

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

April 1, 2025 – April 30, 2025

SUMMARY

In April 2025, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least 13 and arbitrarily detained around 4,000 people. Indian authorities continued their campaign of collective punishment through raids and property expropriation, including through the demolition of homes. Indian authorities continued to deny the right to free expression, including through arbitrary detentions for social media expression and the blocking of at least 200 additional social media accounts. On April 22, Indian authorities announced the killing of 26 people (25 Indians and 1 Kashmiri, Syed Adil Hussain Shah) in Baisaran, escalated a crackdown in IAK, restarted a hot war with Pakistan and suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (1960), a [colonial](#) and [invalid](#) division of the waters of Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

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 almost three and a half years (1,273 days), journalist Irfan Mehraj—illegally imprisoned for over two years (789 days) and human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for almost 11 months (327 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 April 1, 2025, Indian forces [killed](#) a person during a Cordon-and-Search Operation (CASO) in Panjtirthi, Kathua district and labelled him a “terrorist.”

On April 2, 2025, Indian forces killed [five](#) people in Krishna Ghati, Poonch district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On April 5, 2025, Indian forces killed [one](#) person in Arispora, Jammu and labelled him a “terrorist.”

On April 12, 2025, Indian forces killed [three](#) people in Chhatru forest, Kishtawar district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On April 19, 2025, Indian forces [tortured](#) Prof Liaqat Ali of Laam, Rajouri district.

On April 23, 2025, Indian forces killed [two](#) people in Sarjeevan, Uri, Baramulla district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On April 26, 2025, Indian authorities [killed](#) Altaf Lali of Kulnar Bazipora, Bandipora district in an apparent “fake encounter” and labelled him a “terrorist associate.”

New cases of apparent [enforced disappearance](#) occurred in IAK.

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On April 3, 2025, Indian authorities blocked at least [200 additional social media](#) accounts from IAK.

On April 3, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Sajad Naseer Bhat of Naidkhai Sumbal, Bandipora district, for allegedly posting a picture Yasin Malik, a pro-self-determination activist, on social media.

On April 20, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Aijaz Ahmad Wani of Bangar Mohalla Hajin, Bandipora district for allegedly posting on Facebook.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On April 5, 2025, Indian authorities put Agha Syed Hadi, an Islamic scholar, under [house arrest](#).

On April 10, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) the homes of political prisoners Bashir Ahmed Bhat of Zadoora, Pulwama district and Mohammad Ashraf Laya of Jamia Qadeem, Baramulla district.

On April 10, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested eight](#) pro-self-determination activists, including Nazir Ahmad Ahangar of Shahgund Haji, Sheikh Danish Mushtaq of Aloosa Bandipora, Tahir Ahmad Mir of Ward 2 Plan Bandipora, Khursheed Ahmad Lone of Naidkhai, Mohammad Shafi Dar of Karnai Mohalla Shahgund, and Ab. Majeed Gojri and Ab. Majeed Lone of Vigpara Hajinof, Bandipora district.

On April 24, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Rafiq Khanday of Khanday Mohalla, Watalpira, Banyari, Mukhtar Ahmad Dar of Bunpora, Nahidkhai Sumbal, Bandipora district, Rayees Ahmad Dar of Saderkoot Bala and Mohd. Shafi Dar of Sundura Ajas of Banyari and labelled them “OGWs.”

On April 25, 2025, Indian authorities detained at least [1500 people](#) and labelled them “OGWs.”

On April 26, 2025, Indian authorities [detained at least 175 people](#) and labelled them “OGWs.”

On April 27, 2025, Indian authorities [detained](#) at least 2000 people and raided at least 63 homes.

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

On April 10, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the homes of Firdous Ahmad Wani of Treesa, Mohammad Ramzan Bhat of Batpora and Mohammad Ayoub Ganie of Pahlipora in Safapora, Ganderbal district.

On April 25, 2025, India authorities [destroyed](#) many homes, including those of Haris Ahmad of Kachipora, Pulwama district and Ahsan ul Haq Sheikh of Muran, Pulwama district and labeled them “terrorists.” On April 26, 2025, Indian authorities [destroyed the](#) homes of Aadil Thoker of Bijbehara, Anantnag district, Asif Sheikh of Tral, Pulwama district, Shahid Ahmed Kuttey of Chotipora, Shopian district, Zakir Ahmad Ganie of Kulgam district, Amir Nazeer of Daramdora, Pulwama district, Jameel Ahmad Sher Gojri of Bandipora district, and

Farooq Teewda of Kalroos, Kupwara district and labelled them “terrorists.” On April 27, 2025, Indian authorities [destroyed](#) the home of Adnan Shafi of Wandina Zainapora, Shopian district and labelled him a “terrorist.” See also Suchitra Vijayan’s “[Wreckage as Punishment: Demolitions in Pahalgam and the Long History of Erasure in Kashmir.](#)”

POLITICAL DISEMPOWERMENT, VIOLATION OF POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

In April, 2025, India’s appointed chief executive in IAK [assumed](#) total control over the local bureaucracy, rendering the already degraded local administration more impotent.

In connection with India’s Home Minister’s visit to IAK, [three](#) pro-self-determination activists publicly disavowed their political commitments on April 7 followed by [three](#) pro-self-determination political parties on April 8 and [one more](#) political party on April 11 through nearly identical public statements.

Indian authorities acknowledged that they issued over [83,742 domicile certificates](#) to non-locals in two years.

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE, LEGALIZED IMPUNITY

Indian authorities gave the Indian military full [“operational freedom”](#) in IAK.

TARGETING OF KASHMIRIS; DISCRIMINATION

Indian activists widely called for the [“genocide of Muslims,”](#) especially calling for the killing of Kashmiris.

On April 24, 2025, [Hindu mobs](#) in various states (including Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh) targeted and assaulted Kashmiri students at various universities.

On April 30, 2025, a Hindu mob in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, assaulted Kashmiri vendors, forcing at [least 16](#) Kashmiri to flee.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

On April 1, 2025, Indian forces conducted [CASOs](#) several parts of Poonch district, including Behramgalla-Chatran Sailan, Kala Jhoola, and Nakka Nar forest in Gursai Mastandara Jabri and Chajala-Seagi, Mankote.

On April 10, 2025, Indian authorities [terminated](#) Basharat Ahmad Mir, an assistant wireless operator in the police, and Ishtiyak Ahmad Malik of Shitroo Larnoo, Anantnag district for alleged “anti-national” activities.

On April 14, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Lasana forest, Poonch district for more than a week.

On April 23, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Tangmarg, Kulgam district.

VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

On April 4, 2025, India's parliament [passed](#) bills further eroding Muslim agency over Islamic endowments (*waqf*) and Islamic religious sites and related properties, including approximately [32,500](#) properties in IAK. On

April 11, 2025, Indian authorities [sealed](#) the residence of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and prohibited a gathering of religious scholars seeking to organize opposition to such bills.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On April 2, 2025, The Wire [published](#) “Kashmiri Journalist Irfan Mehraj's Imprisonment Without a Trial is a Case Study of UAPA's Abuse.”

On April 4, 2025, Kashmir Times [published](#) “From Prison to Uncertainty” on Indian authorities’ systematic destruction of independent journalism in IAK.

On April 6, 2025, Maktoob Media [published](#) “Lost futures: What happened to Kashmir’s pellet victim.”

On April 15, 2025, Prof. Hafsa Kanjwal published [“\(Settler\) Colonial Logics Beyond Europe”](#).

On April 18 , 2025, Zulfikar Majid published [“Kashmir: ‘It’s not peace, but fear’.”](#)

On April 26, 2025, author Mirza Waheed published [“In Kashmir, even sorrow must pass a loyalty test.”](#)

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