation campaign](#) to attack Newslandry’s reporting as “propaganda.”

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