KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIAN-ADMINISTERED KASHMIR
October 1, 2026 – October 31, 2026

SUMMARY

In October 2026, Indian authorities continued to commit grave human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir (IAK). Indian authorities killed at least nine 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 to escalate policies promoting ecological destruction and economic disempowerment, including through the auctioning of mineral blocks, and the destruction of religious and cultural rights, including through state control of Friday prayer sermons.

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 (878 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 October 2, 2026, Indian forces killed two people near the Line of Control (LoC).

On October 4, 2026, Shahid Imran of Sarghoda, Punjab, imprisoned since July 2024 after inadvertently crossing the LoC and suffering from mental illness, died of apparent suicide in Kot Bhalwal Jail, Jammu.

On October 12, 2026, Indian forces killed Faizan Sagheer, Waqas Sharief, Ishtiaq, and Asim Rafiq, of Battal Mandhol, Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PAK) with an IED while they laid water pipes near the LoC.

On October 17, 2026, Indian forces killed two people in Keran, Kupwara district and labeled them "terrorists."

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS

On October 22, 2026, Indian authorities arrested a man in Handwara, Kupwara for allegedly putting up posters.

ARBITRARY DETENTIONS AND RAIDS

On October 3, 2026, Indian forces detained 17-year-old Samiya Azeem of Khuiretta, PAK after she inadvertently crossed the LoC.

On October 5, 2026, Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) raided the home of a woman in Janglat Mandi, Anantnag district.

On October 7, 2026, Indian authorities arrested Tajamul Hussain Mir of Gufbal, Rehmat Ali Naikoo, Tehrim Ahmed Bhat and Manzoor Ahmed Bhat of Kherwan, and Kifayat Ahmed Dar of Maltalhama, Kulgam district and labelled them "militant associates."

On October 22, 2026, Indian authorities arrested Waseem Ahmad Bhat and Tahir Ahmad Malik in Delina, Baramulla district and labelled them "OGWs."

On October 24, 2026, Indian authorities arrested Mubeena Banoo, Khushboo Jan, Mehak Jan, Aliya Jan, Waheed Ahmad Bhat and Irfan Ahmed Reshi in Bandipora district for alleged association with Ittihad-ul-Muslimeen, one of the many organizations in IAK banned by Indian authorities.

On October 30, 2026, Indian authorities arrested Owais Shafi Naikoo of Saidpora Bala, Shopian, Tajamul Ahmad Shah of Rawalpora, Shopian, Moiz Iqbal and Imdad Yousuf Ganie of Chitragam Kalan, Saqib Zahoor Wani and Liyaqat Nazir Lone of Murran, Pulwama, Aamir Ahmad Ganie of Armolah, Pulwama, Firdous Thokar of Nadigund, Trenz, and Mohd Hanief and Kaju of Check Haria, Kathuaten and labelled them "terrorist associates."

TAKING AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY; ECONOMIC DISEMPOWERMENT

On October 6, 2026, Indian authorities destroyed a residential structure of relatives of Mohammad Afzal Guru, who was hanged by Indian authorities in February 2013, in Sopore, Baramulla district.

On October 10, 2026, Indian authorities expropriated the real property of Fayaz Ahmad Bhat of Kohru, Langate, and Manzoor Ahmad Lone of Udipora, Langate, Kupwara district.

On October 12, 2026, the NIA expropriated the home of Ghulam Mohammad Mir of Danihama, Hazratbal, Srinagar district.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat published an account of the multi-decade efforts of over 600 landowners to be paid compensation for approximately 484 acres of land taken over by the Indian Army in 1953.

POLITICAL DISEMPOWERMENT; DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

On October 16, 2026, the RSS-affiliated Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh inaugurated its first official office in Kashmir in Barsu, Pulwama district, as "the foundation of RSS ideology in Kashmir."

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

On October 4, 2026, Indian forces imposed CASOs in Chigli Keya, Udhampur district and Upper Lardia, Rajouri district.

On October 16, 2026, Indian forces imposed CASOs in various parts of Poonch district.

DENIAL OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE; LEGALIZED IMPUNITY

On October 6, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court quashed the Public Safety Act (PSA) detention of Mashooq Ahmad Shah of Shahlatoo, Shopian (detained since December 23, 2025) due to the grounds against him being fabricated by police.

On October 7, 2026, a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court rejected the bail plea of 73-year-old pro-self-determination activist Shabir Shah. Shah was detained in April 2026 (immediately after being released on bail in another NIA case) in connection with participating in a 1996 funeral procession.

On October 9, 2026, the High Court quashed the PSA detention of Gulzar Ahmad Bhat of Anantnag district (detained since January 30, 2025) due to legally insufficient and spurious grounds.

On October 30, 2026, the Supreme Court of India dismissed the NIA's petition challenging the bail recently granted to human rights defender Khurram Parvez.

VIOLATION OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

On October 15, 2026, the BJP-controlled Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board summoned at least 1,500 Muslim religious leaders from across IAK to a meeting and ordered that only a state-approved sermon would be permitted at congregational Friday prayers.

ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

On October 2, 2026, Indian authorities auctioned an estimated 15.6 million tonnes of limestone resources over two blocks in Koot-Kapran, Dooru and Wantrag in Anantnag district.

TARGETING KASHMIRIS; DISCRIMINATION

On October 17, 2026, a mob attacked a Kashmir-registered bus transporting Kashmiris near Neelokheri, Haryana, assaulting the driver, injuring passengers and damaging the bus. A mob leader stated that Kashmir-registered vehicles were not allowed. Police arrested passengers after the attack.

On October 19, 2026, a mob attacked another Kashmir-registered bus in Ludhiana, Punjab.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On October 23, 2026, Middle East Eye published "'No space for critical thought': How detentions and surveillance are strangling academic freedom in Kashmir."

On October 14, 2026, FIDH called for accountability for enforced disappearances in IAK.

On October 28, 2026, the Turkish Worldwide Lawyers Association (WOLAS) released a report demonstrating that forced demographic change and settler colonialism are occurring in IAK in violation of international law.

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KASHMIR LAW & JUSTICE PROJECT
kashmirlaw@protonmail.com
https://www.kljp.org/

KASHMIR SCHOLARS CONSULTATIVE AND ACTION NETWORK
kashmirscholarsnetwork@protonmail.com
https://kashmir-scholars.org/

PROJECT SOUTH
legal@projectsouth.org
https://projectsouth.org/