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The Informative

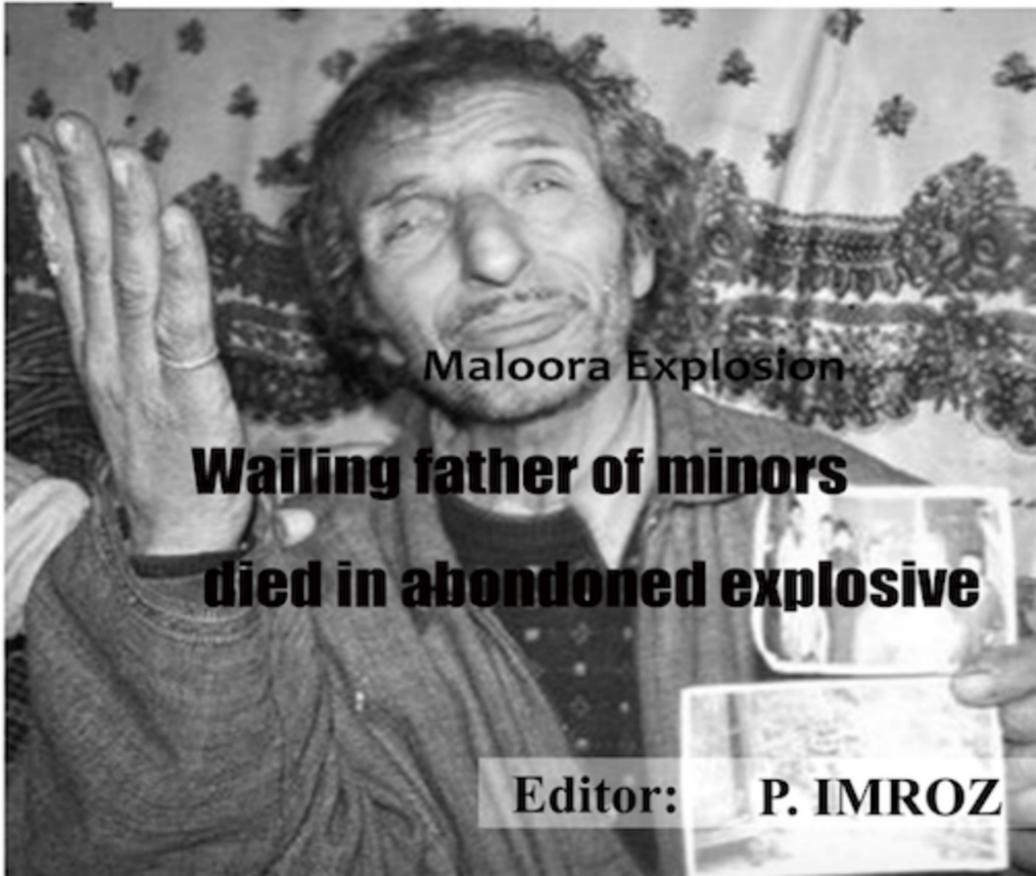


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Maloora Explosion
Wailing father of minors
died in abandoned explosive

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BEYOND IMPUNITY

The legal impunity, which is granted under AFSPA to half-a-million Indian forces operating in Jammu and Kashmir, is not the only not the only factor responsible for the unabated human rights violations in J&K state. There are other forms of impunity which are least talked about. Legal impunity has at least become a global issue after Pinochet's arrest and his trial in 1998. Legal impunity which is the lack of penal sanction for the crimes committed is a minor impediment. There have been vigorous campaigns in the India media and the civil society for repealing it. The UN institutions consider it as a being in contravention to the international humanitarian law. Coming to the question of the other forms of impunity, which encompass the legal impunity are more serious. For example, consider political impunity which comprises of the political mechanisms trying to ensure that they are approved and accepted as inevitable facts in war against the enemy. Political impunity tends to prevent crimes against humanity to be recognized as such. It sustains itself by means of institutionalization for e.g. the rumors spread around enforced disappearances which include saying no one has been arrested or that the disappeared have gone to other places or joined militancy. Another kind of impunity is moral, which tries to convince that the perpetrators have given 'service to their country' by assassinating, torturing and making the enemy disappear.

The more severe form of impunity is judicial impunity. The internationally accepted norm now is that amidst the clashes of arms, laws should not remain silent. They may be changed, but they speak the same language in war as in peace. Lord Atkin had disapproved the old-age convention of Cicero "when arms are raised laws remained silent". After the Nuremburg trial principals have evolved which envisage institutions as responsible and empowered to prevent war crimes or crimes against humanity if in-act and if crimes happen no one escapes culpability. The omissions on the part of intellectuals against abuse of power are tantamount to becoming accomplice like in case of a man stranded on desert Island with neither food nor water, and a sailor from a passing ship comes ashore and leaves the man to die (an act of omission). This is a serious violation of his rights as strangulating him (an act of commission). It is killing him plain and simple, indirectly thereby "inaction" but as surely perhaps even more cruelly. The judicial impunity is more serious when judges believe that some sort of impunity is needed and turn a blind eye to the systematic and institutional repression being perpetuated on unarmed civilians. It is heinous and rubs salt on the wounds of suffering people when the judges having powers to prevent it or at least minimize it, do nothing to stop the impunity and chose to ignore it for petty privileges and post retirement benefits, as has been the case in J&K. This in a way confounds the perception that the judiciary in the J&K state is a part of the colonial judicial system. It is further appalling to find them giving lectures after retirement in the human rights seminars with nobody questioning their role during their office tenure.

The ironic form of impunity comes from the victims themselves by accepting the injustice and by silence. One can understand apathy, inaction of an underdog victim – ignorant, helpless, vulnerable, and lacks support from any institution, whose history of suffering and injustice. People who can and are aware about the injustice perpetuated upon them and at least are in a position to agitate by resorting to legal and other measures for seeking justice they too have remained silent and are accepting it.

If seen in that light, it also becomes a religious duty to fight injustice. According to Islam, "if you see wrong being done stop it with force, if unable to stop by forces then condemn with loud words and if unable to do also condemns it in your heart which is the weakest form of faith," which can make them content but it is petty that affluent and conscious people will chose not to act. Instead of making an inspirational example they sit inactive and thereby, make a bad example. On the contrary, we have seen from our own experiences that financially insecure victim have fought a long battle to secure justice and shown exemplary courage and faced risks. In some of the important matters the perpetrators have been arrested; detained or indicted. Such victims need civil society support as they always cannot afford the means. Finally, at the end of the day it is the victim who matters and can shape and chose the course of justice in the state. The other forms of impunity mentioned earlier will become irrelevant when victims have the tools to access forums of justice and the civil society supports them.

The culture of silence can be then be changed.

MASOODA'S SHOCKING TALE OF SEXUAL ABUSE

"I HAVE NO WORDS WHAT THEY DID TO ME IN FRONT OF MY HUSBAND"

Masooda, 23, dumb founded living in her shanty maternal house at Rathar Mohalla, Warpora with her two minor children from last more than one month. She is scared of coming out after being sexually abused and tortured by SOG personnel in their camp at *Dak Banglow*, Town Hall, Sopore, in the north Kashmir's district Baramulla. Masooda was arrested on the intervening night of February 18/19 along with her husband, Nisar Ahmad Malla, 30, a laborer and her two minor kids by the SOG personnel. After a weeklong detention and torture, Masooda was released on bail. However, her husband lodged in Sub-Jail Baramulla is being implicated in criminal case.

Police charged both Masooda and her husband for abetting and facilitating militancy, a charge strongly refuted by Masooda and her family. However, police proceeded with a case against them in the Sopore court.

A team of *Public Commission on Human Rights* (PCHR) visited Warpora area of Sopore and managed to talk to Masooda and her widow mother.

Masooda was initially reluctant to share her painful ordeal but later agreed on persuasion of some local social activists. While recollecting her heartrending tale she said,

"In the intervening night of February 18/19 at about 3 am a group of SOG men knocked the door of our house and called us to open it. As soon as my husband opened the door, the SOG personnel barged inside. Instantly, they asked for our cell phone, which we handed over to them. The SOG official slapped me on the face and caught me by hair. He asked me name the militants who come to our house. I replied with the fact that no one comes to our home. He again slapped me and bundled us including my husband and two children, Bilal, 6, and Jasiya, 5, into the *Rakshak* (armored vehicle)."

She added in grief, "We were taken to the SOG camp *Dak Banglow* Town Hall, Sopore. On February 19 they kept us detained in the *Rakshak* vehicle up to 1pm. At 1pm the SOG personnel took my husband and me inside the official chamber room while my children were taken to some other place. I had a wallet in my *Pheran's* (traditional long robe) pocket containing rupees 3,350 and a silver ring. When we were held in *Rakshak* vehicle, I had given the wallet to my son to avoid plundering by the cops. The SOG official chamber room had decorated with maroon color Sofas all over and in the center there was open space. They spread a plastic sheet in the center and kept both my husband me over it. The officials sitting on the sofas asked us to provide information about militants. We pleaded our innocence and said that we don't know any militant. When we refused they told a group of cops to torture us."

"The cops gave electric shocks to both of us and rolled on our legs. We repeatedly craved for our innocence but they turned a deaf ear to our pleas. They severely thrashed both of us with gun butts and sticks. My husband's left arm was broken due harsh blows. They caught hold my hair and dragged me around. When they failed despite force us for implicating confession. One of the SOG officials ordered me to remove my clothes. I have no words to speak what they did to me in front of my husband. The officials sitting around on the sofas were photographing their inhuman treatment to me. My cries for mercy goes unheard, as there was no one with human heart around", Masooda said and broke down.

She finds it difficult to put her ordeal in words, but she did her level best to give somewhat actual picture of the incident and grieved, "I was bleeding through the nose and my husband was bleeding from many parts of

his body. When I found my husband bleeding profusely from his left arm. I tried to wrap my scarf around his injured arm but the brute SOG official snatched my scarf and tore it into pieces. One of the SOG men who were torturing me with covered face demonstrated and whispered near to my ear that I should request the SOG officer for release. I crawled near the feet of an officer and begged for our innocence and release. In returned

the officer kicked off my face and thrashed me further. We were tortured consecutively from 1pm to 11pm. When both my husband and me became half-dead, the SOG cops took us out and kept us in *Rakshak* vehicle."

"From 11:00 pm on 19 February to 10:30pm of 20th February we both in wounded condition were kept in the *Rakshak* vehicle. On February 20 at about 11pm both of us were handed over to Police Station, Sopore. My children had been handed over to my father-in-law who was called by police in the afternoon of February 19th. Police had snatched the wallet from my son and had also questioned both of my children about visits by militants to house. They had truthfully answered that no militants come to our house, which was a blatant fact", stated Masooda.

Moreover, she revealed, "From Police Station, Sopore, I alone was shifted to Women's Police Station, Rambagh, Srinagar while my husband was kept there. On way to Srinagar, two women cops with covered faces were accompanying me in the *Rakshak* vehicle. I also craved them for release but they did not say anything. Meanwhile, the face cover of one of the lady cops fell down. I recognized her; it was Fahmeeda of Puj Mohalla, Sopore who is working in the police department and was known to me. I begged her for my release. She expressed her helplessness and said that she can't help me out. In Rambagh Police Station women cops further interrogated me. Next day on February 21, morning I was taken to the Baramulla Court where I was presented in front of a

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- I have no words to speak what they did to me in front of my husband.
- I tried to wrap my scarf around his (husband's) injured arm but the brute SOG official snatched my scarf and tore it into pieces.
- Even some important medical reports including Ultra Sonography report were hidden away by the policemen.

judge. The Judge after observing my condition reproached and abused police cops and ordered them to rush me for medical treatment."

"From Baramulla Court, I was taken back to Srinagar and was admitted in SMHS hospital. I was hospitalized for 8 days and 4 policemen including one-woman cop was surrounding my bed. I underwent many medical check ups and one of the tests confirmed sexual abuse. My mother and sister had to spent their own money over my tests because police did not pay anything despite I was in their custody. To abort pregnancy, I was given contraceptives in the same hospital but it was not mentioned in my medical records. We both sisters are illiterate, unaware what was written on the medical records. Even some important medical reports including Ultra Sonography report were hidden away by the policemen. Probably, to avoid any annoyance the police cops might have tampered my medical records. Continuously for 5 days I could have a sip of water or any kind of foodstuff. I was in very critical condition. Eventually, after 8 days treatment I was released on bail," bemoaned Masooda.

Misra, a widow and elderly mother of Masooda stated, "My daughter and son in law were implicated in a false militancy case. Neither they were associated with any militant outfit nor any political organization. It they

UNEXPLODED SHELL KILLED THREE MINORS

Once again a live shell left in the debris of an encounter site in the Maloora area of Srinagar took away lives of three minor children of Mohammad Maqbool Dar, 45, a labourer. Three of his family members including two minor daughters and his mother Yasmeena got injured. The incident occurred in the evening of February 13 at a time after the children of Mohammad Maqbool carried the shell to their home and wanted to extract metal from it, so as sell it for some money. The deceased children were identified as Noor Mohammad (12)-a 3rd standard student, Bisma (9) and Muskan (6), while the injured were girls identified as Mumtaz (17) and Nighat (1 ½). Among six children of Mohammad Maqbool only one namely Ashiq Maqbool (15) remained harmless because of being at neighbor's house at that time. Police registered a case and stated that they are investigation the matter. Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah ordered an inquiry into the incident.

It is pertinent to mention, on October 21, 2010 there was an encounter between militants and the troopers in Maloora area. The operation was led by police and supported by the army and CRPF. The troopers used mortar shells to destroy the place where militants were claimed to have holed up. In the exchange of fire, troopers claimed killing of three militants, while three houses were damaged in the gun-battle including one razed to the ground.

Shortly, after the incident a researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited the Maloora area and talked to the tormented family and inhabitants of the area.

Mohammad Maqbool, a Band Saw driver by profession and father of slain minors stated, "On the fateful day of February 13, in the morning I left for Band

were arrested and implicated on some bogus information. The allegations leveled against them are all baseless. Next day of my daughter's arrest I visited Police Station, Sopore and beseeched SHO, Gazanfar Ali for their release. He abused me and taunted me. I was already disheartened as my husband died a natural death and then my elder son who was a policeman was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen on February 23, 2002 when he was spending vacations at home. Now most cruel treatment was meted out to my innocent daughter and my son in law. My whole family has been ruined."

Misra complained, "Our suffering has reached to such an extent as Masooda's both children have been rusticated from the school due to non payment of fees, which rupees 7000. I have two more sons but they are too young to earn. These days we after lot of hardship spend a day and life has become pain for us. Even my daughter can't meet the expenses for visiting Baramulla Jail where she see her husband."

The police reports stated that Masooda assisted and provided shelter to some militants who resorted to firing on police personnel in Sopore. Consequently, a case under sections 19 UA Act, 307 and 109 RPC and 7/25 Arms Act. However, the family refuted all the charges leveled against Masooda..

Saw mill where I work as a driver. I took along my son Noor Mohammad for collecting firewood from the mill. During the day he was collecting wood and taking it to home. While collecting wood from the nearby debris he had found a heavy shell and had carried it to home with an intention to sell its metal to scrap vendor for money. In the evening about 7pm I returned home. I was living in a wooden hut comprising one room and a kitchen. I entered into the room called Bisma to remove my socks and bring *hooka*. I asked my wife for tea and after taking tea I fell asleep. While I was sleeping Noor Mohammad had taken the shell inside kitchen and tried to smash it. All his sisters were sitting around and my wife was busy in cooking. As soon as he put the shell into the stone case and hit it with the hammer. The shell exploded."

He added, "With the strong bang of shell I woke up and heard my wife crying. Light was already off on the said evening and due to the explosion the candles and lantern had extinguished. In dark I rushed inside the kitchen and found my wife bleeding. I heard *Aba...Aba...*, I searched on the floor by my hands and caught hold of my youngest daughter Nighat. I took her out and saw injuries on her right cheek and right leg. I again entered and found Bisma. She was breathing slowly but unconscious. Third time I entered and caught hold Muskan. Her right arm had blown off completely and she was also unconscious. Fourth time I found body of Noor Mohammad. His legs and left side of face had smashed into pieces. Lastly, I took out Mumtaz who had grave injuries on left leg. In the meantime neighbors thronged to our hut and rushed all my children to hospital. All my children had been damaged except my second son Ashiq, who at the time of explosion was at neighbor's house."

According to Mohammad Maqbool's cousin Mehrajuddin, "We rushed all the wounded children to Jehlum Valley College (JVC) Hospital. Noor Mohammad died at the spot while Bisma succumbed to her injuries inside hospital. While as Muskan and Yasmeena were in critical condition. They after preliminary treatment were shifted to Sheri-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, where Muskan was taken into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) ward while her mother Yasmeena was admitted in casualty ward. Next day in the morning at about 5am Muskan succumbed to her injuries. However, among all the injured in the family only Nighat had fewer injuries. She after given first aid in the JVC hospital was discharged to home."

The locals of Maloora village stated that this was the third incident since October 2010 encounter. In the earlier two incidents, two boys received minor injuries after they fiddled with live shells recovered from the encounter sites. They said that in the first incident a minor from Panzinara village got injured and in the second incident another minor identified as Riyaz Ahmad (16), a 9th standard student, son of Abdul Salam Dar of Maloora village was critically injured after he tossed the shell with wall in the compound of his house. Riyaz had received head and back injuries.

A group of mourners at the house of Mohammad Maqbool while complaining about the negligence of the security agencies stated, "On October 21, 2010 there was an encounter between the militants and the armed forces. In the encounter the army with fierce mortar shelling

"During the day he was collecting wood and taking it to home. While collecting wood from the nearby debris he had found a heavy shell and had carried it to home with an intention to sell its metal to scrap vendor for money. In the evening about 7pm I returned home. I was living in a wooden hut comprising one room and a kitchen. I entered into the room called Bisma to remove my socks and bring *hooka*. I asked my wife for tea and after taking tea I fell asleep. While I was sleeping Noor Mohammad had taken the shell inside kitchen and tried to smash it. All his sisters were sitting around and my wife was busy in cooking. As soon as he put the shell into the stone case and hit it with the hammer. The shell exploded."

demolished 3 storey house of Abdul Majeed Bhat, a property dealer in Maloora village. After armed forces ended operation they did not remove the debris of the said house. Two weeks later Abdul Majeed himself started to remove the wreckage. He shifted the debris to his recently purchased land about 200 meters away from his house. After shifting, around one month passed Abdul Majeed sold this to one, Abdul Ahad Sheikh of Shalteng, Srinagar. Abdul Ahad shortly

established a Saw Mill on the said land and hired Mohammad Maqbool to operate the saw mill. Short time back Mohammad Maqbool joined the mill to earn for his destitute family, but fate met him differently as he lost his three minor kids. All this occurred because of negligence of security agencies and administration. Had they removed debris the minors would have not met such a fate."

However, soon after the incident the Deputy Inspector General of Police (North Kashmir), Muneer Ahmed Khan while talking to the media confirmed that two children were killed and three others wounded when they were fiddling with the shell. "We are verifying the source of the shell," he said.

On the other side, the Chief Minister ordered an enquiry into the incident and announced that the government will pay rupees 15 lakh to the family, 5 lakh for each of the deceased. But so far no action has been taken against the negligence of any agency involved in the said encounter.

STUDENT KILLED IN CUSTODY: FAMILY

MLA HANDWARA ALLEGE FAKE ENCOUNTER KILLING

February 5: Army's 4 Para regiment killed Manzoor Ahmad Magray, 21 alias Bilal son Ghulam Muhammad Magray, a resident of village Gund- Chogal, a class 12th drop out at Phorupat Handwara. The army is operating under 7 Sector Rashtriya Rifles based at Phorupat Handwara. The killing evoked strong reaction from the people who held strong protests against the killing. The protesters were demanding that the guilty be brought to book. Deceased's family and locals alleged that it was a custodial murder. The family allegation was corroborated by a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of ruling National Conference (NC) Handwara Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan, who accused army of killing the youth after taking him in their custody. But army claimed that he was killed in firing during an ambush, laid by it and "regretted" the killing. Police has registered a murder case against the army personnel and state government ordered magisterial inquiry. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the bereaved family and assured high level inquiry into the matter and also taken up the killing with New Delhi.

Manzoor's family alleged that he was whisked away through window by the Para army around 10.30

PM, tortured and later shot dead at Chogal Bridge that joins the Gund- Chogal village with Chogal town. However, the family did not know that Manzoor has been whisked away.

Ghulam Ahmad Magray father of the deceased, told media that his son went to his room for sleep as usual after dinner last evening. "Rest of the family members also went to bed after dinner and suddenly we heard gunshots. We thought Army is training in Watian camp. When I woke up in the morning I found window of Manzoor's room open and he was missing," Magray has told media. "We searched for him everywhere in the locality and when we found him nowhere, we informed the police early in the morning. As it was still dark, police along with *lumberdar* (village heads) and locals started to search for Manzoor. When we reached near a bridge on nallah Puhroo, we were shocked to see Manzoor's body," Magray has been quoted as saying by media.

The family of Manzoor, added, that he was allegedly taken away by the Army and killed in custody. "They had come to our house and taken him along. Then they killed him. How it is possible sleeping man will walk into an ambush," Magray asked.

The deceased worked for the Border Roads Organization and his father is an activist of the ruling National Conference, locals said.

The MLA Handwara Choudhary Ramzan, who reached the spot, termed it a fake encounter. "Army tells a blatant lie. Manzoor was taken away by the Army from his home and later killed in a fake encounter," Ramzan has been quoted as saying by media.

He alleged that Army wants to destabilize the peaceful environment in Kashmir. "The killers should be identified and punished," he demanded

Army during the night informed the police about the incident and at 5.45 AM, a police team of police post Chogal reached the spot and took the body to Chogal hospital. The police ascertained the identification of the body and a postmortem was carried out. Manzoor has been shot with a rifle grenade in his back and two bullet rounds in left leg.

The police took the body and handed over it to the family, but as the word about the killing spread the people of Chogal and its adjoining in hundreds took to streets and held strong protest demonstrations. They took the body on shoulders and blocked Kupwara- Srinagar road at Kulangam and demand the arrest of Para troopers involved in the murder of Manzoor.

The angry protests, which spreads in nearby villagers as well, amid anti-army and anti-government slogans stopped the traffic movement for four hours. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Superintendent of Police Handwara reached the spot and pacified the angry protestors.

Speaking to media, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Muhammad Shafi Rather said that the people were angry over the killing of innocent youth and their every demand was executed. "We registered a murder case against the army and my additional deputy commissioner will hold magisterial inquiry into the killing," he said adding that the inquiry report will be made public within one month. "The family will be given ex-gratia and one job," said Rather.

Superintendent Police Handwara Muhammad Aslam told media that a murder case has been registered against 4 Para troopers for killing the youth. "We have registered a murder case in police station Handwara vide

APDP REACTS TO ARMY STATEMENT

February 28: Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) believes the recent statement by 15 Corps Chief Lieutenant General Hasnain that they would cooperate in the investigations with Police for tracing the disappeared persons is a despicable public relations stunt.

The history of Indian army in Jammu and Kashmir is testimonial to the fact that it has never cooperated with the police, judiciary or civil

number 26 under section 302," SP said adding that at least 2,000 people were protesting against the killing.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah first condemned the killing and later drove to Gund Chogal and regretted the killings of his party activists. Even he has said the incident could have been avoided if a suggestion made by him at a meeting of the Unified Command had been implemented.

"How can one not condemn the death of 21-year old Manzoor at the hands of the Army late last night. Another needless death in a bloody Kashmir," Omar posted on micro-blogging site Twitter.

"I assure you high level inquiry and in future I would not allow such things to happens," CM added. Chief minister in his 15-minute stay at house of deceased boy told the people that he will take up the matter with the people in New Delhi.

Army has regretted the killing of Manzoor.

Army's Srinagar based spokesman, Lt Col JS Brar in a statement said, "Based on specific intelligence on movement of militants, troops laid an ambush last night in Maidan Chogul."

"At approximately 2230 hours, the troops detected suspicious movement of two persons moving towards the ambush. In accordance with the Standing Operative Procedures, the troops asked the individuals to surrender.

However, they did not pay heed to the challenge by the troops and tried to run away in the cover of darkness. The troops opened Fire causing death of Manzoor Ahmad Magray son of Ghulam Ahmad of Pohrupet while other unidentified person escaped," he said.

"Army although, strictly adhering to the challenging procedures, as per the rules of engagement, regrets the loss. We deeply and sincerely express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family on this incident," he added.

On February 7, GoC 15 Corps Lt General S A Hasnain said he has assured the Chief Minister that Handwara like incident won't be repeated. He, however, said troops' domination at night will continue but army would minimize its independent operations. "As per SOPs, any civilian venturing out of home at night is required to hold a lantern or any other light in hand to avoid collateral damage," Lt Gen Hasnain told reporters on sidelines of informal interaction with senior citizens, youth and other persons in Baramulla town.

administration in investigations of human rights violations perpetrated by them.

In last 20 years army has forced the JK police to file its version in the FIRs, for example, reporting fake encounters as 'encounters in which foreign militants were killed'. The truth about these encounters in some cases has been revealed in cases like the Ganderbal fake encounter, Machil fake encounter and Panchalatan fake encounter.

Machil fake encounter is one of the recent expose` of human rights abuses by the army as well as of how the police are forced to register false FIRs. Despite the media expose army continues to refuse cooperating with the police and civil administration in the investigations.

In Ganderbal fake encounter case a senior police officer along with others have been arrested following their indictment, but so far army has not cooperated in the investigations. No army personnel so far has been either arrested or questioned in this matter.

In Panchalatan fake encounter case 5 locals were killed in a fake encounter and claimed to be the foreign militants responsible for carrying out the Chittisingpora massacre of 36 Sikhs. In this case again after several investigations and court proceedings army has refused to cooperate despite a charge sheet being filed by CBI against Army personnel.

Army has a history of frustrating the investigations conducted by the police in enforced disappearance cases and also refusing to handover its personnel to police for trial in the cases where investigations have indicted the perpetrators.

Army has not hesitated in undermining the judicial processes by not even appearing in the court

INDIAN TORTURE TACTICS BECOME ROUTINE IN KASHMIR: HRW

February 03: Human Rights Watch (HRW), an international rights organisation, has said that the use of torture force by Indian police against innocent people has become a routine in Kashmir. The HRW's South Asia Director, Meenakshi Ganguly, in a report published in New Delhi, said that there was an evidence of discrimination and harassment of Kashmiris by the troops.

The report said that Indian courts and human rights investigators had least interest in gross violations of human rights in the territory. "This is not the first time

GOVT ORDERS REMOVAL OF 12 MORE BUNKERS FROM SRINAGAR

Feb 17: The state government today ordered removal of 12 more security bunkers from Srinagar city. With their removal the numbers of removed bunkers from city will reach to 39. In security review meeting late this evening the chief minister Omar Abdullah ordered removal of 12 more security bunkers Confirming this to KNS, Omar said that in today's security review meeting, it was decided that 12 more security bunkers mostly from the thick populated old city areas will be removed from tomorrow. The demolition of security bunkers will start immediately and the decision was taken in right earnest to address the

COURT ACQUITS 7 MEN 'BRANDED AS TERRORISTS' BY DELHI POLICE

Feb 9: Delhi Police was left red-faced when a court here ordered release of seven persons "branded as terrorists" and remarked that the encounter story plotted by the police in this regard was "carefully scripted in office".

Additional Sessions Judge Virender Bhat acquitted Saqib Rehman, Bashir Ahmed Shah, Nazir Ahmed Sofi, Hazi Gulam Moinuddin Dar, Abdul Majid Bhat, Abdul Qayoom Khan and Birender Kumar Singh who were arrested by the Delhi Police officials after a "fake encounter" in July 2005 here.

"The encounter alleged to have been taken place on the intervening night of July 1-2, 2005, did not take place at all and an absolutely fake encounter has been projected.

proceedings. Nor has the Army fallen short of excuses to not appear in the court hearings, thereby expressing contempt for the judiciary.

In last 20 years Indian Defence Ministry has refused to grant sanctions for prosecution of Army personnel under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). Army has called AFSPA as a holy book, which provides legal impunity to its personnel. So far not even in one case sanction under AFSPA has been granted. If army somehow wants to cooperate in investigations, they should begin granting sanctions under AFSPA and stop hiding behind the legal immunity.

Thus, the recent claims by Lieutenant General Hasnain are nothing but propaganda for hoodwinking the public opinions in India and Kashmir. Investigations by perpetrators are not acceptable to the family members of the disappeared.

The perpetrators cannot be themselves judges of the crimes they have perpetrated. APDP believes only an international, independent investigation would be impartial and acceptable to the family members of the disappeared

India has been in the spotlight over torture, despite the country's domestic laws and international commitments," it added.

Highlighting the reports of other international rights organisations, it said while quoting a cable released by WikiLeaks that in 2005, the Red Cross told the US embassy in New Delhi about widespread human rights abuses by the troopers in the occupied territory which was later confirmed by the humanitarian group.

concerns of the civilian population of Srinagar city, he added. It may be recalled here that the government had already removed 27 security bunkers from the Srinagar city and with the removal of 12 bunkers from the city, it will reach 39 mark. Chief Minister said that it is a continues process and his government is seriously considering minimising of security forces from remote rural areas also. He added that his government's top priority is to give respite to the people of the state and thinning out the presence of security forces an bunkers is part of this policy.

"The story of the encounter was carefully scripted in the office of Special Staff, Delhi Police, Dhaula Kuan, by its main author Sub Inspector Ravinder Tyagi with the assistance of sub inspectors Nirakar, Charan Singh and Mahender Singh," the ASJ said recently.

The prosecution told the court that accused Saqib Rehman, Nazir Ahmed Sofi, Gulam Moinuddin Dar and Bashir Ahmed Shah were arrested following a gunfight near Gurgaon-Delhi road on July 1, 2005.

The Delhi Police said these four accused were in a car and on being asked to stop, they tried to flee and the police team overtook them and they were made to stop.

The prosecution said that the accused opened fire on the police team and after encounter, they were arrested

by the police team and an army combat uniform, fake currency of Rs 50,000 and sketch of Palam Air Force station was recovered from their possession.

In its chargesheet, police claimed the accused persons disclosed that they were working on the directions of Pakistan's spy agency ISI.

Police further claimed that after the interrogation of the four, they arrested three others and recovered huge amount of fake currency notes, an AK-47 assault rifle,

SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP "OCCUPIES" MATERNITY, TB HOSPITALS

February 6: The Special Operation Group (SOG) of police have taken over the mother and child, maternity, hospital (MCH) and district Tuberculosis hospital at Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The relentless protest by the people forced the SOG to de-occupy the hospital.

Complete shutdown was observed in the apple town against the move while police authorities denied that the hospitals have been occupied.

The chief medical officer (CMO) of the district, Dr Muhammad Shafi, told media that a large contingent of SOG men, without any intimation to hospital administration, moved into the hospitals late last night and took control of almost all the buildings.

"At around 10:30 PM they (SOG men) entered into the hospital. We were not given any information about the move by police authorities. I came to know about it from my staff," he said.

"Except for the building housing theatres and drug store, they have occupied all buildings of MCH and the TB hospital in its vicinity."

The development panicked the patients as well as the staff in the hospitals who eventually deserted the buildings early this morning.

"Following last night's development, the patients found it safe to leave the hospital in the morning," Dr Shafi said. "Since MCH is a maternity hospital we mostly have female staff there. Naturally it is not safe for them to stay inside so the hospital has been deserted. The TB hospital has also been left empty."

The SOG, Dr Shafi said, have arrived with beddings and locked all rooms in the hospitals. Besides, he said, they have started constructing a bunker at the main gate of MCH.

"It seems they have come prepared with beddings and other stuff with them. Right now they are constructing bunker at the main gate of MCH hospital and

SHOPKEEPER SHOT DEAD IN KREERI

February 28: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a shopkeeper in Kreeri town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on February 28 afternoon.

A police official said, some pistol born persons appeared in the busy Kreeri town this afternoon and fired from point blank range towards a shopkeeper identified as, Nazir Ahmad Lone son of Mohammad Abdullah lone of Thindum, Kreeri.

"He received multiple bullet injuries and was shifted to a local hospital, where from doctors referred

several magazines, cartridges and hand grenades from them.

All the accused, however, claimed innocence before the court and said they have been falsely implicated in the case.

Accused Gulam Moinuddin Dar submitted to the court that he was involved in anti-militancy operations in Kashmir Valley and was instrumental in surrender of various militants before the police, but was falsely implicated in this case.

after this they may construct one at the TB hospital as well," he said.

On learning about the development, the entire apple town erupted to protests in the morning. Complete shutdown was observed in the town, amidst protest against "police highhandedness."

"MCH is the only maternity hospital in our area and it is of utmost importance for us. Its occupation by SOG is completely unjustified and must be protested against," said a senior resident of the town, Ghulam Muhammad.

The reports said that stone-pelting was also witnessed at many places in the town.

The Superintendent of Police, Altaf Khan, however, denied that the hospitals have been taken over by SOG.

"We are constructing bunkers at the gate of MCH and in the ground of TB hospital. The hospitals will not be occupied," the SP said. "We need bunkers for protection after grenade attack on former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) Chief Ghulam Rasool Kar. The grenades were thrown from the MCH hospital."

The health department has taken up the issue with divisional administration, police authorities and the government.

Director health Dr M A Wani said that they have been assured that the SOG would vacate.

"We took the matter with police higher ups, divisional commissioner, district administration and the ministers as well. We have assurances from ministers as well as the police authorities."

Dr Wani, however, said: "The hospital staff has been given relaxation to work."

On February 8, reports said, the SOG leaves the place as the continuous protests and shut down by the inhabitants of the area forced them to do so.

DON'T TARGET KASHMIRIS: CENTRE TO STATES 'SUCH TREATMENT LEADS TO ALIENATION, INJUSTICE'

Feb 3: The Centre today asked all the states and Union territories not to target people from Jammu and Kashmir for police reporting for merely being residents of the state, an issue that was vociferously raised almost by all the successive governments in the state right from 1996.

In an advisory to all states and UTs, the Ministry of Home Affairs asked them to exercise utmost sensitivity while making inquiries about residents of Jammu and Kashmir living in different parts of the country.

"It has also asked the states to issue appropriate instructions to all police stations that they (Kashmiris) should not be singled out unnecessarily for police reporting merely on grounds of their being original Kashmiri residents," a statement issued by the Ministry said.

It asked the states and Union territories to report to it the action taken in such cases.

EXPLOSIONS

➤ GRENADE BLASTS ROCK SOPORE

Feb 2: Militants hurled two hand grenades at the house of a senior Congress leader and a paramilitary patrol team in north Kashmir's Sopore town. No one was injured in the explosions. A senior police officer said the guerrillas hurled a grenade which exploded near the house of a senior Congress leader Ghulam Rasool Kar, smashing some window panes of the house.

However, no one was injured in the explosion.

Militants also tried to target a Central Reserve Police Force patrol near the main bus stand by hurling a grenade which, however, missed the target.

"No one was injured in the two grenade blasts," the police officer said.

➤ 2 COPS, CIVILIAN HURT IN BATAMALOO GRENADE BLAST

Feb 28: Unknown persons lobbed a hand grenade towards a police party near Fire Service Chowk, Batamaloo. The explosive device went off with a big bang, causing splinter injuries to two policemen and a civilian.

The injured were hospitalised and condition of the injured civilian identified as Showket Ahmad Khan son of Ghulam Hassan Khan of Balgarden-Srinagar is stated to be serious. One of the injured policemen has been identified as ASI Abdur Rashid.

After the explosion, police personnel laid siege around the area to flush out the persons responsible for the explosion. However, no arrests were reported.

ARRESTS AT GALORE

➤ DETENTION OF YOUTH SPARKS PROTEST IN OLD CITY

Feb 1: The detention of a youth under the Public Safety Act (PSA) triggered off protests in Zaindar Mohalla of the old city.

Reports said Muntazir Ahmad, son of Abdul Majid Gujri was arrested by police from his Zaindar Mohalla residence early this morning for his alleged involvement in stone pelting on troopers and the police. The youth was taken to Rajbagh police station and later shifted to Jammu jail.

Soon after the arrest of the youth, scores of men, women and children of Zaindar Mohalla and its adjoining localities took to streets and staged demonstrations.

The protesters blocked the four-way road link connecting Zaindar Mohalla with Habba Kadal, Karfali Mohalla, Tengpora and Karan Nagar resulting in disruption of vehicular traffic. Later, the protesters dispersed peacefully.

➤ 2 BUDGAM TEACHERS DISMISSED

Feb 3: Authorities have dismissed two teachers for their alleged involvement in stone pelting during 2010 summer unrest, a local news agency KMN reported.

It said that two teachers Naseer Ahmed Wani son of Ghulam Ahmed and Syed Mohsin Habib son of Habibullah both residents of Soibugh Budgam were arrested on charges of stone pelting on September 13, 2010 and a FIR No. 403/210 was registered against them. They remained in police custody for two weeks. A local court released them on bail on October 1.

The KMN said 2-months after the court released the duo on bail the Chief Education Officer Budgam issued their termination order no. DEOB-1 MW-11-15374-76 on January 27.

When contacted the CEO Budgam, Abdur Rasheed told media, "Both of them have been terminated."

However, sources said the CEO is not competent to issue a termination order. "It is a shocking move," they said. "Termination order has been issued despite matter being sub-judicious".

Pertinently, police in 2010 had registered cases against more than 200 employees for their alleged involvement in stone pelting. Many employees who were arrested during the unrest were placed under suspension and most them are yet to be reinstated.

➤ NINE BOYS ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF STONE PELTING

Feb 3: Police arrested nine youth on charges of stone pelting in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Police identified the arrested youth a Tahir Ahmad Parray, Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat, Tariq Ahmad Bhat, Imitiyaz Ahmad, Javaid Ahmad Bhat, Sharief Din Baba, Mohammad Yousuf Sofi, Ashiq Hussain Parray and Mohammad Irfan Wani of Pattan who were booked in Case FIR No. 73/2010 U/S 143, 149, 307,

➤ 4 BOOKED UNDER PSA

February 4: Police have booked four more persons including two activists of Muslim League, arrested in Bhopal last year, under the Public Safety Act, media reports said.

Reports said two ML activists Showkat Ahmed Hakeem and Mehrajuddin Gojri who were arrested in Bhopal last year were shifted to Udhampur Jail. Shah Khalid of Jamia Qadeem who was released after 10-years on October 14, 2010 was again booked under PSA on February 4.

In south Kashmir police also executed PSA warrant against Imran Gul who was arrested on January 14.

Meanwhile, Justice Muhammad Yaqoob Mir, according to PBI, today quashed the detention of five persons, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar, M A Bhat, Nazir Ahmad Mirchall and Arshid Ahmad Parray, they had been detained under PSA last year.

➤ **6 YOUTH HELD IN KREERI**

February 4: Police said that it arrested six persons on charges of stone pelting from Kreeri area in north Kashmir.

A police official claimed that the arrested persons were involved in stone pelting and an FIR No. 86/2010 Under Section 148, 436, 395, RPC stands registered against them in Police Station Kreeri. He identified arrested youth as Farooq Ahmad Sheikh son of Abdul Gani, Muhammad Akram Dar son of Assadullah Dar of Jageer, Muhammad Sharief Bhat son of Ghulam Muhammad Bhat, Javid Ahmad Bhat son of Habibullah Bhat of Alapora Kreeri, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan son of Assadullah Khan of Vizer and Riyaz Ahmad Dar son of Abdul Jabbar Dar of Alapora Kreeri.

➤ **FRESH PSA AGAINST SHAHEEN: LAWYERS BOYCOTT COURTS**

February 7: Work in courts was affected Monday as Kashmir High Court Bar Association announced a day-long strike to protest fresh Public Safety Act (PSA) against its general secretary, advocate Ghulam Nabi Shaheen by the state administration.

Shaheen, according to lawyer's body, was booked for the third time under the PSA in a row by the administration and shifted to Kotbalwal Jail in Jammu from Kothbagh police station. No lawyer appeared for the litigants in the High Court in wake of the strike called by the KHBA this morning.

"Work in all courts remained suspended for the day as a mark of protest against detaining of Mr. G N Shaheen third time in a row under PSA," a senior Bar Association member, Rafiq Ahmad Joo said.

He said that the decision to boycott courts was taken in an executive meeting of lawyer's body wherein killing of a youth at the hands of army in Handwara was also denounced. Shaheen was arrested in July last year and continues to remain in jail despite quashing of two previous detentions orders under PSA by the high court. Since the arrest of KHBA president advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom and GN Shaheen, the lawyers boycotted work in courts on several occasions including 125-days of continuous strike till November 08 last year.

Pertinently, during the strike period, lawyers, however, continued to plead cases of those arrested on charges of stone pelting or booked under PSA.

➤ **OLD CITY YOUTH BOOKED UNDER PSA FOR 'BEATING' COP**

HE IS INNOCENT, SAY FAMILY MEMBERS

Feb12: Family members of 18-year old Omar Hameed Hanga, booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) 15-days ago, accused police of booking their ward on flimsy charges.

"Our son is innocent," Hanga's family members told media. He was booked recently on "baseless charge" of beating a policeman on June 28, 2010- the day Hurriyat called for Sopore chalo. Police had claimed that Hanga was one among the several youth who were photographed while beating a policeman near Narbal on Sopore Chalo (march) day. The picture was widely published in newspapers.

The family also alleged that police had severely 'tortured' Hanga in custody. Hanga, a resident of Zaina-Kadal was arrested 15-days ago when police called the family members and asked them to produce him in the local police station.

"We produced him in MR Gunj police station. There he was detained and then shifted to Parimpora police station," Hanga's father, Abdul Hameed said. "Some 2-days ago he was brought back to MR Gunj police station and we were expecting his release".

He, however, said the Police asked him to come to Police Control Room Srinagar. "There I was told that my son has been booked under PSA and was being shifted to Kot Balwal jail," Hameed said. "I was shocked. They said my son attacked a policeman and participated in the Sopore Chalo march".

When the father asked for evidence, the policemen showed him footage portraying some youth who were kicking a policeman and some their vehicle. "Hanga was nowhere to be recognized in the film. All the youth who were mildly kicking the cop and the jeep were masked. They were tall and well built unlike my son," Hameed said.

"All the charges leveled against my son are fake". The family claimed that there was no FIR against him before he was detained. The family also alleged that the police coerced and tortured Hanga in custody. Hanga, a student, is the only son of his parents. He recently cleared his TDC examination with first grade and was preparing to join the college.

"He is completely innocent. He has no criminal record. The Local Masjid Committee and trader's federation are testimony to that," Hanga's Cousin, Muhammad Imran said. The federation and committee also met SSP and assured him that Hanga was innocent. The family was concerned over that fact that Hanga would be lodged with the criminals and thus it would ruin his career and life as well.

"If he becomes criminal tomorrow, police are responsible," Imran said. The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Syed Ashiq Bukhari said Hanga was detained since there was an FIR against him. When asked he was detained for participating Sopore chalo march, SSP said, "May be yes".

A police official, who declined to be named, said Hanga was involved in beating a policeman during Sopore chalo march. "The photograph was published by newspaper.

He was one among those boys who were beating policeman" official said.

However, he did not elaborate how they identified Hanga.

➤ **HURRIYET LEADER BOOKED UNDER PSA**

February 21: The authorities have booked Hurriyet leader, Mushtaq-ul-Islam under Public Safety Act again and sent him to Kathua jail in Jammu.

The District Magistrate Srinagar booked Mushtaq-ul-Islam for his affiliation with the separatism. The grounds of detention of the Hurriyet leader said that he always appealed the people to support the shutdown calls given by veteran Kashmiri Hurriyet leader, Syed Ali Gilani and other pro-liberation leaders besides highlighting the human rights violations by Indian police and troops in the occupied territory.

➤ **CHAIRMAN ISL HELD FOR USING FACEBOOK**

Feb 23: The chairman of Islamic Students League (ISL) Shakeel Ahmad Bakshi has apparently become the first separatist leader detained allegedly for his "pro-active" usage of social networking sites, especially Facebook.

"There are many offences pending against Bakshi," the SSP, Srinagar, Syed Ashiq Hussain Bukhari told media.

Asked if his use of Facebook was the reason for his detention, he said, "If he has posted stuff against the establishment, then it's an offence. And thus he is to be booked for the crime."

The police, however, had officially detained Bakshi for a FIR registered against him in 2008-2009 for conducting a seminar. But sources said the underlying premises of the security agencies for his arrest was that he was "actively using" Facebook against establishment and it could prove "detrimental for the general law and order". "He was using Facebook for gaining political mileage," a police official said.

Going through the posts of Bakshi on Facebook (Shakeel Bakshi page) shows that each day he wrote about Kashmir history-the past events of 90's, human rights violation by the forces, and other political developments happening in the state over 19th and 20th century.

His posts also touch the political developments in the Islamic countries. The separatist leader has been active in highlighting summer unrest of 2010 through his posts and had uploaded photographs for which his page became famous. "He took to streets only on a few occasions during summer," his close aide said. "Most of the times he has been on Facebook, narrating the realities of Kashmir to the outside world during summer unrest, of 2010 and its aftermath in winters as well".

Apart from Facebook, Bakshi has been running a blog named as - Kashmiri prisoners. The blog is a compilation of stories pertaining to the condition of Kashmiri prisoners languishing in different jails.

On Feb 17 this year, police arrested Bakshi from his one room office in Batmalloo. The police said FIR No. 108 of 2008- 2009 was pending against him. He was charged under section 53-A CRPC.

"Why he was not arrested since then," questioned Bakshi's close aide.

"The FIR is an excuse to arrest him. Actually his appearance on Facebook is irking the authorities," he added.

Meanwhile, a police official said they were collecting FIRs against Bakshi to prepare a dossier for PSA. "But there is only one recent case at Batmalloo police

station for which he has been detained. There is nothing incriminating lying against him".

➤ **SCHOOL STUDENT BOOKED UNDER PSA**

Feb 28: Fazian Rafiq Hakeem, a 14-year old school-going boy from south Kashmir's Islamabad (Anantnag) town, has been detained by the police under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) and bundled to Kotbalwal Jail in Jammu.

Faizan, who is the lone child of a vegetable vendor, Muhammad Rafiq, was the third person to be booked in Islamabad (Anantnag) town in less than a week.

The family of Faizan produced his birth certificate, which shows the boy is minor as his age is 14 years and nine months only. The certificate issued by Principal Islamia

Hanfia College Islamabad mentions the date of birth of the boy as 18-05-1996.

Earlier, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while dispelling reports that Police were rounding up minors and booking them under PSA, had tweeted on the micro-blogging site Twitter that 'no minors were being detained under PSA in the state.'

The PSA enables the State to book anyone suspected of causing trouble and detain the person for two years without charge sheeting him in the court of law.

"How can they book my son who is just 14?" Rafiq told media. "If the chief minister says he has not booked minors under PSA, then why my son got arrested. I have documentary evidence to prove my point that my son is a minor."

Before being slapped with PSA, the 14-year old was charged with almost a dozen cases, including attempt to murder, for his alleged role in two different cases of law and order in the town.

"He was charged for taking part in protests in two different incidents," Rafiq told media. "The first case was lodged in the local Saddar police station. He was charged under section 148, 149, 336, 391, 427, and ¼ of Public Property Act for taking part in protests in September 2010. He left home and went to his maternal home. The police called and detained me for three days then. They pressurized me to produce my son. Later when he returned, the police called me. I produced my son in the court for the fake case being registered against him on Jan 29 and he got bail."

On February 2-2011, the father said, Faizan was re-arrested for another case registered against him in Sherbagh police station. He was charged under sections 307, 312, 336, 427, 148, 149 of Cr PC.

"He was picked up by men in civvies from Reshi Bazaar and shifted to Central Jail Srinagar. I got him bailed out from there on February 23," Rafiq said. "As we were leaving, a contingent of police was waiting outside the jail. They again bundled him and lodged him at Saddar police station."

"When I went to police station with tea for my son, the policemen there told me that Faizan was shifted to Kot Balwal Jail overnight after PSA was slapped against him," Rafiq said.

"He is just 14. He was studying in class 10 and had appeared in exam," he said.

He said police were callous towards his pleas. "I am a vegetable vendor. Just tell me what I shall do. I earn hand to mouth. How will I arrange huge money to travel to Jammu and fight for his cases."

"I have a lone child. My wife is already grieved and broken. Nobody listens to poor. We have become a cheap commodity for police and Government," he said.

US-MADE PAIN GUN TO TACKLE KASHMIR PROTESTS

'NEW WEAPON USES RADIATION TO NUMB HUMAN NERVES'

Feb 12: US Defence group Raytheon has offered to sell India a controversial "pain gun" it claims would be safer than rubber bullets in quelling unrest in Kashmir and other parts of India.

The directed energy weapon, called the Silent Guardian Protection System, is billed by its makers as the 21st century equivalent of tear gas or water cannon — a way to subdue rioters while inflicting minimal harm.

"We are meeting various elements of the Indian government, who are seeking information on the weapon," senior Raytheon executive George Svitak told a wire news agency at India's largest airshow in Bangalore.

Raytheon says the weapon, which causes agonising pain but no lasting damage, would be less likely to cause injury than water cannons, tear gas cannisters or rubber bullets frequently used by Indian troops to break up unruly crowds.

Earlier in the week, two other youth- Obaid Ahmad Misgar of Malaknag and Zafar Ahmad of SK Colony - were also booked under PSA from the town while as many youth have fled from the valley to evade arrest and are hiding outside the state.

"Raytheon has already sold the system, variously dubbed the "pain gun" or "ray gun", to unnamed government clients," Svitak said on the sidelines of the airshow that has drawn 675 international firms.

"The 'pain gun' or 'ray gun' sends out beams of radiation that stimulate human nerve endings from a transmitter the size of a large TV screen mounted on the back of a truck. The beam barely penetrates the skin, meaning it cannot cause visible or permanent injury," said Svitak.

"However, anyone in the beam's path will feel an extremely painful sensation all over their body. It can also be used to pinpoint individuals," he added.

However, the US military withdrew the same weapon last year from war-torn Afghanistan amid opposition from human rights activists worried about its safety. The US army has never commented on why it withdrew the system.

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

➤ AFSPA DECISION IS POLITICAL: HASNAIN

February 1: "Kashmir is a political issue and army has no role to play in the decision with regard to the revocation of Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA)," said Srinagar based 15 corps commander, Lt Gen S A Hasnain.

Speaking to media men on the sidelines of a function organised by the army at 2 sector headquarters Khannabal Hasnain he said, "Kashmir is a political issue and needs to be resolved politically."

Lt Gen Hasnain added that the decision regarding revocation or stay of AFSPA is to be taken at the top political level and army has no role to play in the decision.

"Army can only offer suggestions to government with regard to the issue," he added.

Stating that there is no infiltration from across the border at present the corps commander said, "Due to the snowfall on the borders the infiltration has stopped from across. But with the melting of snow in coming months the militants may again try to sneak into this side."

On the number of militants active in the valley, Lt Gen Hasnain said, "The number does not matter but what matters is that whether the militancy related incidents take place or not."

➤ OBSERVE HR: PC TO FORCES

On February 1, Union Home Ministry strictly asked police forces to observe human rights and ensure accountability during their duties. In his concluding remarks at the chief ministers' conference on internal security, Home Minister P Chidambaram drew attention to increasing reports of human rights violations by police forces, saying they create a complex cycle.

"Even a known terrorist is entitled to human rights. They (terrorists) though violate human rights with greater impunity, we are a democratic government and must not tolerate violation of rights," he said.

Union Home Ministry has also drafted a model police act. The states have been asked to modify it accordance with their local needs and replace the antiquated act of 1860 as soon as possible. Further, the chief ministers were asked to update on the implementation of 49 recommendations after every six months as put forward by a review committee on modernisation of police forces.

➤ 118 ARRESTS, 10 PSA DETENTIONS IN A MONTH

HUNDREDS OF YOUTH ON THE RUN

Feb 8: The police have once again intensified crackdown against alleged protesters by detaining 118 persons and slapping Public Safety Act on 10 people over the past one month.

Even if the police slowed down chasing the protesters whose cases were pending in different police stations, the renewed crackdown was mainly driven by the sense that protests may resurface in the valley in the wake of international events taking place in middle-east countries.

Police officials also maintain that the current raids were increased to stop "re-organisation" of protesters and thus pre-empt the "future protests," if any in 2011.

The police have been against protesters in Centre, North and South Kashmir. The raids have been conducted on the houses of people who are either charged or enlisted as law-breakers by police. Most of the arrests in past one

month were carried out in south Kashmir with Shopian district topping the list where 40 youths have been detained on charges of stone pelting and protests. Apart from that, some five people from the district have been detained under PSA. The police said more arrests are expected but the wanted persons are on the run.

In Islamabad district, police said more than 23 people were arrested while some four persons were detained under PSA in the past one month. The residents said the raids have been carried out mainly in main town. They alleged that everyday shops and houses of youth incriminated by police are being raided. They said raids have forced youth, who are students, to flee from their homes.

In Pulwama as well, the police has recently carried out raids in some areas of Kakapora. However, scores of youth enlisted in the police stations have fled from their localities to evade arrests.

DIG south Kashmir, Shafkat Watali, said that police needs to deal with, "stone pelters and protesters firmly in order stop their reorganization". "We do not want the problem in the future."

He said in south Kashmir some "chronic cases of stone pelters are still pending". "This process has to be continued. We have carried out many arrests and more are expected," Watali added.

In north Kashmir some 35 people were detained on charges of creating law and order problem. In Kreeri village some 13 arrests were carried out while as FIR against some estimated 100 people is pending. The police conduct raids on daily basis, however, most of the incriminated people have fled from their houses fearing arrests. Similarly, youth are on the run in Pattan area.

In Baramulla district, recently some 20 protesters have been detained on charges of creating law and order problem.

DIG north Kashmir, Muneer Khan, refrained from commenting saying he has no figures pertaining to recent arrests.

In Srinagar, 20 youth were arrested by police in Nowhatta alone who "were required for their pending FIRs". "The raids are continuing against protesters whose FIR is with us. Many of them have left Kashmir."

The arrests are being carried out despite the interlocutors appointed by New Delhi making fervent appeals during their visits to release stone pelters, political prisoners and allowing peaceful demonstrations.

➤ **NEW DELHI TO PULL 10000 TROOPS FROM JK**

February 13: The Centre plans to withdraw nearly 10,000 paramilitary personnel from Jammu and Kashmir this year as it feels that the state can do with less central forces.

It also said that amendments to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) are still on the table and hopes the committee of the Unified Headquarters in the state declares some areas in the state as "not disturbed" to make the controversial law redundant in those parts.

"There is scope of reduction of troops is the Home Ministry's view. There are more than adequate forces in Kashmir and it can do with less central forces," Union Home Secretary G K Pillai told PTI.

When asked how many personnel are being pulled out from the state, he said in 2009, the centre pulled out 10 battalions (10,000 men) from the state. Last year, it did not take out any because of the agitation from June to September.

"I think this year; we can easily take out 10 battalions if not more. Irrespective of the situation, I can take out 10 battalions and it would not have any impact. We have about 70 battalions in Kashmir and we have 62 battalions in seven Left-wing affected states which are big states," he said.

➤ **UHQ WILL DECIDE ON TROOPS CUT IN JK: ARMY**

February 15: Two days after Home Secretary G K Pillai announced that Government of India can withdraw 10,000 troops from Jammu and Kashmir, a senior army general said the Unified Headquarters in the State can decide about thinning of troops.

"The decision of reducing troops in the State lies with Unified Headquarter, which is headed by chief minister. It is the highest security assessing panel in the state," GoC 9 Corps Lt General A K Chaudhary told media at the corps headquarters Himachal Pradesh.

He said the Unified Headquarters will assess the situation and decide how many troops should be withdrawn from the state.

Chauhary, however, conceded that situation in J&K has improved to very satisfactory levels. "The number of militants operating in the state has come down to around 400 as against around 1000 in early 1990s. Now the situation is under control of forces in Jammu and Kashmir," he said adding when the security environment improves further, there should be less visibility of forces.

➤ **JK SITUATION HAS IMPROVED: PM**

February 16: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the internal security scenario continues to be a matter of great concern but asserted that the Government is better prepared now to deal with any terror threat.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, after some turbulence, there are signs that we are getting things are under control and that the people of Jammu and Kashmir can look forward to orderly development of development processes," Singh said in an interaction with television editors.

➤ **NO AFSPA REPEAL: ANTONY**

February 17 (Agencies): Dismissing demands for withdrawing special powers of the armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister A.K. Antony said anti-India forces were continuing to push militants into the state from across the border with Pakistan and asked the armed forces not to relax their guard.

"We cannot take any step that will give an opportunity for them (militants) to succeed (in Jammu and Kashmir). On specific thing (of withdrawal of Armed Forces (special Powers) Act [AFSPA], I do not want any public debate on this," Antony told reporters when asked about the security situation in the border states and if it was time to relax the controversial law that gave wide powers to the defence forces there.

➤ **'SEPARATISTS MISUSING FACEBOOK'**

February 17: Defence Minister A K Antony acknowledged that separatists in North-East and Jammu and Kashmir are "misusing" social networking sites and said "proper corrective action" will be taken. Responding to queries of mediapersons on "misuse" of social networking sites like Facebook by the separatists, the Minister said, "We know people are misusing these but at the same time we are not going to take any hasty decision."

➤ **NO MERCY TO STONE PELTERS: POLICE**

Feb 17: Police has said there would be no let-up in its drive against stone pelters in Baramulla and no leniency would be shown to wanted and professional pelters.

Senior police officials said police have been keeping a watch on the youth, who were indulging in stone pelting in Baramulla. "After counseling, some of them have given up the practice while others are still resorting to stone pelting and fomenting trouble," they said.

"Police has formulated a list of stone pelters in the town. A manhunt has been launched to arrest the wanted stone pelters, who figure in the list," they said.

"No mercy will be shown to wanted and professional stone pelters. They would be arrested and action will be taken against them as per law," DIG North Kashmir Muneer Khan told media persons during a function here.

He said those youth, who have given up stone pelting, would be allowed to live a normal life. "Police is closely watching the activities of all suspected youth," he said.

➤ **DOING EVERYTHING TO PREVENT SUMMER UNREST: OMAR**

Feb 17: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday said his government was making all efforts to ensure that there is no repeat of unrest witnessed in the Kashmir Valley during past three summers.

"I have no powers to predict future. I can only say that there are continuous efforts on our part to ensure that there is no repeat (of summer unrest) in 2011," Omar told reporters on the sidelines of an award ceremony for farmers organized by the state Agriculture department here at SKICC.

➤ **SITUATION IN JK HAS IMPROVED: PREZ**

Feb 21: President Pratibha Devisingh Patil said the measures taken by the Centre and the state government have led to improvement in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved. A number of pro-active measures have been taken by the Centre and State Government. An all party delegation visited the State. The interlocutors have also been engaged fruitfully in their endeavours," the President said in her address to the joint sitting of Parliament, to mark the beginning of the Budget session.

➤ **LIFTING AFSPA IS IMPOSSIBLE: GOG**

Feb 21: General Officer Commanding (GoC) 15 Corps, Lt Gen S A Hasnain said revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from the State was impossible because training camps were still active on other side of Line of Control (LoC).

"Revocation of AFSPA is impossible because training camps are still active on other side of LoC," Lt General Hasnain told reporters on sidelines of a function at Behibagh, Kulgam.

It is pertinent to mention here that Defence minister A K Antony has already ruled out repeal of AFSPA from the state.

On troop-cut, GoC said army presence will not be thinned in the State. "Top army commanders have already made it clear that this is not the ripe time for troop-cut and everyone should believe in it," he said.

➤ **AGITATION CAN'T RESOLVE ISSUES: VOHRA**

On February 28, Governor N N Vohra said agitation and confrontation cannot resolve matters involving contrary positions but the best way to sort out any issue is conciliation and dialogue.

Addressing the Joint Session of both Houses of Legislature Jammu, Vohra said, "The past two years have witnessed a significant improvement in State's security environment as a result of the constant pressure maintained by the security forces. My Government records its gratitude to the officers and men of the security forces, who have been valiantly performing their duties in extremely difficult circumstances," Governor said.

WOMEN-CHILDREN KILLED

Feb 13: Three minors of Mohammad Maqbool Dar died and three more members of the family injured when an unexploded shell went off in outskirts of Srinagar at Maloora. The deceased were identified as Noor Mohammad (12)-a 3rd standard student, Bisma (9) and Muskan (6).

Date	Troopers / Police Personnel	Militants	Civilians	Others
Feb 01	-	-	-	-
Feb 02	-	-	-	-
Feb 03	-	-	-	-
Feb 04	-	-	0	-
Feb 05	-	-	1	-
Feb 06	-	-	-	-
Feb 07	-	-	-	-
Feb 08	-	-	-	-
Feb 09	-	-	1	-
Feb 10	-	-	-	-
Feb 11	-	-	-	-
Feb 12	-	-	-	-
Feb 13	-	-	3	-
Feb 14	-	-	-	-
Feb 15	-	-	-	-
Feb 16	-	-	-	-
Feb 17	-	-	-	-
Feb 18	-	-	-	1 NC activist
Feb 19	-	-	-	-
Feb 20	-	-	-	-
Feb 21	-	-	-	-
Feb 22	-	-	-	-
Feb 23	-	-	-	-
Feb 24	-	-	-	-
Feb 25	-	-	-	-
Feb 26	-	-	-	-
Feb 27	-	-	1	-
Feb 28	-	-	1	-
Total	0	0	8	1

DATE	EXTRA JUDICIAL / CUSTODIAL KILLINGS	WOMEN KILLED	CHILDREN KILLED	ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCES
Feb 5	1	-	-	-
Feb 13	-	-	2	-
Feb 14	-	-	1	-
In Toto	1	0	3	0

CHRONOLOGY OF VIOLENCE RELATED INCIDENTS

Feb 1: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

Feb 2: Militants attacked an army patrol party at Tral without causing any damage to it. In another incident suspected militants hurled two hand grenades at the house of a senior Congress leader and a paramilitary patrol team in north Kashmir's Sopore town. No one was injured in the explosions.

Feb 3: For persons including SHO were injured in clashes between police and protesting youth in Baramulla town.

Feb 4: No incident of violence was reported.

Feb 5: A student Manzoor Ahmad Magray, 22, was allegedly shot dead by the troopers of 4 Para of the Army, who had laid an ambush in Chogal area of Handwara town in Kupwara district. At least four people, including a senior police officer were injured in fierce clashes between protesters and police in Baramulla town. In another incident unidentified gunmen shot at a National Conference activists in Koil area of South Kashmir. The injured was identified as Farooq Ahmad Sheikh s/o Abdul Gani Sheikh of Koil, Pulwama.

Feb 6: No incident of violence was reported.

Feb 7: No incident of violence was reported.

Feb 8: Three Hizbul Mujahideen militants identified as Abdul Rashid Naik alias Qari Zubair r/o Lablutha, Banihal, Nasir Ahmad Naik, 24, alias Mansoor and Mushtaq Ahmad ss/o Abdul Rehman of Lablutha, Banihal were killed in an encounter with troopers at Ramban. Qari Zubair

Feb 9: Police has recovered a human skeleton from an orchard at Dodipora village in Kulgam. He was identified dead as, a 42-year-old mentally retarded person, Muhammad Shafi Khanday of Mahgund village who is missing since a month was found nearby.

Feb 10: Two persons were injured in two separate shoot-out incidents in Sopore town in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Unknown gunmen fired from point blank range towards a poultry dealer, Majid Bashir Khan, 35, son of Bashir Ahmad Khan of Badambagh Sopore at Chota Bazaar, Sopore. He sustained bullet injuries in the leg. In another incident at sama place unidentified gunmen fired towards a youth identified as Mohammad Arif of Watlab at a cigarette shop in Sopore market. In Jammu province a youth was injured in a landmine blast near the Indo-Pak border in Samba district of Jammu. Krishen Kumar was injured when he stepped over the mine resulting in an explosion near the International Border in Suchetpur village in Samba district. He has been hospitalized.

Feb 11: The policemen were injured in clashes with protesters at different places in Kashmir valley.

Feb 12: Six protesters and a police cop injured in clashes in Baramulla district of north Kashmir.

Feb 13: Three minors of Mohammad Maqbool Dar died and three more members of the family injured when an unexploded shell went off in outskirts of Srinagar at Maloora. The deceased were identified as Noor Mohammad (12)-a 3rd standard student, Bisma (9) and Muskan (6).

Feb 14: No incident of violence was reported.

Feb 15: Suspected militants hurled a grenade at a CRPF picket however didn't explode and later bomb disposal squad defused the explosive in Sopore town.

Feb 16: No incident of violence was reported

Feb 17: Suspected militants carried out two attacks in Sopore town. The first attack was carried out at the Warpora police post at around 5:30 AM in the morning. The firing reports continued for about 20 minute

Feb 18: Unknown gunmen shot dead a National Conference worker at Hajan area in North Kashmir. The deceased was identified as Ghulam Hassan Dar s/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar,50, of Hajin. In Baramulla at least twelve persons including eight policemen were injured in clashes. In another incident an army trooper got critically injured when he stepped over a landmine in Krishna Ghati sector of bordering Poonch district.

Feb 19: Militants opened fire on a police party at Arampora, Sopore. However, no causality was caused.

Feb 20: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

Feb 21: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

Feb 22: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

Feb 23: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

Feb 24: No incident of militancy related was reported.

Feb 25: No incident of militancy related was reported.

Feb 26: No incident of militancy related was reported

Feb 27: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a 24-year-old youth Mohammad Ayub Wani s/o Khaliq Wani at Kakapora Pulwama.

Feb 28: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a shopkeeper identified as, Nazir Ahmad Lone son of Mohammad Abdullah lone of Thindum, Kreeri in Kreeri town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. In another incident unknown persons lobbed a hand grenade towards a police party near Fire Service Chowk, Batamaloo. The explosive device went off with a big bang, causing splinter injuries to two policemen and a civilian.

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