

# INDIAN OCCUPIED JAMMU & KASHMIR POST 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019

(August 5, 2019- January 31, 2022)





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August 05, 2019 is another black day in the history of Kashmir. On 27<sup>th</sup> October 1947 India had forcefully occupied a part of State and on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 through constitutional amendment annexed the IOJK. Indian action is clear violation of UN resolutions as well as bilateral agreements between Pakistan and India. Here is a timeline of various decisions / actions taken by the Indian government as well as the response of international community, Pakistan and people of Jammu and Kashmir

## 2019

**August 2–** Indian authorities ask tourists to leave disputed Kashmir citing "terror threats," while reportedly dispatching some 25,000 military reinforcements to the troubled Himalayan region.<sup>1</sup>

United States President Donald Trump has reiterated his offer to mediate the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, telling reporters he is willing to intervene but a decision would be up to the leaders of both the countries.<sup>2</sup>

**August 3–** Pakistan says India fired illegal cluster bombs — which emit deadly exploding shrapnel and are prohibited under the Geneva Convention — killing two civilians and wounding 11 others in IOJK.<sup>3</sup>

**Aug. 5-**India revokes provisions of Article 370 of its constitution and other laws related to separate citizenship provision of its only Muslim-majority state, which was also split into two centrally administered territories.<sup>4</sup> Since then 143 Indian laws extend to the state, 7 local laws retain but with changes, 164 state laws annulled.

The United States has called for “peace and stability” along the de facto border that separates India and Pakistan in Kashmir after New Delhi revoked the special status granted to the Indian-administered portion of the disputed territory.<sup>5</sup>

**August 13 –** Indian apex court backs "security" crackdown and communications blackout in Kashmir. Some 69 Indian activists write a letter to Indian PM Modi calling for an end to Kashmir lockdown. Protests in IOJK on the first day of Eid al Adha amid tighter curbs.<sup>6</sup>

**August 15 –** Fact-finding report by Indian activists say the situation in Kashmir "absolutely not normal" despite Indian claims of normalcy in the region.<sup>7</sup>

### **August 16- UNSC Kashmir moot gives lie to Indian claim**

For the first time since 1965, the UN Security Council (UNSC) held a meeting exclusively on occupied Jammu and Kashmir, nullifying India’s claim that this was an internal matter.

Although the council did not agree on a statement, China’s UN Ambassador Zhang Jun summed up the discussions, expressing serious concern over the situation.

“The UNSC members are concerned about the human rights situation there and they (want) the parties concerned to refrain from taking any unilateral action that might further aggravate the tension there since the situation is already very tense and very dangerous,” he said.<sup>8</sup>

**August 19** – US President Trump discusses Kashmir dispute with India, Pakistan premiers.<sup>9</sup>

**August 20** – Pakistan says it has decided to take Kashmir dispute to the International Court of Justice at The Hague.<sup>10</sup>

### **Sep 5- Amnesty International launches 'urgent campaign' to end blackout**

Amnesty International India launched a global campaign in a bid to highlight the human cost of the month-long lockdown in occupied Kashmir.<sup>11</sup>

"The draconian communication blackout in [occupied] Kashmir is an outrageous protracted assault on the civil liberties of the people of Kashmir," read a press release by the human rights watchdog.

"In response to this indefinite communication blackout, Amnesty International India has launched the campaign #Let Kashmir Speak on 5 September, 2019 – which marks a month of the communications blackout, to ask for immediate lifting of the lockdown," stated Amnesty International India.

**Sep13** – Pakistan PM Imran Khan holds Kashmir rally in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, says India's crackdown in Kashmir could drive more of the world's Muslims into "extremism."<sup>12</sup>

### **Sep 28- Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia speak up for Kashmiris at UNGA**

Prime Minister Imran Khan addressed the UNGA. The highlight of his more than 45-minute-long speech at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York was intense criticism of India for its annexation of occupied Kashmir and the continued restrictions imposed in the region.

"(Nearly) 100,000 Kashmiris have died in the past 30 years because they were denied their right of self-determination. Eleven thousand women were raped. The world hasn't done anything," he said.

"What is going to happen will be a blood bath. The people will come out."<sup>13</sup>

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at the forum said despite UN resolutions, the territory had been invaded and occupied. In his address,<sup>14</sup> Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticized the international community for failing to pay attention to the Kashmir conflict, which, he said, awaits solution for 72 years.<sup>15</sup>

### **Oct 1- 9-year-old among 144 minors detained in IIOJK**

A police list seen by *AFP* showed that Indian authorities in occupied Kashmir had detained 144 minors, including a nine-year-old, since the government removed the region's special status in August.

Sixty of the minors were under 15, according to the document submitted to a committee appointed

by India's Supreme Court to look into allegations of illegal detentions. Reasons given by the police for detaining the minors included stone pelting, rioting and causing damage to public and private property, the committee said in its report.<sup>16</sup>

**October 9** – Chinese President Xi Jinping says he was watching the situation in disputed Kashmir and would support Pakistan in issues related to its core interests.<sup>17</sup>

### **Oct. 22- Power shift**

The government of IOJK changed laws and powers to register transactions of immovable property have been shifted to the revenue department from Judiciary.<sup>18</sup>

**Oct. 22** – Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad says he would not retract his criticism of New Delhi's actions in disputed Kashmir despite Indian traders calling for an unprecedented boycott of Malaysian palm oil.<sup>19</sup>

### **Oct. 23- Abolishing of rights commissions**

The government of IOJK orders closure of seven commissions like Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), State Information Commission, State Accountability Commission, State Consumer Disputes Redressed Commission. The SHRC was enquiring into various cases of human rights abuses.<sup>20</sup>

**October 24** – Pakistan welcomes the US Congressional hearing in the Asia-Pacific sub-committee on the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir.<sup>21</sup>

**October 27** – Pakistan denies India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi permission to fly through its airspace due to "ongoing grave human rights violations" in Indian-administered Kashmir.<sup>22</sup>

### **Oct 31- Occupied Kashmir officially loses special status and is divided**

Shops and offices were shut in occupied Kashmir and the streets largely deserted as federal authorities formally revoked the restive area's constitutional autonomy and split it into two federal territories.

Just after midnight on Oct 30, the federal government's orders went into effect, dividing up occupied Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories; one Jammu and Kashmir, and the other the Buddhist-dominated high altitude region of Ladakh. "Everything changes on Thursday," said a retired Kashmiri judge, Hasnain Masoodi, a member of India's Parliament. "The entire exercise is unconstitutional. The mode and methodology have been undemocratic. People were humiliated and never consulted."<sup>23</sup>

### **Dec 7- Resolution in US Congress seeks end to repression**

A bipartisan resolution moved in the US Congress urged India to end the restrictions on communications and mass detentions in occupied Kashmir as swiftly as possible and preserve religious freedom for all residents. Resolution 745 was jointly moved by Congresswoman Pramila

Jayapal, a Democrat, and Congressman Steve Watkins, a Republican. Born in Madras (Chennai), Jayapal is the first Indian-American woman to serve in the US House of Representatives. The movers rejected arbitrary detention, use of excessive force against civilians, and suppression of peaceful expression of dissent as proportional responses to security challenges.<sup>24</sup>

**Dec. 27-** Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir government abandons observing birth anniversary (Dec, 5) of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, founder of the region's oldest political party National Conference (NC). The government also drops Kashmir's national day July 13 (Martyrs' Day) from its annual calendar of events. Pro India parties like Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and NC said that the government is out to delete the Kashmir's political history.<sup>25</sup>

## 2020

### **Jan 16-** UN Security Council reviews situation in Occupied Kashmir

The United Nations Security Council held a meeting on Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the situation in the occupied valley.

Although the meeting took place behind closed doors, Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jun spoke to journalists outside the chamber, confirming that the council had reviewed the situation in the occupied valley.

“We had a meeting on Jammu and Kashmir,” he said. “The Security Council heard a briefing from the secretariat on the situation.”

Asked what China's position on the situation in Kashmir was, he said: “Our position is very clear.” China recognizes Kashmir as a territory disputed between India and Pakistan and openly supports Islamabad's demand for a plebiscite to enable the Kashmiri people to decide their own future.<sup>26</sup>

**Jan. 25-** The government omits the prefix of Sher-i-Kashmir from police medals. Sher-e-Kashmir is a reference to the former chief minister and NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who was the pioneer of Kashmir's accession with India.<sup>27</sup>

**Feb. 6-** Govt. of IIOJK renamed Public Health Engineering/Irrigation and Flood Control Department to Jal Shakti Department. The renaming is seen as imposing Hindu names in a Muslim majority region.<sup>28</sup>

**Feb. 26-** India approves adaptation and modifications of 37 laws to be made applicable to IIOJK.<sup>29</sup>

**March 6** - The government of India set up the Delimitation Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, which was tasked with winding up delimitation in J&K in a year. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill, the number of Assembly seats in J&K would increase from 107 to 114, which is expected to benefit the Jammu region.<sup>30</sup>

**March, 31-** The government of IOJK notifies new citizenship laws by issuing domicile notification. A person residing in Jammu and Kashmir for 15 years now eligible to be a citizen of

the region. Before the Aug. 5, 2019 job, land and citizenship rights were reserved for the local population. The government orders repealing or amending 138 local laws, adopted by the region's assembly over the years.<sup>31</sup>

**April**, the police opened criminal investigations against Gowher Geelani and Peerzada Ashiq, both journalists, and Masrat Zahra, a photojournalist, contending that their social media posts or reporting were “anti-national.”<sup>32</sup>

**June 2-** IOJK government approves a new media policy for the region. The policy gives limitless powers to the administration to decide fake and anti-national news and to take legal action against journalists or media organizations. In the recent past, several journalists in Kashmir have received police summons for their news stories.<sup>33</sup>

**June 20-**The excise commissioner of IOJK submits a proposal to open 67 liquor shops in Kashmir Valley and 116 such outlets in the Jammu division. The administration next day says no decision has been taken yet. The local religious leaders describe it as an attempt to interfere in the culture and beliefs of the Muslim majority region.<sup>34</sup>

**June 29**, the authorities accused Mubeen Shah, a businessman, of sedition after he criticized the government for attempting to alter the Muslim-majority demographic status of Jammu and Kashmir by lifting residency restrictions.<sup>35</sup>

### **July 9- UN officials seek probe into torture, custodial deaths of Muslims in occupied Kashmir**

Four UN special rapporteurs have asked the Indian government to investigate the alleged torture and custodial killings of several Muslim men since January 2019, it emerged in July.

A report was sent to the Indian government over “the continued deterioration of human rights conditions” in occupied Kashmir, documenting several cases of “arbitrary detentions, violations to the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment and rights of persons belonging to minorities”.

“We remain deeply concerned about the ongoing human rights violations,” said the report shared on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHCR) website.

They called on New Delhi “to conduct an impartial investigation into all the allegations of arbitrary killings, torture and ill-treatment and to prosecute suspected perpetrators.”<sup>36</sup>

**July 17-** The IOJK government amends the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act. The move allows notifying “strategic areas” for the armed forces in the region. It will allow the Indian Army to construct infrastructure.<sup>37</sup>

**July 24-** The IOJK government orders that army or paramilitary forces need not seek any special permission for acquiring land.<sup>38</sup>

**July 31-**A committee set up to act against government employees involved in anti-national

activities. The measure is seen to curb opposition from the local employees.<sup>39</sup>

### **August 2- One year on, India's lockdowns ruin occupied Kashmir's economy**

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries has pegged the economic losses in the region at \$5.3 billion and about half a million jobs lost since August last year.<sup>40</sup>

**August 04**, UN experts call for urgent action to remedy “alarming” human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir. “Urgent action is needed,” the experts said. “If India will not take any genuine and immediate steps to resolve the situation, meet their obligations to investigate historic and recent cases of human rights violations and prevent future violations, then the international community should step up.”<sup>41</sup>

**Oct 15**-After an all-party meet of all pro India political parties of IOJK, that includes National Conference (NC), PDP, CPI(M), PC, JKPM & ANC, is to work towards restoring the special status of J&K after it was revoked in 2019 signed Gupkar Declaration.<sup>42</sup>

**Nov 28**- In a Resolution adopted unanimously by the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC in Niamey the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) reaffirmed its strong support for the Kashmir cause. The OIC categorically rejected illegal and unilateral actions taken by India since 5 August 2019. The Resolution demands that India “cancel the issuance of domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris” as well as other unilateral and illegal actions, including “Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Order 2020”, “Jammu & Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate Rules 2020”, “Jammu and Kashmir Language Bill 2020” and amendments to the landownership laws.<sup>43</sup>

## **2021**

### **February 05**

#### **Kashmir is on the brink of Genocide, warns American scholar**

Dr. Gregory H Stanton says Biden administration must urge Modi to change his policies.<sup>44</sup>

**February 25**- India and Pakistan announced their recommitment to a ceasefire along the Line of Control and other disputed sections of the border between the archrivals.<sup>45</sup>

**March 16**- The Govt. of India informed that as per Jammu & Kashmir government's information, a total of 35,44,938 applications for issue of Domicile Certificate was received till December 31, 2020, out of which 32,31,353 applicants have been issued Domicile Certificates.<sup>46</sup>

**May 05**- A prominent pro-freedom leader in Indian Occupied Kashmir, Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, has died inside a hospital in southern Jammu city, where he was in detention for the last year. He was 77.<sup>47</sup>

**May 28**-India and Pakistan should “refrain” from taking steps that would alter the status of the disputed territory of Kashmir, the president of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Volkan Bozkir.<sup>48</sup>

**June 10-**India handed more than 3.4 million fake domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris in order to change the demography of IOJK. India continues with its design to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory in clear violation of international law, including the 4th Geneva Convention. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, spokesperson for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry.<sup>49</sup>

**June 24-** Indian PM Modi met 14 so pro-Indian politicians from IIOJK in Delhi for the first time after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35 A. It was not a surprise move as behind the doors, RAW was making preparations with these so called leaders while the actual leaders remain behind bars. Holding a conference with some so called politicians is not acceptable to Kashmiris as it gives a false impression to the international community that India is serious in bringing normalcy to IIOJK.

**July 21-** Officials in IOJK barred Muslims from offering prayers in the historic Jamia Masjid, Dargah Hazratbal, Eidgahs and other big mosques by erecting barricades. Kashmir's largest mosque, Jamia Masjid Srinagar, were closed, while Eid prayers were allowed only in a few small mosques located in peripheral areas of the Kashmir valley.<sup>50</sup>

**July 21-** In a significant move, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has announced to issue a domicile certificate to the husband of a native woman. Earlier, the J&K women who were married outside the Union Territory made their spouse ineligible for domicile certificate.<sup>51</sup>

**July 30-**The vice president of European Parliament and its 15 members include; Fabio Massimo Castaldo (ni); Dino Giarrusso (ni); Javier Nart (renew Europe); Chiara Maria Gemma (ni); Salima Yenbou (greens/efa); Carles Puigdemont I Casamajo (ni); Antoni Comin I Olivares (ni); Clara Ponsati Obiols (nd); Brando Benifei (s&d); Massimiliano Smeriglio (s&d); Manuela Ripa (greens/efa); Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (gue/ngl); Rosa D'amato (greens/efa); Andrea Cozzolino (s&d); Doménec Ruiz Devesa (s&d); And Helmut Scholz (gue/ngl) sent a letter to the EU Commission president and the bloc's foreign policy chief regarding the "worsening humanitarian and human rights situation in Kashmir."

"As a champion of universal human rights, fundamental freedoms and the ruled-based international order, the EU must raise its voice against the violations of human rights affecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir. EU should use all its leverage and tools" to cooperate with India and Pakistan "to honour the pledge made to the Kashmiris by the international community" and to implement UN resolutions. The restraint of the rights to movement, access to information, health care, education as well as free speech have been intensified by the Covid-19 pandemic."

Arbitrary detention and prohibition on public assembly continues, journalists and human rights defenders have been increasingly targeted."

"In addition to being a humanitarian crisis, the long-standing dispute over Jammu and Kashmir in south Asia also poses a major threat to peace, stability, and security in the region, It is extremely

important that the voices of Kashmiri people are heard, their aspirations are responded to and they are granted the opportunity to decide their own future.<sup>52</sup>

**July 31,** Prominent Journalist Qazi Shibli, previously held under the Public Safety Act, was questioned and detained.<sup>53</sup>

**September 01.**

**Veteran Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani passed away in Srinagar late Wednesday. The prominent leader died at the age of 92.**

It prompted the Indian authorities to impose a security clampdown in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The occupation forces put up barbed wire and barricades on roads leading to Geelani's house in the main city of Srinagar after the family announced the death.

Announcements were made from loudspeakers of the main mosque near Geelani's residence asking people to march towards the house. But police said no one in the valley would be allowed to leave their homes. Thousands of security forces were immediately deployed and mobile internet services were cut across the valley.

Scores of armored vehicles and trucks patrolled main roads in Srinagar. Geelani was an uncompromising campaigner against Indian rule in the region divided between India and *Pakistan* since 1947. He spent years in jail and had been under house arrest for most of the past 11 years. He had been ill for several months with heart and kidney problems.

Geelani was born on September 29, 1929. Geelani was a veteran of Kashmiri politics and the Chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir and All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC).

He was a staunch opponent of the Indian illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and led Kashmiris' struggle for the right to self-determination. The veteran politician was jailed for nearly 10 years after 1962 and often restricted to his home after that.

Previously, he was a member of Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir but later on founded his own party by the name of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat.

He served as the chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, a forum of freedom parties in Jammu and Kashmir. He was a member of the Kashmir Assembly from the Sopore constituency of Jammu and Kashmir three times (1972, 1977 and 1987).<sup>54</sup>

**September 07 2021 :** Genocide Watch issued a genocide alert for IIOJK.<sup>55</sup>

**September 12, 2021:** Pakistan unveils dossier on war crimes, human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir.<sup>56</sup>

**October 29**

For the first time in many years, the Jammu and Kashmir government is allotting bulk land to the

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at 10 places in the otherwise volatile south Kashmir to build permanent facilities for troops and families. The exclusive enclaves would be built at four locations in Pulwama, and three places each in Shopian and Anantnag, according to a fresh government order that was issued on Thursday.

This is for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 clauses that a vast tract of land, 65 acres, has been allotted to the CRPF. The order for the land allotment to the force was issued by the administrative council led by Jammu and Kashmir lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha.<sup>57</sup>

### **November 23: Khuram Pervaiz arrested.**

On November 22, 2021, famous human rights activist and coordinator of Jammu and Kashmir Collation of Civil Society (JKCCS), Khurram Parvez was arrested by National Investigation Agency (NIA) and local police on the charges of “Criminal Conspiracy” against the Government of India and raising funds for terrorist organizations.<sup>58</sup> Mr. Pervaiz is also coordinator of Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) as well as chairperson of Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFID).

**November 28:** Oxford University students hold protest against Indian atrocities in IIOJK, demand release of Khurram Parvez.<sup>59</sup>

### **November 29: Modi to sack 47 more Govt. employees in IIOJK on fabricated charges**

In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Modi-led fascist Indian government is all set to terminate, at least, 47 more Kashmiri government employees on the fabricated charge of being involved in suspicious activities.

28 employees have already been shortlisted for termination from the government job. 19 more employees who are under the radar of the Modi regime have been placed in ‘non-performing’ category, and are awaiting termination. As per media reports, termination of these 47 government employees may take place anytime.

Majority of the employees, to be sacked, are Muslims and belong to the Kashmir valley, while couple of them hail from Muslim districts of Jammu region.<sup>60</sup>

### **December 17-19**

A recent tribunal on genocide and war crimes in Kashmir is a model on wresting narratives from the paralyzed international community. Amidst the international community’s apathy and the ineptitude of international courts to take on genocide and war crimes, how can victims seek justice in a transparent public trial and get their voices heard? The answer to this question can sometimes take an unexpected, but effective, path.

On 17-19 December 2021, the Russell Tribunal on Kashmir took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and

Herzegovina. This grassroots initiative is designed to shed light on war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by India in Kashmir. The choice of Sarajevo was not fortuitous, as it was the scene of genocide in the 1990s.

The Russell Tribunal is a concept of grassroots justice conceptualized by British philosopher Bertrand Russell (1872-1970). The latter decided to hold the US government to account for the exactions and war crimes committed during the Vietnam War. Russell managed to convince other leading intellectuals, such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Leilo Basso, to organize a people's tribunal in 1966 to spread awareness and mobilize global opinion against war crimes and other blatant violations of international law.

The International War Crimes Tribunal on Vietnam indeed lacked substantive legal authority, and the US administration ignored its findings. However, this initiative was ground-breaking from a non-judiciary vantage point. It managed to seize the narrative from American warmongers, empowering voiceless Vietnamese victims and bringing their suffering to the fore. The counter-narrative brought forward by the Russell Tribunal was so powerful that this model was emulated by other victims of war crimes in Palestine, Bosnia, Iraq, and Latin America.

The Russell tribunal works in a way comparable to a truth commission. A panel of judges, chosen for their academic pedigree and personal integrity, listen to witnesses and experts who outline personal experiences and draw on facts and figures. The series of testimonies and expert presentations produce at the end sufficient evidence for the panel to consider.

The Russell Tribunal on Kashmir was organized jointly with leading human rights organizations and academics from Kashmir, Bosnia, and Italy. The tribunal involved 15 international judges, including renowned American Islamic scholar Omar Suleiman. Also among the judges was Jonathan A. C. Brown, associate professor at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, as well as Dalia Mujahid, director of research at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding in Washington, DC. Concurrently, David Hearst, managing editor of Middle East Eye and former chief writer of the Guardian, participated in the proceedings, as did Bosnian author Hasan Nuhanovic, a survivor of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.

The sessions focused on four themes: genocide, decolonization, settler colonialism, and crimes against humanity. Several witnesses from Kashmir participated in the event. At the same time, experts cited reports by international human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, dwelling on previously conducted interviews with survivors on the ground.

In this event, an extremely gloomy picture emerged. Indian occupation has waged a military, political, economic, social, cultural, and moral war against the Kashmiris over the past 70 years.

The Hindutva-inspired Indian settler-colonial actions in Kashmir have repeatedly breached international law on numerous accounts.

Mass murder, excessive use of force, mass displacement, demographic re-engineering, forced disappearances, torture, mass rape, dispossession, home demolition, destruction of cultural heritage, restriction on all freedoms were all committed within a general climate of impunity.

Many experts believe this situation has reached the threshold of genocide amidst the total defenselessness of the victims.

In the meantime, the Narendra Modi government in India man oeuvres to sweep the Kashmir tragedy under the carpet, using various PR smokescreen tactics to deflect attention from the dire situation there. Among the most common stratagems in this context are depicting human rights criticism as pro-Pakistani conspiracy and concealing the atrocities under the mantra of counterterrorism. Moreover, the Modi government imposes a total blackout on the situation, blocking foreign journalists and international human rights experts from even visiting Jammu and Kashmir.

Russell's Tribunal on Kashmir helped expose the genocide in Kashmir and publicly pulled the rug out from the old myths constructing India as the world's biggest democracy. The testimonies and large body of evidence delivered during the tribunal's proceedings reveal an increasingly rogue behavior that totally breaches international law and basic principles of public morality.

As Bertrand Russell declared in 1966, "may this Tribunal prevent the crime of silence." Civil society initiatives, such as Russell's tribunal on Kashmir, enable human rights defenders and free societies to step up to the plate, hold criminal perpetrators to account even when international courts and organizations are paralyzed. Staying silent only emboldens extremist-led governments, which benefit from the general apathy to produce even more horrific acts of violence.<sup>61</sup>

### **December 21: Delimitation Commission's recommendations**

In a controversial move, the delimitation commission constituted by the Narendra Modi government has proposed six additional assembly seats for the Jammu region and only one more seat for Kashmir, triggering widespread criticism from major political forces in the union territory.

Many view the recommendation as an "assault on political centrality and supremacy" of Kashmir in J&K's politics and "part of the series of measures started by BJP-led government from August 5, 2019 to disempower Kashmiris". The proposal has raised eyebrows as the population living in the Kashmir Valley is 15 lakh more than Jammu, as per the last census exercise.<sup>62</sup>

### **December 27: Real Estate Conference**

On December 27, the LG Sinha hosted Hardeep Singh Puri and Dr Jitendra Singh and “titans” of India’s real estate sector at the 2-day Real Estate Summit at Jammu where 39 MoUs were signed.<sup>63</sup> The Hurriyat Conference sought the intervention of the international community. “The government of India wants to change the demographic character of Muslim majority J&K and disempower its residents through such diktats and measures in order to scuttle the final resolution of the long-standing international political dispute of Kashmir in accordance with the will and aspirations of its people as promised by the international community...,” said the Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. “Since August 2019, in succession one after another authoritarian laws and diktats have been implemented in J&K towards this end. To facilitate the electoral prospects of the ruling party in India, J&K has become its favourite whipping boy.”<sup>64</sup>

## 2022

### January 01

49 civilians among 350 killed in Kashmir in 2021, claims pro-freedom alliance

India trying to change Kashmir's demographics by issuing fake domiciles to non-Kashmiris, All Parties Hurriyat Conference alleges. In 2021, over 350 people, including civilians, militants and Indian forces personnel, were killed in Indian-administered Kashmir, while 1,600 Kashmiris were arrested, a top Kashmiri pro-freedom alliance said in a report released on Friday.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), an alliance of 26 political, social and religious organizations formed in 1993 that has led political resistance to Indian rule, said Indian forces this year also destroyed homes of 134 Kashmiris.

“This year total 355 people were killed, among them 49 were civilians, 178 armed rebels (militants), and 128 Indian occupying forces,” the APHC stated in its annual report, adding that 484 people were injured.

Syed Ali Geelani, the conference’s lifetime chief before stepping down earlier this year, was one of the deceased. Geelani died in September while under house arrest at his home in Hyderpora.

According to the report, the death of Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, the slain chief of the pro-freedom party Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, who died in police custody this May, was an “extrajudicial killing”.

During the same period, Indian forces conducted 467 cordoned and search operations, 87 gunfights, and arrested 1,686 Kashmiris.

According to the report, 29 Indian soldiers committed suicide in various parts of Indian-administered Kashmir in 2021.

The report was distributed to journalists outside the Diplomatic Enclave, a huge walled compound housing the majority of the foreign missions, including the High Commission of India, where the All Parties Hurriyat Conference staged a small protest against what they called “state-sponsored

terrorism by India in Kashmir.”

India is attempting to change the demographics of Kashmir by issuing fake domiciles to non-Kashmiris, claimed Abdul Majeed Mir, the group’s secretary general, based in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. India blocked internet access in Jammu and Kashmir 122 times, the report claimed. “410 people were booked under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), and 178 others under the Public Safety Act (PSA),” said the report.

Amnesty International has criticized India for its widespread use of the two laws against Kashmiris, including journalists. In a separate report, the Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK), a global Kashmir advocacy group, claimed that over the last two years “Indian forces buried 388 freedom fighters in unmarked graves in remote areas and denied their families the right to participate in their burial rites.”<sup>65</sup>

### **January 07:**

## **Jammu & Kashmir inks 6 investment agreements with global investors at EXPO2020**

Dubai [UAE], January 7 (ANI/Newsier): India’s Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) has inked six agreements with global investors at EXPO2020 Dubai to bring in investments in the UT’s real estate, infrastructure, tourism, healthcare, manpower employment sectors among others. Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu & Kashmir addressed the Investors Summit in Dubai yesterday, which was attended by renowned business leaders and investors from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

“Jammu & Kashmir has moved from a sleeping business destination to the land of opportunities and investment. The Union Territory received investments to the tune of USD 2.5 billion in 2021 and showcased the enormous opportunities and business potential in the region,” Shri Sinha said.

Jammu & Kashmir has signed 5 MoUs with Al Maya Group, MATU Investments LLC, GL Employment Brokerage LLC, Century Financial and Noon E-commerce respectively; 1 LoI between Magna Waves Pvt. Ltd along with Emaar Group and Lulu International.<sup>66</sup>

### **January 17:**

Professor Gregory Stanton, a genocide studies scholar, Who Foresaw Rwandan Genocide has warned of a possible genocide against Muslims in India.<sup>67</sup>

### **January 20**

UK law firm seeks arrest of top Indian officials for Kashmir 'war crimes'

This is the first legal action against Indian government, military 'for war crimes in Kashmir,' says law firm Stoke White

A UK-based legal investigation firm on Wednesday filed an application calling on the British

police to arrest Indian government officials for “war crimes” in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir.

“A legal appeal for the arrest of two Indian government officials under the Universal Jurisdiction principle has been made to London’s Metropolitan Police, following the release of a report which accuses the individuals of war crimes against Kashmiri Muslims,” law firm Stoke White said in a statement.

India’s army chief Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane and Home Minister Amit Shah “could be liable for arrest by the Metropolitan Police’s War Crimes Unit ... on alleged war crimes in Jammu and Kashmir,” the firm said.

A report by the law firm into alleged war crimes in the disputed Himalayan region suggests that “Indian security forces, headed by Naravane and Shah, have been responsible for the torture, kidnapping and extrajudicial killing of activists, journalists, and other innocent civilians, particularly targeting Muslims.”

“This report is dedicated to the families who have lost loved ones without a trace, and who experience daily threats when trying to attain justice,” said Khalil Dewan, the author of the report and head of Stoke White Investigations.

Hakan Camuz, director of Stoke White, said: “The fact that Kashmiri Muslims have only international law to turn to after decades of seeking justice in their own country and only being subjected to further violence for doing so, means Stoke White must begin the process of justice on their behalf, in a country that we understand respects the rule of law.”

Camuz said in a press release that the application to the UK Met Police’s war crimes unit is a “Launchpad to investigate Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government ministers for war crimes.” Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Camuz said: “This is the first legal action against (Indian Prime Minister Narendra) Modi and his government officials and military officials for the war crimes committed in Kashmir.

“Our investigation is still ongoing and more information is coming out of atrocities taking place in. We will pursue justice as for the victims.”

Indian authorities are yet to comment on the issue to Anadolu Agency.<sup>68</sup>

## **January 21**

Indian Govt. Forcibly Takes Over Kashmir Press Club, Journalists Lose A Safe Space<sup>69</sup>

The Kashmir Press Club (KPC), the largest independent media body in Indian Occupied Jammu Kashmir, has been forcibly closed following a raid by armed police.

According to media watchdog Committee to Protect Journalists, since 2019, about 12 journalists have faced temporary detention and questioning by the government, police have raided the house of

6 journalists and FIR has been registered for doing their jobs. Even a tweet on protest by residents over a broken road can land one in a police station.

### January 30

Indian forces killed five civilians on January 30, 2022, passing them off as alleged militants. However, civilians claimed that these were common Kashmiris who have never been involved in violence. Further, Indian police reported that a total of 21 Kashmiris have been killed during the entire month of January 2022.<sup>70</sup>

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## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & CHILDREN

Since 2014  
IOFs  
raped/molested  
**3,850+** killed **650+**  
women

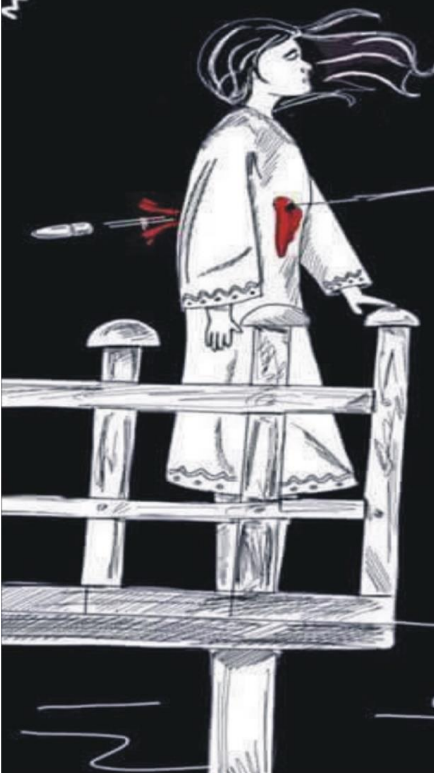
IIOJK Admin  
admitted Indian  
Supreme Court  
14 Oct 2019

**144 children**  
detained in Aug &  
Sep 2019; youngest  
9-yrs old

INDIAN OCCUPIED  
~~KASHMIR~~



Politic  
Ammu



"Some nights I wonder  
how will I meet my death.  
Then, I remember I am a Kashmiri  
and death will come to me as a bullet"

- Farah Bashir



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