

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

March 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025

### SUMMARY

In March 2025, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least six people and continued their systematic campaigns of mass arbitrary detention, raids and property expropriation. Indian authorities also continued to systematically attack free expression, including through arbitrary detention for social media posts and the banning of the Awami Action Committee (AAC) and Jammu and Kashmir Ittehadul Muslimeen (JKIM).

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 over 10 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 March 17, 2025, Indian forces [killed](#) a person during a Cordon-and-Search Operation (CASO) in Krumbhoora, Zachaldara, Handwara, Kupwara district and labelled him a “terrorist.”

On March 25, 2025, the [bodies](#) of Riyaz Bajad and Showkat Bajad, brothers from Chandian Pajan, Kulgam district who disappeared on February 12, 2025, were delivered to their family. The nature of their disappearance, together with the authorities’ failure to investigate and criminalization of protests, indicate a case of state-sponsored enforced disappearance. The victims’ disappeared cousin, Mukhtar Awan, remains missing.

On March 27, 2025, Indian forces [killed](#) two people during a CASO in Jakhole, Ghati Juthana Rajbagh, Kathua district and labelled them “terrorists.”

On March 28, 2025, Indian forces [killed](#) three people during a CASO in Saniyal, Hiranagar sector, Kathua district and labelled them “terrorists.”

### VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On March 7, 2025, Indian authorities [booked](#) Hilal Ahmad Dar of Sholipora, Owais Ahmad Khan of Soibugh Daharmuna, Suhail Ahmad Sheikh of Batpora, Umar Shafi Sofi of Ompora, Mohammad Amir Khan of Ichkoot,

and Shahid Mir of Sheikhpura Chatterhama, Budgam district under Public Safety Act (PSA) for social media posts.

On March 8, 2025, Indian authorities [charged](#) Irfan-UI-Haq of Kawoosa Khalisa, Budgam district with “terrorism” for allegedly posting on X.

On March 18, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Showkat Ahmad Dar of Doodh Mohalla, Shalimar, Srinagar district for allegedly posting on Facebook.

### **ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS**

On March 5, 2025, Indian authorities [booked](#) Manzoor Ahmed of Ramban district under the PSA and labelled him an “OGW.”

On March 8, 2025, Uttar Pradesh’s Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) [arrested](#) Ulfat Hussain of Poonch district in Saharanpur, UP and labelled him a “terrorist associate.”

On March 13, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) two Naseer Ahmad Parray of Kathpura Hajin and Mudasir Ahmad Parray of Gandbal Hajin, Bandipora district and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On March 14, 2025, Indian authorities re-imposed [house arrest](#) on Mirwaiz Umar Farooq after preventing him from leading Friday prayers at Jamia Masjid, Srinagar.

On March 17, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir High Court [quashed](#) the illegal imprisonment of Adv. Nazir Ronga after 251 days.

On March 19, 2025, India’s National Investigation Agency (NIA) [raided](#) twelve locations across Kashmir.

On March 24, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) the home of Mohd. Amin Parray of Kundalan, Shopian district.

On March 25, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) the homes of several people allegedly linked to Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir in Devsar and Zangalpora, Kulgam district.

On March 25, 2025, Indian authorities [detained](#) Mohammad Yaqoob, of Suhana Kotli, Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

On March 26, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) the homes of several people allegedly linked to Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Freedom League and Muslim Conference, including [homes](#) of Abdul Gani Bhat (former Hurriyat chief), Ashaq Hussain Narchor of Mattan Chowk, Anantnag, Fayaz Ahmad Dass of Waghama, Mohammad Rafiq Dar of Satkipora Srigufwara, Ghulam Nabi Sumji of Bijbehara, Manzoor Ahmad Misger of Kadipora, Anantnag, Mukhtar Ahmad Sofi and Mukhtar Ahmad Waza of Malaknag, Anantnag and

Mohammad Shafi Khan of Zaldoora Dooru, Anantnag and Riyaz Ahmad Mir, Qaiser Ahmad, Firdous Ahmad Bhat, and Farooq Ahmad Mir of Plan, Bandipora district.

On March 27, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) the home of Irfan Ahmad Kababi of Old Town, Baramulla.

On March 29, 2025, Indian authorities [booked](#) participants in a march for Palestinian rights in Beerwah, Budgam district under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

On March 31, 2025, Indian authorities [detained](#) six family members of the imprisoned Mohammad Latief of Billawar, Kathua district and labeled them “OGWs.”

## **TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

On March 11, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) 1,298.28 kanals of land across Pulwama, Bandipora, Jammu, Kathua, Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Poonch and earmarked 3,000 kanals of public land in Bemina, Srinagar for “development” projects. Indian authorities also [diverted](#) 576 hectares of forest land for “development” projects between 2021-2024.

On March 22, 2025, Indian authorities [demolished](#) the house of Haroon Rashid Ganie of Rekha Hassanpora, Anantnag and labelled him a “terrorist.”

On March 28, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the home and other immovable property of Farooq Ahmad Shah of Onagam, Bandipora district for alleged “anti-national activities.”

## **ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT AND VIOLATION OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS**

On March 13, 2025, Indian authorities implemented a [6% reservation](#) for employment in IAK for retired Indian military personnel, amid an ongoing [unemployment crisis](#) that disproportionately affects [women](#).

## **POLITICAL DISEMPOWERMENT, VIOLATION OF POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE**

On March 11, 2025, Indian authorities [banned](#) two more pro-rights political parties, the AAC and JKIM, for alleged “anti-national activities” and then launched a crackdown on their alleged [members](#).

Indian authorities announced that they allotted [2,029 kanals](#) of IAK land to non-locals in 2023-2024.

## **DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE, LEGALIZED IMPUNITY**

The Indian Army continued to [train and arm](#) state-sponsored militias with a history of anti-Muslim violence.

## **COMMUNICATIONS SHUTDOWNS; RIGHT TO INTERNET**

The Software Freedom Law Centre [reported](#) that Indian authorities imposed 434 internet shutdowns in IAK over 13 years.

## **COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT**

On March 1, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Dandesar, Nowshera, Rajouri district.

On March 10, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Mandi, Poonch district.

On March 11, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Ghagwal, Samba district.

On March 17, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in the Khurmur forest, Handwara, Kupwara district.

On March 18, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Gandeher, Sunderbani, Rajouri district.

On March 29, 2025, Indian forces [conducted](#) a CASO in Sufain forest, Juthana, Kathua district.

## **VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

On March 5, 2025, the BJP [protested](#) an attempt in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly to re-institute the banned July 13 holiday commemorating the sacrifices of pro-democracy activists in Jammu and Kashmir.

On March 28, 2025, the Indian authorities [prohibited](#) Laylat al Qadr prayers at Jamia Masjid, Srinagar.

On March 31, 2025, Indian authorities [prohibited](#) Eid prayers at Jamia Masjid and Eidgah, Srinagar.

## **PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS**

On March 3, 2025, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk [expressed concern](#) regarding attacks on human rights defenders, journalists and civic space in IAK.

On March 13, 2025, the People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) [condemned](#) the seizure of books in IAK.

On March 14, 2025, Juilee Shivalkar and Azadeh Shahshahani published [From Atlanta to Kashmir, States Weaponize Counterterrorism Frameworks to Target Social Justice Movements](#).

On March 17, 2025, Brown History released a [podcast](#) episode on "The Making of Indian-Occupied Kashmir."

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