

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

February 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025

SUMMARY

In February 2025, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least 14 people. Indian authorities continued their systematic campaigns of mass arbitrary detention and collective punishment, including through the arrest of over 500 people and the continued expropriation of property. Indian authorities confiscated at least 668 books from stores and personal libraries, including works by Abul Ala Maudoodi and Khalid Bashir Ahmad.

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 three 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 9 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 February 4, 2025, [Makhan Din](#) from Bhattodi, Billawar, Kathua district killed himself in a [public plea](#) to stop systematic torture in IAK a day after he and his father, Mohammad Murid, were detained and tortured.

On February 5, 2025, the Indian Army [executed](#) Waseem Ahmad Mir, a truck driver from Bomai, Sopore, at a military checkpoint.

On February 4-5, 2025, Indian forces [killed seven people](#) in Krishna Ghati, Poonch and labelled them “terrorists.”

On February 7, 2025, Indian forces killed [five people](#) with landmines in Battal sector, Poonch and labelled them “terrorists.”

On February 13, 2025, Indian [firing](#) in Akhnoor killed four people from Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Azad Kashmir authorities reported [54 IED](#) incidents since 2016 along the Line of Control (LoC), with many casualties.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On February 3, 2025, the Indian authorities charged [seven people](#) in Khanyar, Srinagar under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and labelled them “militant associates.”

On February 4, 2025, Indian authorities detained [over 500 people](#) across Kashmir and labelled them “OGWs.”

On February 5, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Police [detained five people](#) from Anantnag, Bandipora and Srinagar for allegedly providing SIM cards to detainees in Central Jail, Srinagar.

On February 9, 2025, Indian authorities [detained](#) Abdul Rehman from Seri, Kotli, Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

On February 10-11, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir Police [conducted raids](#) on SIM card vendors across Kashmir and arrested at least 30.

On February 14, 2025, Indian authorities put Mirwaiz Umar Farooq back under [house arrest](#) and sealed Jamia Masjid Srinagar to prevent congregational Shab-e-Baraat prayers.

On February 20, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Anwari Ali Chohan of Gujjar-Kothian, Talwara, Reasi district and labelled him a “terrorist.”

On February 21, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [upheld](#) the ongoing arbitrary detention of human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom.

On February 23, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Sajad Ahmad Khan of Hundoora Tral, Pulwama in Nizamuddin, Delhi and labelled him a “terrorist associate.” The Indian forces [killed two](#) of his brothers last year.

On February 12, 2025, academic Abul Aala Fazili was released on bail after three years of arbitrary detention. On February 20, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [quashed](#) the preventive detention of journalist Majid Hyderi who had been arbitrarily detained in Kot Bhalwal Jail, Jammu since September 2023.

Indian authorities continued their systematic attack on independent media and journalists in IAK, including through the [weaponization of preventive detention](#).

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

On February 13, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the home of Safdar Ali Dar in Modergam, Kulgam for allegedly providing shelter to “terrorists.”

On February 20, 2025, the Indian authorities [assaulted](#) Gujjar people in Mamer, Ganderbal for protesting against the expropriation of their grazing lands. Indian authorities continued to systematically expropriate

large of tracts of fertile [agricultural land](#) for purported “development projects,” disempowering Kashmiris and destroying livelihoods, familial wealth, ways of life and the environment.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

On February 9, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a Cordon-and-Search Operation (CASO) in Baratgala, Kari, Rajouri.

On February 10, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Amrohi, Karnah, Kupwara.

On February 12, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [ruled](#) against the widespread practice of denying people passports for a family member’s alleged involvement with “militancy.”

On February 15, 2025, Indian authorities [terminated](#) Firdous Ahmad Bhat, a police constable, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, a teacher, and Nisar Ahmad Khan, an orderly, from employment for alleged links to “terrorism.”

On February 18, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) CASOs in Kashwa Chitragam, Shopian and Pinglish Tral, Pulwama.

On February 19, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Sopore, Baramulla.

On February 26, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Phull, Rajouri.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Tourism is causing severe [environmental issues](#) in ecologically sensitive places in IAK.

VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

On February 14, 2025, Indian authorities confiscated [668 books](#) (including from retail shops and personal libraries) they alleged were related to the “ideology of a banned organisation,” Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir, including the works of Abul Ala Maudoodi and Khalid Bashir Ahmed.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On February 14, 2025, a number of civil society organizations [called on](#) the European Union to take action on urgent human rights concerns in India and IAK.

‘The Caravan [published the results of an investigation](#) demonstrating that the December 2023 torture of at least 26 people and the custodial killing of Safeer Ahmed, Shabeer Hussain, and Shaukat Ali in Rajouri and Poonch was a coordinated, pre-planned and directed attack overseen by two generals.

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