

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

September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

SUMMARY

In September 2026, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian authorities killed at least five people and continued their ongoing systematic campaigns of mass detention and collective punishment through raids, cordon-and-search operations (CASOs) and property expropriation. Indian authorities continued their systematic purge of “anti-national” books/content, removing at least 4,249 books from libraries and academic institutions across IAK.

Numerous Kashmiri activists and dissenters continue to be arbitrarily detained, including human rights lawyer Mian Abdul Qayoom—illegally imprisoned for almost two and a half years (849 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 5, 2026, Indian forces [killed](#) a person in Ashdar Gali, Budgam district during a CASO and labelled him a “terrorist.”

On September 9, 2026, officers [killed](#) Uttam Chand of Rakh, Jammu district while he was in police custody.

On September 17, 2026, Indian forces [killed](#) two people in Maltaja, Udhampur district and labelled them “militants.”

On September 29, 2026, Indian forces [killed](#) a person in Koran, Yousmarg, Budgam district, whom they labelled a “terrorist.” Pakistani officials later [demonstrated](#) that the man Indian authorities identified as the killed “terrorist” was a Pakistani man named Mohammad Asif who is still alive.

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS

On September 22, 2026, Indian authorities [acknowledged](#) purging 4,249 “objectionable” books from libraries and educational institutions across IAK (the figure excludes dozens of books that have been formally banned), with 94% of those books purged from Kashmir (and only 6% from Jammu).

On September 4, 2026, Indian authorities [banned](#) virtual private networks across Kishtwar district for at least two months.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On September 3, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) a person in Kanachak, Jammu district and labelled him a “terrorist.”

On September 3, 2026, the High Court [quashed the detention order](#) against Tariq Ahmad War of Wailoo, Kralpora, Baramulla, finding that it relied on outdated grounds. By then, he had spent nearly two and a half years (875 days) in arbitrary detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

On September 7, 2026, India’s National Investigation Agency (NIA) [raided](#) the home of Adeel Majeed Rather of Qazigund, Anantnag district.

On September 9, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Manzoor Ahmad Bhat of Kruhmura, Handwara, Kupwara district during a CASO and labelled him a “terrorist associate.”

On September 12, 2026, the NIA [raided](#) ten locations across Kulgam, Bandipora, Kupwara and Baramulla districts. The same day, Indian authorities [detained](#) thirteen men in Waghama, Anantnag district.

On September 13, 2026, Counter Intelligence Kashmir [raided](#) multiple locations in Shopian and Kulgam districts.

On September 15, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Zakir Hussain and Mohammad Azam of Kotcharwal Teryath, and Mohammad Mushtaq of Udhana, Rajouri district and labelled them “OGWs.”

On September 17, 2026, Indian authorities [detained](#) a person in Maltaja, Udhampur district during a CASO and labelled him an “OGW.”

On September 21, 2026, Indian authorities [arrested](#) Aman of Kathua district, and labelled him a “terrorist associate.”

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY; ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT

On September 16, 2026, Indian authorities [ordered](#) the eviction of long-term leaseholders in Srinagar over expired leases that authorities did not renew, targeting dozens of prominent commercial enterprises in upmarket areas like Polo View, Rajbagh, and Karan Nagar.

On September 14, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) the real property of Nazarat Hussain of Niali Thanamandi, Rajouri district.

On September 17, 2026, Indian authorities [expropriated](#) 15 kanals and seven marlas (1.9 acres) of land and two homes allegedly linked to Ab. Majid Qureshi and Parvaiz Ahmad Qureshi of Kachama village, Kupwara district.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

On September 7, 2026, Indian authorities [imposed](#) a CASO on multiple villages of Poonch district.

On September 10, 2026, Indian forces [imposed](#) a CASO on Batamaloo, Srinagar district.

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE; LEGALIZED IMPUNITY

On September 1, 2026, arbitrarily detained self-determination activist Yasin Malik [testified](#) in an affidavit that he is falsely accused, wrongfully prosecuted and no longer going to fight against Indian authorities' ongoing efforts to execute him, bidding a formal farewell to his loved ones.

On September 2, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [quashed](#) the PSA detention of scholar Shafat Wani after almost a year and a half (510 days) of arbitrary detention for possessing disfavored books.

On September 9, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court [reversed](#) the prior discharge of Muhammad Yusuf Lone in an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act prosecution for participating in a 2013 protest, holding that "sloganeering" in the presence of a pro-self-determination activist and protesters is sufficient legal grounds.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

Juliette Robert and Delphine Bauer [published](#) "The ordeal of the half-widows of Kashmir."

Mandeep Tiwana and Susan Marx published "[Public Scrutiny Really Does Help the Unjustly Detained](#)" and "[Why solidarity is vital to freeing imprisoned human rights defenders](#)" highlighting the case of human rights defender Khurram Parvez.

Kashmir Observed [published](#) "The Myth Kashmir Was Told Twice" on Sehar Iqbal's *A Strategic Myth: "Underdevelopment" in Jammu and Kashmir*, which describes Indian authorities' weaponization of "underdevelopment" narratives to strip the people of IAK of historic rights while also claiming credit for "development" that those same rights facilitated.

The Polis Project [published](#) "Tehran's Shadow: Why Kashmir's Shia Youth Are Being Booked Under the Public Safety Act" which analyzes six cases to demonstrate a pattern in IAK: systematic official profiling and demonization used to pre-emptively criminalize and preventatively detain.

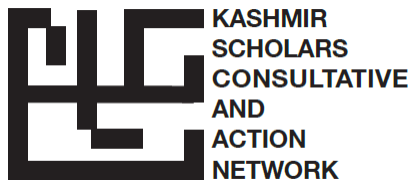
Anuradha Bhasin [published](#) "How Modi Silenced Kashmir."

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