

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

September 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

SUMMARY

In September 2025, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian forces killed at least eleven people and continued their systematic campaigns of mass arbitrary detention (at least 70 new detentions reported), raids and property expropriation. Indian authorities denied funeral rites to the family of Prof. Abdul Ghani Bhat, blocked over 300 additional social media accounts and installed the Ashoka emblem at the Hazratbal mosque/shrine (and detained people who protested). Efforts to criminalize human rights work, erase documentation of violations and impunity and manufacture false history in IAK accelerated, including through the publication and promotion of a propagandistic attack on landmark human rights work on enforced disappearances and unmarked graves in IAK.

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 (1,430 days) (his persecution was again [mentioned](#) in the UN Secretary-General’s annual report to the UN Human Rights Council), journalist Irfan Mehraj—illegally imprisoned for over two and a half years (946 days), human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for over one year (484 days) and scholar Shafat Wani—illegally imprisoned for over six months (195 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 September 7, 2025, Indian forces killed [two people](#) during a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Guddar forest, Kulgam district, and labelled them “terrorists.”

On September 12, 2025, a Central Reserve Police Force vehicle struck and [killed](#) Asif Ahmad Rather of Brein, Nishat, Srinagar district.

On September 14, 2025, the [corpse of Firdous Ahmed Mir](#) of Hajin, Banidpora district was found in a river; he was reportedly [killed in the Indian Army’s custody](#).

On September 24, 2025, Indian forces [killed five and injured dozens](#) in Leh, Ladakh, in response to protests demanding fundamental rights within the framework of the Indian constitution.

On September 28, 2025, Indian forces [killed two people](#) in Keran, Kupwara district and labelled them “terrorists.”

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

On September 14, 2025, Kashmiri students were [warned](#) to avoid any expression regarding the India-Pakistan cricket match in order to limit targeting and repression that typically follows such sporting events.

On September 16, 2025, Indian authorities [blocked over 300 additional social media](#) accounts in IAK.

On September 18, 2025, Indian authorities [denied a public funeral and burial in accordance with their wishes](#) to the family of [Prof. Abdul Ghani Bhat](#), a prominent self-determination activist.

On September 24, 2025, Indian authorities [imposed a curfew](#) and detained approximately 40 people in Leh, Ladakh.

On September 29, 2025, Indian authorities implemented [intensified surveillance](#) of social media and expanded intelligence operations in IAK.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On August 25, 2025, prominent, arbitrarily detained self-determination activist [Yasin Malik filed an affidavit](#) in the political prosecution against him seeking the death penalty detailing how his persecution is built on betrayals by Indian authorities and their manufacturing of evidence through self-dealing.

On September 4, 2025, India's Supreme Court [rejected](#) bail for arbitrarily detained (since 2019), prominent self-determination activist Shabir Ahmad Shah who has been a political prisoner for approximately 35 years and whose health is reportedly deteriorating. Separately, Kashmiri detainees in the maximum-security Tihar Jail have reported [targeted harassment](#), especially when they seek to pray.

On September 5, 2025, Indian authorities targeted people protesting their [installlation](#) of the Ashoka emblem at the Hazratbal mosque/shrine in Srinagar, [detaining at least 50 people](#).

On September 7, 2025, India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) [raided](#) multiple locations in Kulgam, Pulwama, and Baramulla districts.

On September 8, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Siraj Khan of Sargodha, Punjab from RS Pora, Jammu district and labelled him an "intruder."

On September 9, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) an elected politician, Mehraj Malik, under the Public Safety Act for allegedly disturbing public order.

On September 10, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) multiple locations in Anantnag and Pulwama districts.

On September 12, 2025, Indian authorities again imposed [house arrest](#) on Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and prevented him from attending Jamia Masjid, Srinagar.

On September 20, 2025, Indian authorities [raided](#) at least eight locations across Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, Kupwara, Handwara, Pulwama and Shopian districts.

On September 25, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Muhammad Yousaf Katari of Manzgam, Kulgam district and labelled him an “Over Ground Worker.”

On September 26, 2025, Indian authorities [arrested](#) political activist Sonam Wangchuk for alleged incitement.

On September 30, 2025, Indian authorities [detained at least 15 people](#) for allegedly not standing during India’s national anthem at a sports match in Srinagar.

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY; ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT

On September 11, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Mohammad Maqbool Sheikh and Mohammad Rafiq Tantray of Tantraypora, Palhallan, Baramulla district.

On September 26, 2025, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Tariq Ahmad Mir of Maldera, Shopian district.

POLITICAL DISEMPOWERMENT, VIOLATION OF POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

On September 10, 2025, Indian authorities [upheld](#) the government’s denial of information regarding reservation policies which are resulting in increased marginalization and disempowerment of Kashmiri Muslims.

On September 12, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [dismissed](#) the appeal of Mohammad Khalil and Afifa Qazi, an elderly couple from Srinagar, challenging their deportation for holding Pakistani passports.

On September 19, 2025, the Delhi High Court [upheld the ban](#) of the Awami Action Committee and Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen, two of several pro-rights political parties from IAK who are banned.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

On September 2, 2025, Indian forces [launched](#) a CASO in Soyian Katha, Banjola forest, Jallian-Azamabad, Khanetar Mohalla, Kalsan and Dupriana of Poonch district.

On September 13, 2025, Indian forces [launched](#) a CASO in Bhallara, Thathri, Doda district.

On September 21, 2025, Indian forces [launched](#) CASO in Seoj Dhar forest, Dudu-Basantgarh, Udhampur district.

On September 29, 2025, Indian forces [launched](#) a CASO in the Sungran forest area, Anantnag district.

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE, LEGALIZED IMPUNITY

Indian authorities are distributing [compensation](#) to families of those allegedly killed by armed resistance fighters in IAK but denying compensation (and otherwise persecuting) victims of state violence. Similarly, Indian authorities continue to [selectively pursue politicized, non-transparent investigations](#) into violations to promote propagandistic narratives while denying access to justice and information regarding violations generally.

DISINFORMATION; PROPAGANDA

Ongoing efforts to criminalize human rights work, erase the history of state violence and manufacture false, state-supported history that promotes violations and impunity in IAK accelerated through the [publication](#) and [widespread promotion](#) of a [propagandistic attack](#) (framed as a “human rights report”) on landmark human rights documentation and reporting work done in IAK despite state repression and reprisals. This disinformation campaign particularly targets international civil society’s work on IAK, including by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and the historic human rights documentation work performed by the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons and the International People’s Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Kashmir (specifically, [Buried Evidence: Unknown, Unmarked and Mass Graves in Indian-Administered Kashmir \(2009\)](#)).

Increasingly, official Indian literature, including [school curricula](#), regarding IAK systematically erase the history of state violence and violations and construct a false history that promotes violations and impunity in IAK.

VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Indian authorities [installed](#) the Ashoka emblem on a plaque at the [historically](#) significant and culturally vital Hazratbal mosque/shrine in Srinagar.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS; VIOLATIONS TARGETING JOURNALISTS

Indian authorities’ war on journalism continues in IAK, resulting in the [death of journalism as a profession](#). Relatedly, Reporters Without Borders recently [described](#) how IAK remains a “black hole for information.”

TARGETING OF KASHMIRIS; DISCRIMINATION

On September 29, 2025, a Hindu supremacist mob in Madhya Pradesh [assaulted](#) Aftaab Hussain, a student from Poonch district. Aftaab was subsequently arrested by the police.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On September 4, 2025, Khadeeja Khan [published](#) “How Young Kashmiris Shape the Struggle for Self-Determination.”

On September 7, 2025 Raul Lai [published](#) “How India is weaponising immigration control to silence its diaspora,” describing transnational repression targeting Kashmiris and repression targeting reporting on IAK.

On September 9, 2025, Md. Nazmul Arefin [published](#) “The (Necro)Politics of Framing Terrorism in Countering Separatist Movements: Strategies and Human Rights Implications in Quebec, Kashmir, and Xinjiang.”

On September 16, 2025, Lital Khaikin [published](#) “When a bridge is not just a bridge: Chenab railway,” which was also [discussed](#) with Mona Bhan.

On September 22, 2025, Safina Nabi [published](#) “In the Line of Fire: How Women in Kashmir Navigate War, Memory and Survival.”

On September 25, 2025, Amnesty International [condemned](#) repression targeting protesters in Leh, Ladakh.

On September 29, 2025, The Fire These Times podcast [published](#) “The Kashmir Question” with Ather Zia, Hafsa Kanjwal and Abdulla Moaswes.

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