

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

July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026

SUMMARY

In July 2026, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian authorities killed at least two, continued their systematic campaign of mass detention, detaining over 3,500 people, and continued their systematic campaign of collective punishment through raids, cordon-and-search operations (CASOs), home demolitions and property expropriation, including through the demolition or expropriation of at least 26 families' properties. Indian authorities also escalated their systematic censorship of Kashmiris and work on IAK, including by ordering a mass purge of "anti-national" material from educational institutions and arresting book publishers, and escalated their campaign to erase and reconstruct history, including by charging six pro-self-determination activists with terrorism offenses for participating in a 1996 funeral procession.

Numerous Kashmiri journalists, human rights defenders, activists, and dissenters continue to be arbitrarily detained. Emblematic cases include those of human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for over two years (793 days) and scholar Shafat Wani—illegally imprisoned for almost a year and a half (504 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 8, 2026, Indian forces [killed](#) Zakir Ahmad Ganaie in Channapora, Shopian district during a cardon-and-search operation (CASO) and labelled him a "terrorist."

On July 16, 2026, Indian forces [killed](#) Aarif Hussain of Cheeka, Bhaderwah, Doda district. Indian authorities imposed an [internet shutdown](#) across Doda and Kishtwar districts after public protests over his killing.

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS

On July 4, 2026, Indian authorities [suspended eight](#) Education Department officials over two books supplied to government school libraries that referenced Kashmiri political figures disfavored by the Indian state. They then [registered](#) counter-terrorism charges over the two books under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), [raided](#) the offices of the books' publishers, [arrested](#) three publishers -- Inderpaul, Amardeep Singh and Girish Arora -- and escalated their book-banning efforts by [ordering](#) all public and private educational institutions to purge their [physical and digital libraries of material labeled "anti-national"](#). Relatedly, Al Jazeera [published](#) "Why Is India Vetting Books in Kashmir in Search of 'Anti-National' Content?"

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On July 5, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Ikhlaz Ahmed of Tangdhar, Kupwara district.

On July 8, 2026, Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) [raided](#) the home of Altaf Ahmad Bhat in Bagh-i-Mehtab and the home of Mukhtar Ahmad Baba in Nowgam, Srinagar. Indian authorities also [arrested](#) three people in Anantnag district using facial recognition technology (FRT), labelling them “OGWs.”

On July 9, 2026, Indian authorities [raided](#) the homes of Faraz Ashraf Gojri of Iqbal Colony, Waseem Ali Kar of Kanil Bagh, Tanveer Ahmad Mir of Tawheed Gunj, and Waseem Hussain Mir of Khwaja Bagh in Baramulla district.

On July 11, 2026, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) [charged](#) six pro-self-determination activists including Shabir Shah, Javid Mir and Shakeel Bakshi (the three others are deceased) with conspiracy, attempted murder and terrorism, for allegedly participating in a 1996 funeral procession. Indian authorities also [detained](#) Mohd. Iqbal Wani of Hajin, Bandipora district using FRT and labelled him an “OGW.”

On July 16, 2026, Indian authorities [raided](#) the house of Asim Farooq of Kralyar, Rainawari, Srinagar district. Indian authorities [raided](#) multiple homes in Bijhama, Uri, Baramulla district.

On July 21, 2026, Indian authorities [detained](#) Danish Amin Reshi of Veersaran, Anantnag district using FRT and labelled him an “OGW.” Indian authorities also [arrested](#) Mohammad Rafiq Naik of Dwather, Singhpora, Kishtwar district, a Muslim religious leader, and labelled him an “OGW,” and [Mohammad Rafiq Kala](#) of Pindi and labelled him an “intruder.”

Following the July 22, 2026 death of a police officer in Anantnag district, Indian authorities launched a sweeping [crackdown](#) across IAK, including escalated raids, travel restrictions and mass detentions (at least 3,500 people were [detained](#) between July 22 – 23).

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY; ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT

On July 1, 2026, CIK [expropriated](#) the real property of Dr. Mubeen Shah at Buchwara, Dalgate, Srinagar.

On July 8, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the home of Gulzar Ahmad Zargar in Behrampora, Rafiabab, Baramulla district.

On July 9, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the homes of Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh at Tujgari Mohalla and Bilal Ahmad Kand at Kand Mohalla, Srinagar district.

On July 13, 2026, Indian authorities [demolished](#) the home of Raj Mohammad in Bela Manohar, Samba District and [expropriated](#) the home of Mohammad Ashraf Mir in Krankshivan Colony, Sopore, Baramulla district.

On July 16, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the home of Abdul Hamid Thoker in Nusipora Keegam of Shopian district. The same day, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the home of Waseem Akram in Fatehpur Danna area of Rajouri district.

On July 23, 2026, Indian authorities [demolished](#) the family homes of Aadil Thokar of Guree, Bijbehara and Haroon Ganai of Hassanpora, both in Anantnag district.

On July 31, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of 11 people in Banihal, Ramban district (Mohammed Iqbal, Farooq Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed, Atta Mohd. Khanday, Mohd. Yaseen, Tariq Hussain, Mohd. Rafiq, Muzzafer, Abdul Qadir Naik, Mohamad Iqbal Wani, and Abdul Waheed) and [five people](#) in Mahore, Reasi district (Alaf Din, Ghulam Mohd., Mohd. Asraf, Shabir Ahmad, and Bihar Din).

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

In July 2026, Indian authorities [escalated](#) troop deployments, patrols, checkpoints, surveillance systems and drone monitoring.

On July 5, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) CASOs across seven villages in Meemandar, Shopian district.

On July 6, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) CASOs in Meenka and Beripattan, Rajouri district.

On July 10, 2026, Indian authorities [imposed](#) a CASO in Seoj Dhar, Basantgarh, Udhampur district.

On July 14, 2026, Indian authorities [imposed](#) CASOs across Bhanghai, Hasplote, Karyote and Kopra, Thanamandi, Rajouri district.

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE; LEGALIZED IMPUNITY

On July 3, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [upheld](#) UAPA charges against Adnan Bashir Bangroo and Mohammad Manan Dar (who have been subjected to prolonged detentions) on the basis of uncorroborated false confessions.

VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

On July 13, 2026, Indian authorities [imposed restrictions](#) across Srinagar district and denied entry to the Martyrs' Graveyard at the Naqshband Sahib masjid on the now-banned Martyrs' Day holiday. Relatedly, Kashmir Times [published](#) "The Forgotten Voices Behind and After Kashmir's 1931 Uprising."

On July 18, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) eight people in Leh, Ladakh for suspected involvement in "organized religious conversion-related activities."

RIGHT TO TRAVEL; FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

On July 3, 2026, Indian authorities [seized the passport](#) of Aga Syed Hassan Al-Mosavi Al-Safavi and denied a passport to Masroor Abbas Ansari, both prominent Shi'a religious leaders, barring them from travelling.

On July 24, 2026, The Wire published '[We Are Being Treated As If We Are Standing With Guns](#)' on the normalized systematic denial of right to movement within IAK which is escalated around state-orchestrated events (in this case, an annual Hindu pilgrimage)

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

On July 11, 2026, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) announced that it had [secured an Interpol “Red Corner Notice”](#) against Imtiyaz Ahmad Kandoo in connection with an April 2013 encounter with Jammu and Kashmir Police.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On July 2, 2026, Article 14 [published](#) “Sacked Without Inquiry,” documenting the dismissal with due process, remedy or recourse of at least ninety public sector employees in IAK since 2021.

Bollywood released another prominent anti-Kashmiri propaganda film which recasts the mass systematic maiming of Kashmiris [as heroism](#) and furthered Bollywood’s [rewriting of history and war on memory](#) in relation to IAK. Al Jazeera [published](#) a response by Insha Malik, a prominent 2016 victim of that maiming campaign.

On July 16, 2026, Kashmir Times [published](#) “Behind Bars and Outside” documenting that Jammu and Kashmir recorded more UAPA arrests than any territory controlled by India between 2019 and 2023 (3,662) with only twenty-three convictions (less than 1%) despite the systematic denial of due process and fair trials.

On July 17, 2026, AFP News Agency [published](#) “The ‘Half-Widows’ of Indian-Administered Kashmir Still Searching for Answers” and a related story some days later on [ongoing impunity for enforced disappearances and for victims forcibly buried in unmarked graves](#).

On July 22, 2026, FIDH [published](#) “India: Khurram Parvez and Irfan Mehraj Released on Bail.” Parvez and Mehraj were released on [extreme bail conditions](#) after, respectively, almost five years (1,703 days) and over three years (1,219 days) of illegal, pre-trial imprisonment. ISHR called for [the Indian government to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges](#) against them.

In July 2026, KLJP and FIDH submitted a [joint shadow report](#) focused on violations in IAK to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for its combined 20th/21st review of India which [concluded in August](#).

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