

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

August 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026

SUMMARY

In August 2026, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian authorities continued their ongoing systematic campaign of mass detention, detaining over 2,500 people, and their campaign of collective punishment through raids, cordon-and-search operations (CASOs) and property expropriation. Indian authorities increased military deployments, surveillance, checkpoints, searches, and coerced students, public sector employees and others to publicly participate in Indian nationalist ceremonies. In a rare case of punishment of any kind, a military tribunal expressed “severe displeasure” for a brigadier’s custodial killing of three Kashmiri civilians through torture.

Numerous Kashmiri journalists, human rights defenders, activists, and dissenters continue to be arbitrarily detained, including human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for over two years (821 days). On September 2, 2026, the preventive detention of scholar Shafat Wani—who was illegally imprisoned for almost a year and a half (510 days)—was quashed.

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.”

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS

On August 3, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Tousef Ahmad Dar of Drabgam Payeen, Pulwama district allegedly for possessing posters describing August 5 (India’s 2019 escalation of disempowerment and rights denial in IAK) and August 15 (Indias Independence Day) as “black days.”

On August 10, 2026, Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) [arrested](#) Mehran Qazi of Hiller Shahbad, Dooru, Anantnag district and Babar Hamid Dar of Chankan, Sopore, Baramulla district over allegedly “anti-national” social media posts.

On and prior to August 15, 2026, Indian authorities (under threat of sanction) [coerced](#) all students, teachers and public sector employees in IAK to publicly participate in Indian nationalist ceremonies. Indian authorities also coerced a large number of the general public to participate, and utilize their private property in, such ceremonies. See [“Borrowed Trucks, Threatened Bikes: The Making of an Independence Day in Kashmir”](#) from *Kashmir Times*.

Pursuant to Indian legal requirements, Meta [blocked](#) news articles on Insha Mushtaq, a prominent 2016 victim of maiming and blinding by Indian forces through the use of shotguns for “crowd-control.”

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On August 8, 2026, CIK [raided](#) multiple locations across IAK, allegedly in connection with online expression.

On August 9, 2026, Indian authorities [raided](#) 26 locations in Baramulla district, targeting alleged members of Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir. Indian authorities also [obtained](#) an arrest warrant against Abdul Rashid Bhat of Rajpora, Chandoosa for alleged “terrorism.”

On August 12, 2026, State Investigation Agency (SIA) [raided](#) twelve locations across IAK, [nine](#) in Rajouri district, two in Jammu district, and one in Baramulla district.

On August 13, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Altaf Hussain Sheikh of Marhama Bijbehara, Anantnag district and labelled him a “terrorist.”

In the first two weeks of August, Indian authorities [detained](#) at least 2,500 people across IAK, including at least 700 in Srinagar, 200 in Budgam and 178 in Baramulla (leading up to India’s Independence Day holiday).

On August 17, 2026, the SIA [arrested](#) Manoj Kumar Bhat of Rehari Colony, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu district, and labelled him a “terrorist associate.”

On August 22, 2026, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) [conducted](#) raids across Srinagar, Kupwara, Pulwama, Budgam and [Anantnag](#) districts.

On August 25, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Ashiq Hussain Kumar, Arif Kumar, and Harris Manzoor from Imamsahib Shopian, Junaid Ahmad Dar, Amir Yousuf and Junaid Muzaffar from Shopian, and Latif Ahmad Deedad and Aejaz Ahmad Bajad from Pulwama, and labelled them “OGWs.”

On August 26, 2026, Indian forces [arrested](#) five people during a CASO in Bugam, Kulgam district and labelled them “OGWs.”

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY; ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT

On August 9, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Parvaiz Ahmad Famda of Chandoosa, Baramulla district.

On August 30, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the home of Hilal Ahmad Dar of Vehil, Shopian district.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

In August 2026, Indian forces [expanded](#) CASOs, checkpoints, surveillance and frisking across IAK.

On August 4, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Surankote, Poonch District.

On August 9, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) CASOs in Aik Nallah, Kool Kalan and adjoining areas of Jammu district.

On August 11, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) CASOs in Doda and Poonch districts.

On August 16, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Ramnagar, Udhampur district.

On August 18, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) CASOs across Udhampur, Reasi, and Kathua districts.

On August 25, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO in Madkoli, Samba district.

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE; LEGALIZED IMPUNITY

On August 12, 2026, a military tribunal [upheld](#) only a “severe displeasure” censure against Brigadier P. Acharya for the custodial killing of three civilians through torture in December 2023.

On August 18, 2026, *Decode* [documented](#) that Indian courts continue to impose GPS ankle monitors on Kashmiri detainees released on bail which, under Indian law, violates the detainees’ right to privacy.

On August 22, 2026, a special NIA court [rejected bail](#) for Insha Jan of Harikpora, Pulwama district who has been detained without trial for over six years without any evidence of criminal conduct.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

On August 26, 2026, *The Polis Project* [published](#) “Erasure & Ecocide: Post 2019, India’s Legal Re-Engineering is Hollowing Out Kashmir’s Rivers and Forests.”

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

On August 26, 2026, Khalid Jahangir Qazi, a US citizen, [challenged](#) Indian authorities’ denial of his right to visit his family in IAK before India’s Supreme Court.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

Middle East Eye [published](#) “From autonomy to 'settler colonialism': How India redrew Kashmir's demographic and political landscape” on the impacts of India’s policy in IAK since 2019.

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