

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

May 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026

SUMMARY

In May 2026, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian authorities killed at least two people and continued their ongoing systematic campaigns of mass detention and collective punishment. Indian authorities acknowledged demolishing 81 homes, expropriating 120 properties and arresting 716 people during January-March 2026 under an “anti-drugs” campaign. Indian forces used 11 people as human shields, resulting in the maiming of Mohammad Jahangir Malik. Arjumand Gulzar Dar, a teacher from Pulwama, was extrajudicially executed in Muzaffarabad by suspected Indian agents. Indian authorities prohibited Eid prayers in Jamia Masjid, Srinagar for the eighth consecutive year.

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 over four and half years (1,682 days), journalist Irfan Mehraj—illegally imprisoned for over three years (1,198 days), human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for over two years (736 days) and scholar Shafat Wani—illegally imprisoned for over one year (447 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,” and “infiltrator.”

KILLINGS AND EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

On May 12, 2026, Indian forces [killed](#) a person in Krishna Ghati, Poonch district and labelled him an “intruder.”

On May 21, 2026, suspected Indian agents [executed](#) Arjumand Gulzar Dar, a [teacher from Pulwama district](#) in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Indian media widely [celebrated](#) his killing.

On May 13, 2026, Indian forces [detained](#) Mohammad Jahangir Malik and ten others in Khull, Kulgam district during a “crackdown” and coerced them to act as human shields, resulting in Malik being maimed.

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On May 7, 2026, Tech Policy Press [published](#) “Surveillance Technology Is Silencing Journalists in Kashmir.”

On May 11, 2026, Article 14 [published](#) analysis of India’s blanket ban on virtual private networks (VPNs) (in place since December 29, 2025) across IAK and the broad criminalization of digital life in IAK. Indian authorities identified approximately 1,100 VPN users and criminally charges at least 100 people for violating the ban.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On May 2, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Umar Malik of Kachipora, Pulwama district and labelled him an “OGW.”

On May 11, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Faisal Ahmad Bhat of Malpora, Habba Kadal and Faisal Ahmad Guroo of Rajouri Kadal, both in Srinagar district, and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On May 12, 2026, Indian authorities [booked](#) six boys and men from Sopore under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for allegedly participating in an April 2026 student demonstration protesting sexual abuse by a teacher.

On May 13, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Mashkooor Ahmad and Maneer Ahmad of Kishtwar district and labelled them “terrorist associates.”

On May 14, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [upheld](#) the preventive detention (since May 7, 2025) of Jahangir Ahmad Parray of Gulshanpora, Tral, Pulwama district under the PSA.

On May 16, 2026, Indian authorities [raided](#) more than fifteen locations in Bomai, Warpora, Sopore and Tarzoo areas of Baramulla district.

On May 21, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Adil Hussain Lone of Mohammadpora, Kulgam district and labelled him an “OGW.”

On May 22, 2026, Indian Supreme Court [granted bail](#) to Suhail Ahmad Thokar (held without trial under the UAPA since October 2021).

On May 26, 2026, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) [raided](#) Muslim schools/seminaries—Jamia Siraj-ul-Uloom in Shopian and Jamiat-ul-Banaat in Srinagar—and the home of Shahzada Aurangzeb in Molu Chitragam, Shopian district. Jamia Siraj-ul-Uloom was recently banned under the UAPA, the first time that a Muslim religious institution in IAK was banned under an India’s counter-terror law.

On May 31, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Zeeshan Ahmad Mir, Adil Hussain, Ishfaq Lone and Jaffar Hafiz from Uri, Baramulla district and labelled them “intruders.”

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY; ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT

On May 6, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Zameer Ahmad Lone in the Mandiyan Keran, Kupwara district.

On May 11, 2026, Indian authorities [demolished](#) the home of Abdul Rahman Bhat of Shartpora Langate, Kupwara district and [the homes](#) of Liaqat Ali, Gaggu Din, and Sham Din in Korepunnu, Marheen, Kathua district.

On May 14, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Majid Ahmad Sofi of Sopore, Baramulla in Kehnusa Bandipora district. The same day, Indian authorities [demolished](#) the commercial properties of Asif Ali Pala and Nisar Ahmad Kasana of Mathindoo Larnoo of Anantnag district.

On May 15, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat of Rohama Rafiabad, Baramulla district.

On May 16, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Rasid-ud-Din Qureshi of Nadihal, Rafiabad in Baramulla district.

On May 20, 2026, Indian authorities [demolished](#) at least 32 homes belonging to Gujjar and Bakarwal families in Sidhra-Mahamaya, Jammu district.

On May 23, 2026, India's Lieutenant Governor in IAK acknowledged that during January-March 2026 his administration had [demolished 81 homes](#), [expropriated 120 properties](#) and [arrested 716 people](#) as part of an "anti-drugs" campaign.

On May 27, 2026, India's Home Minister [ordered](#) the demolition of all constructions within 15 kilometers of the Line of Control.

POLITICAL DISEMPOWERMENT, VIOLATION OF POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

On May 15, 2026, official Indian [data](#) showed that at least 60 people were trafficked in IAK in 2024, including for forced labor, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

On May 23, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a cordon-and-search operation (CASO) in Gambhir Muglan, Rajouri district for at least six consecutive days.

On May 24, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Nilsar Kandi, Baramulla district.

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE; LEGALIZED IMPUNITY

On May 17, 2026, the Supreme Court of India granted bail to a Kashmiri imprisoned for over five years under UAPA, noting that the conviction rate in Jammu and Kashmir remains [below one percent](#) (despite a broad denial of due process and fair trials).

On May 31, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [upheld](#) the 2007 termination without due process of Ghulam Mohammad Tantry in the interest of "State security."

VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

On May 20, 2026, Indian authorities [renamed](#) schools in Jammu after their "martyrs."

On May 27, 2026, Indian authorities [barred](#) Eid prayers in Jamia Masjid, Srinagar for the eighth consecutive year and placed Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

On May 12, 2026, India's Ministry of Mines [launched](#) an auction for the commercial extraction of twelve blocks of limestone across Anantnag, Rajouri, and Poonch districts.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On May 3, 2026, Free Speech Collective [published](#) "Irfan Mehraj: How A Journalist Is Put Out of Circulation."

On May 13, 2026, Safeena Wani [published](#) "In Kashmir, A Sentence Came Before the Trial" on the case of Irfan Mehraj.

On May 7, 2026, Taruni Aswani [published](#) "A Year After the War: Kashmir's Border Civilians Sit Between Shelled Roofs and Self-Made Bunkers."

On May 14, 2026, Manchester University Press [published](#) "10 Questions with Goldie Osuri on Settler Colonialism, Kashmir and Rethinking Sovereignty in a Global Context" in connection with her [Settler/Colonialism in Kashmir](#).

On May 15, 2026, Youmna M. Chamieh [published](#) "I Was Trying to Photograph a Feeling: Showkat Nanda on Buried Archives, Generational Memory, and Dreaming Against Forgetting in Kashmir" on Nanda's work.

On May 20, 2026, Aabid Rasool [published](#) "Review: Occupying the Everyday" on Niharika Pandit's [Occupying the Everyday](#).

On May 25, 2026, Ahmed Bin Qasim [published](#) "'Made in Tihar': On Inheritance and Incarceration" on the life sentence of his mother Asiya Andrabi.

On May 28, 2026, Guénola Pellen [published](#) "Beneath Kashmir's Snow" on Sohrab Hura's work in IAK.

The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) included the cases of Khurram Parvez and Irfan Mehraj in its [2026 report](#) on reprisals against human rights defenders.

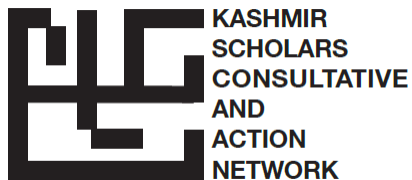
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