

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

May 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025

SUMMARY

In May 2025, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). India attacked Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PAK), causing extensive devastation to life and property, especially along the Line of Control (LOC). At least 25 people were killed and hundreds arbitrarily detained in IAK. Indian authorities continued their campaign of systematic repression and collective punishment through raids, property destruction (including through explosive demolition), property expropriation and forced displacement (including through deportation). Indian authorities continued to escalate their denial of the right to free expression, including through further arbitrary detentions for online speech and the blocking of at least 8,000 social media accounts.

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 and a half years (1,310 days), journalist Irfan Mehraj—illegally imprisoned for over two years (826 days) and human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for one year (364 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 May 4, 2025, Indian forces [killed Imtiaz Ahmad Magray](#) of Tangmarg, Baramulla district during a Cordon-and-Search Operation (CASO) in Kulgam district (his [corpse was found](#) in Adbal Wattoo, DH Pora, Kulgam district) and labeled him an “OGW.”

On May 13, 2025, Indian forces [killed three people](#), including Shahid Kuttay and Adnan Shafi of Zinpathar Keller, Shopian district, during a CASO and labeled them “terrorists.”

On May 15, 2025, Indian forces [killed](#) Asif Ahmed Sheikh, Amir Nazir Wani and Yawar Ahmed Bhat during a CASO in Nader Tral, Awantipora, Pulwama district and labeled them “terrorists.”

On May 29, 2025, Indian forces [killed Abdul Waheed Bhat](#), an 80-year-old, paralyzed, ill man from Khanyar, Srinagar by forcing him across the Attari crossing to Pakistan.

On May 31, 2025, Indian forces [killed](#) Ali Mohammad Joo and injured his daughter by running them over and crushing them at Khumani Chowk, Bemina, Srinagar district.

Between May 6 and May 12, 2025, an escalatory attack by India on Pakistan and PAK (and Pakistani retaliation) [killed at least 40 civilians \(including 15 children\) in Pakistan and PAK and 16 civilians in IAK](#) and resulted in the mass [destruction of homes and property](#) and the mass displacement of people, particularly near the LOC in Jammu & Kashmir. At least [2,060 homes were damaged](#) in IAK. See descriptions of the impacts on the people of Jammu & Kashmir in [The Caravan](#), [The Contrapuntal](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [the Associated Press](#), [The Washington Post](#) and [Foreign Policy](#) and from [Azad Essa](#). See also this story of [Mohammad Iqbal of Poonch](#) who was killed by shelling on May 7 and labeled a “terrorist.” In addition, Kashmiris in India faced escalated [threats](#) and [attacks](#).

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, FREEDOM OF PRESS

On May 7, 2025, Indian authorities [detained journalist Hilal Mir](#) under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly posting “anti-national” content on Facebook.

On May 9, 2025, Indian authorities [ordered](#) X (formerly Twitter) to block more than [8,000 accounts](#), including those of media organizations (including Maktoob Media, The Kashmiriyat, BBC Urdu, Free Press Kashmir and The Wire) and journalists (including Anuradha Bhasin and Muzamil Jaleel. Meta also [suspended news accounts](#). Indian authorities [ordered](#) all media companies and platforms to block content allegedly coming from Pakistan. On May 15, 2025, Indian authorities also [blocked](#) the Xinhua, Global Times and TRT World news sites.

On May 19, 2025, Indian authorities [cancelled](#) the Overseas Citizenship of India card of Dr. Nitsha Kaul, a University of Westminster professor, in reprisal for her work on Kashmiri rights and minority rights in India.

In IAK, people are continuing [to erase tattoos](#) and any other expression to avoid reprisals from Indian authorities, as self-censorship continues in the face of ongoing, intense repression and [surveillance](#).

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On May 3, 2025, Indian authorities [booked 75 people](#) under the PSA and labelled them “OGWs.”

On May 11, 2025, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) [raided](#) 20 different locations in South Kashmir.

On May 16, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Muzamil Ahmad, Ishfaq Pandit and Muneer Ahmad in the in Narbal–Magam, Budgam district and labeled them “terrorist associates.”

On May 17, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Police booked [23 people](#) under the PSA, including: Saqib Shafi Wani of Chattabal, Waleed Aijaz Sheikh, Sayar Ahmad Sheikh, Sajid Shahnawaz Mir, Ibrahim Rashid Ganie and Tawseef Ahmad Khan of Batmaloo, Hashim Farooq Mir of Rajbagh, Showkat Ahmad Dar of Nishat, Ali Mohammad Rather of Hazratbal, Owais Farooq Lone of Tral, Musaib Ahmad Khan of Bemina, Feroz Ahmad Najar of Harwan, Shabir Ahmad Ghulam of Bagiyas, Numan Qayoom Ganie of Chanpora, Owais Altaf Bhat of Padshahibagh, Junaid Zahoor Bangroo of Fatehkadal, Muzaffar Farooq Mir and Uneeb Naseer Mir of Kanpora Budgam, Irfan Ahmad Seeru of Nawakadal, Fahad Bashir Siddique of Khanyar, Zubair Ahmad Lone of Eidgah, Faizan Yaseen Sheikh of Jamalatta and Abdul Hamid Ganie of Harwan.

On May 19, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Zahid Ahmad Sheikh of DK Pora and Anwar Khan of Kathwa and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On May 23, 2025, the SIA [raided](#) 18 different locations in Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur, and Ramban districts.

On May 29, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Irfan Bashir and Uzair Salam during a CASO in Baskuchan, Poonch district and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On May 30, 2025, Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) [raided](#) multiple locations in Budgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Shopian, and Srinagar districts.

On May 31, 2025, CIK [raided](#) homes of alleged social media users, including Abdul Rashid Najar and Sunain Sajad Mir of Drangbal Pampore, Ghulam Ahmad Bhat of Laro, Pulwama, Nisar Ahmad Bhat of Saidpora, Shopian, Gousia Nabi of Kakapora, Pulwama and Akash Mushtaq of Arigam, Pulwama.

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

On May 20, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) land belonging to Arshid Ahmad Teli of Nowpora Tujjar, Baramulla district, Firdous Ahmad Dar and Nazir Ahmad Dar of Harwan, Srinagar district and Owais Feroze Mir of Frestabal Pampore, Pulwama district.

POLITICAL DISEMPOWERMENT, VIOLATION OF POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

On May 14, 2025, Indian authorities completed the integration of IAK with India’s [railway system](#), with 800 soldiers inaugurating the first ride from Delhi to Srinagar.

On May 18, 2025, Indian authorities [re-deployed](#) at least 4,000 ex-soldiers as “security guards” in IAK.

On May 29, 2025, Indian authorities [deployed 580 additional companies](#) of the Central Armed Police Force, including 42,000 additional soldiers.

COMMUNICATION SHUTDOWN; RIGHT TO INTERNET

Indian authorities [shut down](#) mobile and internet services in Baderwah, Doda district May 22 - May 27, 2025.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

Indian authorities [deported](#) many people, including at least [150 mothers/wives](#), forcibly separating families.

Indian authorities [escalated their crackdown](#) in IAK, including through the [demolition of at least a dozen homes](#) and the arbitrary detention of thousands more people and the likely [prolongation of the detentions](#) of the thousands of Kashmiri detainees previously detained.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On May 7, 2025, Nasir Qadri [published](#) “India’s lawfare in Kashmir mirrors Israel’s settler colonial playbook.”

On May 14, 2025, Palestine Chronicle TV [published a podcast](#) “Unpacking India Pakistan Escalation: The Israel Nexus in Kashmir & Palestine” with Abdulla Moaswes.

On May 16, 2025, Mirza Waheed [published](#) “Kashmir Deserves a Lasting Peace.”

On May 20, 2025, FORUM-ASIA and FIDH issued a [joint statement](#), “India and Pakistan must maintain the ceasefire, uphold the rights of Kashmiris.”

On May 21, 2025, Project Uncensored [published](#) “Kashmir and Armenia: Voices from the Margins,” featuring Ather Zia and Karnig Kerkonian

On May 27, 2025, Binish Ahmed [published](#) “Borders and orders: How settler-government occupations violate Kashmiri sovereignty.

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