

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

August 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025

SUMMARY

In August 2025, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least seven people and continued their systematic campaigns of mass arbitrary detention, raids and property expropriation. Indian authorities banned more books, expanded their surveillance infrastructure with a new school-focused initiative and took over 215 independent schools.

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 (1,401 days), journalist Irfan Mehraj—illegally imprisoned for over two and a half years (917 days), human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for over one year (455 days) and scholar Shafat Wani—illegally imprisoned for almost half a year (166 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 August 2, 2025, Indian forces killed [three people](#) during a Cardon and Search Operation (CASO) in Akhal forest area of Kulgam district (with [typical, broad impacts](#)) and labelled them “terrorists.”

On August 11, 2025, Indian forces [killed](#) two people in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district and labelled them “infiltrators.”

On August 28, 2025, Indian forces [killed two people](#) during a CASO in the Gurez sector of Bandipora district and labelled them “terrorists.”

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

On August 5, 2025, the Indian authorities [banned 25 books](#) relating to the history of IAK for allegedly promoting “false narrative,” “secessionism” and “violence.” Book-banning is part of a broader [pattern of repression, censorship and erasure](#) IAK. This particular incident is emblematic of, among other things, India’s [invizibilization of history](#), [invizibilization of reality](#), [suppression of independent voices](#), [censorship and control of information](#), [criminalization of scholarship](#), [memoricidal settler colonialism](#) and broader [war on memory](#) in IAK.

On August 7, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) bookshops and other locations in IAK to confiscate banned books. This was publicly [condemned by the American Booksellers for Free Expression](#).

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

[Systematic, mass arbitrary detention continues](#) as part of India's ongoing war on dissent in IAK.

On August 1, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat of Koel, Pulwama, Ishan Akram of Medora, Awantipora, and Waseem Rehman Sheikh of Medora, Awantipora and labelled them "terrorist associates."

On August 6, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Police [arrested](#) Mohammad Ayoub Bhat of Budgam district in New Delhi and labelled him a "terrorist associate."

On August 6, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) the residential property of Hashim Farooq Mir of Rustum Colony, Ikhrajpora, Srinagar district, and labelled him an "overground worker."

On August 8, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) at least 15 locations across Doda district.

On August 9, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) at least 26 residences in Kishtwar district, including the house of Mohammad Amin Bhat.

On August 13, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) at least eight locations across Srinagar district.

On August 14, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Mohd Iqbal of Bunpora Langate, Sajad Ahmad Shah of Chekparin and Ishfaq Ahmad Malik of Kralgund, all in Handwara, Kupwara district, and labelled them "terrorist associates."

On August 17, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Ab Majid Gojri of SK Bala and Ab Hamid Dar of Vijpara, Bandipora district and labelled them "terrorist associates."

On August 19, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [framed murder charges](#) against Mian Abdul Qayoom, the arbitrarily detained and long-persecuted human rights lawyer and former president of Jammu Kashmir High Court Bar Association.

On August 23, 2025, the State Investigation Authority [arrested](#) Altaf Hussain Wagay of Reban Gund, Behram, Shopian district and labelled him an "OGW."

On August 27, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Sakib Reyaz Gan of Chaki-i-Cholan, Shopian district and labelled him a "terrorist associate."

On August 30, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Tariq Sheikh of Azamabad and Riyaz Ahmad of Chamber, Poonch district and labelled them "terrorists."

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

On August 5, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) 16.5 *marlas* of land belonging to Mohd Ashraf of Lowang, Bani, Kathua district.

On August 15, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) 2 kanals and 12 marlas of land belonging to Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat of Watpora, Jameel Ahmad Khan of Chandaji and Manzoor Ahmad Dar of Aloosa, all in Bandipora district.

On August 19, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Adil Hussain Thoker of Guree, Bijbehara, Anantnag district.

On August 31, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the land of Mohammad Azam of Mandi, Poonch district.

After imposing India's Forest Rights Act on IAK in 2019, Indian authorities subsequently [denied](#) over 85% of claims under the Act in IAK, systematically denying historic land rights.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

On August 10, 2025, Indian authorities [escalated](#) random searches and restrictions on movement in IAK.

On August 10, 2025, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Bhagna forest, Dool, Kishtwar district.

On August 22, 2025, Indian authorities [terminated](#) two public sector employees, Siyad Ahmad Khan, an assistant stockman in the Sheep Husbandry Department from Keran, Kupwara, and Khurshid Ahmad Rather, a school-teacher from the Karnah, Kupwara, and labelled them "terrorist associates." On that day, Indian forces also [imposed](#) a CASO in the Juthalba, Rajbagh, Kathua district.

On August 23, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) schools run by an independent trust that educate over 51,000 students.

On August 30, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in the Mendhar sector of Poonch district.

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE, LEGALIZED IMPUNITY

On August 4, 2025, the Punjab and Haryana High Court [dismissed](#) a case against Ajay Kumar Pandey, a senior Central Reserve Police Force officer, for the 1990 wrongful confinement, killing and disappearance of Peer Mohammad Shafi due to delays; India's Home Ministry denied sanction to prosecute the office for 17 years.

On August 21, 2025, after 39 years of litigation, a local court [ordered 3.24 lakh \(with interest\)](#) in compensation be paid by the Indian administration in IAK for the killing of Avis Ahmed Shah in 1986.

On August 21, 2025, the Central Bureau of Investigation [arrested](#) six police personnel for the custodial torture of police constable Khursheed Ahmad Chohan at the Joint Interrogation Centre Kupwara.

STATE SURVEILLANCE

Indian authorities continued to expand their [surveillance](#) infrastructure in IAK, including through a new initiative targeting female students.

VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

On August 22, 2025, Indian authorities [took over](#) 215 formerly independent schools operated by the Falah-e-Aam Trust, further eliminating independent institutions in IAK and impairing educational access.

In IAK, Indian authorities continue to [deny](#) the return of bodies and death rites to those killed by state actors.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

[Impunity](#) and [militarization](#) continued to cause grave environmental devastation in IAK.

Indian forces continued to damage and [destroy](#) natural features in IAK, including cave systems.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On August 5, 2025, Kazim Alam [published](#) “Six years after Modi stripped Kashmir’s special status, anger simmers in Muslim-majority region.”

Public statements on the August 5, 2025 book ban in IAK include those by [FORUM-ASIA, CIVICUS, Kashmir Law and Justice Project, OMCT, Front Line Defenders, FIDH and KSCAN](#) (on the gravity of its violation of the rights to freedom of expression, academic freedom, and access to information), the [Internet Freedom Foundation](#) and [People’s Union of Civil Liberties](#) (on its illegality under Indian law and violation of democratic values and the right to free expression) and [People’s Union for Democratic Rights](#) (on its arbitrariness and role in the systematic criminalization and destruction of civil society in IAK).

On August 6, 2025, Just Peace Advocates, Al-Haq, and Kashmir Law and Justice Project [published](#) “From Palestine to Kashmir: WSP Global Entrenches Occupation and Apartheid.”

On August 11, 2025, Safwat Zargar [published](#) an article, “Why Kashmir is worried about the sidelining of Urdu.”

On August 25, 2025, Huzaiful Reyaz [published](#) “Tracks to Nowhere: A New Railway in Indian-Administered Kashmir.”

On August 17, 2025, Leoni Connah [published](#) “Kashmir’s double burden: Climate change and conflict.”

On August 31, 2025, Kashmir Law and Justice Project [published](#) “Goodwill as Bad Faith: Umasking Operation Sadbhavana in Jammu & Kashmir.”

CONTACT

kashmirlaw@protonmail.com
<https://www.kljp.org/>

kashmirscholarsnetwork@protonmail.com
<https://kashmir-scholars.org/>

legal@projectsouth.org
<https://projectsouth.org/>

Published September 23, 2025