

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

July 1, 2025 – July 31, 2025

### SUMMARY

In July 2025, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least four people and continued their systematic campaigns of mass arbitrary detention, raids and property expropriation. The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir criminalized (under counter-terror laws) the mere description of IAK as “occupied” or of its people’s right to self-determination under international law.

Numerous Kashmiri journalists, human rights defenders, activists, and dissenters continue to be arbitrarily detained. Emblematic cases include those of human rights defender Khurram Parvez—illegally imprisoned for almost four years (1,374 days), journalist Irfan Mehraj—illegally imprisoned for almost two and a half years (890 days), human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for over one year (428 days) and scholar Shafat Wani—illegally imprisoned for almost four months (139 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 July 24, 2025, Indian forces [killed](#) Parvez Ahmad of Taki Tawi, Jammu in a staged encounter at Surya Chak, Phallian Mandal, Jammu.

On July 15, 2025, Indian forces struck and [fatally injured](#) Zubair Ahmad Rather of Ajas, Bandipora.

On July 30, 2025, Indian forces killed [two people](#) in Maldivalan, Degwar, Poonch and labelled them “terrorists.”

Indian authorities claimed to have [killed](#) the “12 most-wanted terrorists” in May-July 2025 in IAK.

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

On July 2, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Police [prohibited](#) the sharing of imagery and carrying of banners regarding Palestinian rights or featuring Hassan Nasrullah (Hezbollah) and Ayatollah Khomeini (Iran).

On July 4, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Police [assaulted](#) protesters demonstrating for Palestinian rights.

On July 13, 2025, Indian authorities once again [prohibited commemoration](#) of Martyrs’ Day and [denied](#) people access to martyrs’ graveyards in order to pay their respects.

On July 25, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [ruled](#) that calling the situation in IAK an “illegal occupation” or defending the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir constitute “unlawful activity” under India’s Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

On July 30, 2025, Indian authorities [ordered](#) all public sector employees in IAK to attend official commemorations of India’s Independence Day.

Irfan Amin Malik published an exposé of Indian authorities [policies to end independent media in IAK](#) by depriving them of revenue.

## **ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS**

On July 3, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Umer Mohi-ud-Din Bhat of Nader, Tral and Shakeel Ahmad Sheikh of Kuchmulla, Tral, Pulwama district and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On July 11, 2025, the State Investigation Agency [raided](#) various locations in Jammu, Doda, and Handwara, including houses associated with Irshad Ahmad Malik of Bharat, Doda district.

On July 17, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) the house of Abid Nabi Kachroo of Badam Bagh, Sopore, Baramulla district for alleged links with a now-banned political party, the Muslim League.

On July 19, 2025, Counter Intelligence Kashmir [raided](#) multiple locations across Budgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal, and Srinagar districts and detained at least 10 people for using encrypted messaging apps.

On July 22, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [approved](#) UAPA charges against Ameer Hamza Shah and Rayees Ahmad Mir of Bandipora district for public speeches in 2015 defending the right to self-determination.

On July 23, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) three people in Chitti-Bandi, Bandipora and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On July 28, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Wali Mohammad Mir of Marsary, Chowkibal, Kralpora, Kupwara district during a Cordon-and-Search-Operation and labelled him a ‘terrorist associate.’

On July 30, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Azan Hamid Gazi of Hilalabad, Srinagar district at TCP Nagrota, Jammu district and labelled him an “overground worker.”

## **TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

On July 5, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Mohammad Yousaf Shah of Mir Masjid Mohalla, Shalabagh, Khanyar, Srinagar district.

On July 9, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Ghulam Rasool Shah of Peer Mohallah Chandigam, Lolab, Kupwara district.

On July 11, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Hashir Rafiq Parray of Patushay, Bandipora district.

On July 12, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Farooq Ahmad Rather of Kurag, Noor Mohammad Parray of Hatbura, and Mohammad Maqbool Sofi of Khurhama, all in Ganderbal district.

On July 16, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Manzoor Ahmad Chopan of Harwani Khansahib, Mohammad Yousuf Malik of Chewa Budgam, and Bilal Ahmad Wani of Nagbal Khag, all in Budgam district.

On July 21, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Parvez Ahmad Dar of Nasrullapora, Budgam district.

On July 24, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the home and land of Javaid Ahmad Dar of Reban, Sopore, Baramulla district.

On July 25, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Mutwali Paswal of Batpora Haihama [and Abdul Hamid Sheikh](#) and Qazi Khushal Pathan of Dhani Karnah, and Manzoor Ahmed Sheikh of Nawagabra Karnah, all in Kupwara district.

Indian authorities have rejected 87% of real property claims made in IAK under India's [Forest Rights Act](#) since imposing it on IAK in 2019 (in India, authorities approve approximately 49% of claims).

Indian authorities are developing a [Hydro Power Policy 2025](#) to facilitate the further expansion of hydropower projects in IAK, infrastructure which results in [myriad violations](#) and the colonial extraction of resources in IAK.

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

On July 3, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [prevented](#) the repatriation to IAK of Rakshanda Rashid, one of those deported by Indian authorities to Pakistan earlier this year.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court [ordered the deportation](#) from IAK of Mohammad Khalil Qazi and Arifa Qazi, a couple from Srinagar.

On July 16, 2025, Indian authorities [approved](#) 20 new Central Reserve Police Force battalions (over 20,000 military personnel) for IAK.

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

On July 16, 2025, India's National Human Rights Commission [notified](#) Jammu and Kashmir Police for inaction in the case of Manzoor Ahmad Kumar of Zachildar Dardhaji Rajwar, Kupwara district who [disappeared](#) over 12 years ago.

On July 22, 2025, India's [Supreme Court](#) mandated an inquiry into the custodial torture of police constable Khursheed Ahmad Chohan in Kupwara at the Joint Interrogation Centre Kupwara.

## STATE SURVEILLANCE

On July 23, 2025, Indian authorities deployed a new [drone squadron](#) in IAK.

## VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

On July 11, 2025, Indian authorities again [prohibited](#) Friday prayers at Jamia Masjid Srinagar subjected Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to house arrest.

## PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On June 30, 2025, Jatinder Kaur Tur published "[Four Deaths and No Answers in Kulgam](#)" regarding the May 2025 disappearance and killing of Imtiaz Ahmed Magray, Riyaz Bajad and Shaukat Bajad.

On July 10, 2025, Mohammad Junaid published "[Allochthonization Under the Emergent Settler Colonialism in Kashmir](#)" and Ather Zia published "[The Iterative Temporal Dynamic of Settler Colonialism in Kashmir](#)"

On July 13, 2025, Ainnie Arif published "[July 13, Kashmir Martyrs' Day: Memory Deinstitutionalised](#)".

On July 15, 2025, Rao Farman Ali published "[Revisiting Kashmir's Defining Moments of 1931: Between Aspirations & Fallacies](#)".

On July 17, 2025, Tariq Mir published "[Kashmir: Death and the River](#)."

On July 25, 2025, Polis Project published a photo essay "[In Kashmir, after deadly military conflict, a village hero who will never return home](#)."

On July 25, 2025, WORT 89.9 FM published a podcast featuring Ather Zia on "[Colonialism and Ecocide in Bastar and Kashmir](#)."

## CONTACT

[kashmirlaw@protonmail.com](mailto:kashmirlaw@protonmail.com)  
<https://www.kljp.org/>

[kashmirscholarsnetwork@protonmail.com](mailto:kashmirscholarsnetwork@protonmail.com)  
<https://kashmir-scholars.org/>

[legal@projectsouth.org](mailto:legal@projectsouth.org)  
<https://projectsouth.org/>

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