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A black and white photograph showing a dense forest of thin trees. In the foreground and middle ground, there are numerous small, simple mounds of earth, which are identified as graves. The scene is somber and suggests a mass grave site.

**SHRC DISCOVERS
2156 nameless graves**

Editor: P. IMROZ

“BLACK SHEEP”

After Amnesty International urged the government to probe into the allegations of unmarked graves and nameless graves in Kashmir in 2008, State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) took *suo moto* cognizance of the matter. The Commission directed its investigating team to submit an investigation report into the allegations. The Commission also through a publication requested APDP or interesting persons or organizations to assist into the proceedings and investigations. APDP was informed that Police Investigation Team (PIT) has visited different grave sites mentioned in the report “Facts Under Ground” and have collected the statements, as just a formality. One of the Superintendents of Police, then posted at SHRC, happened to meet the Editor in High Court and casually talked about the mass graves issue. He was more interesting in narrating his poetry, as he was a poet himself, something exception in the police organization. On seeing his lackadaisical attitude, APDP lost interest in being a part of a non-serious exercise / proceedings, and also for the reasons of Commission’s poor credibility. Worthwhile to mention here, one of Commission’s former chairperson had publicly stated that he is resigning for the reasons that the Commission was constituted with an aim to hoodwink international community. As obvious, Commission’s recommendations were never honored by the governments.

However, after transfer of police officials, the new Superintended of Police (SP) made serious requests to the APDP repeatedly for assisting into the investigation. In view of the past experiences, APDP find itself in dilemma but after threadbare discussions it was agreed upon that cooperation would be extended to the officer, whose antecedents were found impeccable. The SP seemed to be serious, sincere, his body language was very positive, thus, compelling APDP to avail the “opportunity”, as there was no harm in assisting the team. Besides briefs, the entire mass graves related material was forwarded to the new official. In the field inspections APDP volunteered its services to PIT at Uri, Handwara and Kupwara. The reluctant witnesses known to association were contacted and persuaded again to record their statement before the PIT including grave digger Atta Mohammad, who had buried scores of persons in nameless and unmarked graves after being handed over to him by police and army.

The police official’s conduct was purely professional and honestly he was doing his job. His team comprised 8 members took the statements, signatures and provided the copies to the witnesses according to law. No compromise on investigation was made therefore giving us satisfaction. And this process continued for two months and after visiting the 38 gravesites PIT prepared a report.

The police official assured us that the finding made will be according to the depositions of witnesses and spot inspection, and the facts will not be undermined. Finally, the report was submitted to Commission’s chairperson. There were fears that the report would be tempered or diluted, therefore, APDP visited the office of Commission for issuance of the report. Initially reluctant, finally the chairperson was prevailed that since the APDP has intervened after notification made by the Commission; therefore, it is a party to the proceedings and entitled to obtain the report of the PIT investigation. In this endeavor RTI helped. For first time, any application under RTI was filed before Commission and the report was finally collected by the APDP, in which the allegations made by the APDP / IPTK in its reports Fact Under Ground and Buried Evidence were substantiated. It was for the first time, the PIT not only vindicated the reports made by the APDP / IPTK but the figures mentioned were higher than the figures submitted by the twin organizations.

Since the chairperson and other members of the Commission were conscious of the implications of the report. They would have to accept or to reject or withhold the report. The public outcry over the issue of mass graves was not easy to brush aside. Somehow, the report was leaked to the media and got wide coverage and the crescendo of mass grave issue got resurrected. Also, the report was carried by international media and international organizations, which helped to retain pressure on the Commission to take the report very seriously and not undermine it.

It is amazing that in J&K state where police officials and whole police organization is considered anti-people, scores of police officials in placating the politicians/government agencies have indulged in unprecedented human rights violations, killings. Therefore, have been rewarded and awarded with presidential medals and other gallantry awards and have not hesitated to commit heinous crimes after constitution of SOG. It has been the history of Kashmir since 1947 that they have not shown courage to refuse the anti-people policies of the govt. Hitherto, we have no such example. Under these circumstances somebody in the organization as conscientious objector is something unusual. The SP who authorized the report has been treated as “black sheep”, and according to our information he has been ostracized by his colleagues. Nevertheless, this “black sheep” has done something strictly according to the law and the assignment made by the Commission which he had to do professionally and honestly.

In a civilized country, the officials who had shown grace under pressure and demonstrated audacity, when others have shown cowardice should be taken as national hero. Not everything is lost, still there are police officials (though few in number) having their heart at the right place and by their professionalism have given hope to the people that there are rights persons also within the police set up. We appreciate the courage demonstrated by this police official who will go down into the annals of history of Kashmir as few upright public servants, who have done their job uprightly, fully conscious of implications. Though few in number but their moral courage on one hand have given hope to the people and human rights organizations and on the other hand, it has given befitting reply to their colleagues, who have sold everything including their soul to the state.

SHRC DISCOVERS 2156 NAMELESS GRAVES

August 21: The ghosts of unmarked mass graves have returned to haunt the government and security agencies with State Human Rights Commission admitting presence of unmarked graves containing about 2156 bodies at 38 sites in Kashmir valley.

According to the inquiry report of SHRC's investigative wing, more such graves exist in many other districts of the State. It has also called for probe by an impartial agency in all disappearance cases in the state.

The commission has cited Armed Forces Special Powers Act, Public Safety Act and Disturbed Areas Act as the reasons for "burial without identification".

"It is beyond doubt that unmarked graves containing unidentified bodies do exist at various places in north Kashmir. A proper FIR should be registered keeping in view the claims and investigated thoroughly by an impartial agency -- not only in north Kashmir but across the state wherever such unmarked graves exist," the report said.

The inquiry was conducted after SHRC took *suo moto* cognisance of media reports in April about the presence of unmarked graves and calls from Amnesty International to probe these allegations.

Meanwhile, the state government reserved its comment arguing that it would be premature to say anything without going through the report.

"We will first study the report. I haven't seen the report as yet," Minister of State for Home, Nasir Aslam Wani told Rising Kashmir.

According to sources, SHRC will send a rejoinder to the government to file its objections, if any.

A senior official in the SHRC, wishing not to be named, said the investigation report file has been already listed for hearing before the division bench of the Commission headed by its chairman, Syed Bashir-ud-din.

"After a couple of hearings, the Commission will announce its verdict. The commission will also send a rejoinder to the government to file its objections, if any. That is a must," the official said.

Coalition of Civil Society, Srinagar-based human rights organization, said the SHRC report has vindicated its findings.

Pertinently, CCS had claimed presence of mass unmarked graves across Kashmir. As per the CCS report, there are 57 graveyards where 2373 unidentified bodies are buried.

"After we published report on unmarked mass graves, security agencies accused us of maligning image of armed forces. Now the investigation wing of SHRC has vindicated our research," said coordinator of CCS, Khuram Parvez.

"The government should allow SHRC to widen the scope of its investigation across the state. We would seek judicial intervention, if the government fails to implement the recommendations," he added.

MORE GRAVES: The SHRC report states that it was evident that unmarked graves comprising of unidentified bodies are present not only in north Kashmir but in other districts like Shopian, Srinagar, Islamabad, Budgam, Ganderbal, Doda, Poonch and Rajouri also.

THE INVESTIGATION:

"We have considered the statistical data of 38 places only where people got their statements recorded in black and white. At many places, they did not get their statements recorded due to fear of reprisal from armed forces," the SHRC report reads.

"Therefore, out of 2730 unidentified bodies, 574 have been buried by the locals thereby leaving behind the figure of 2156 bodies still buried in the unidentified graves."

It says 574 bodies are believed to be of unidentified militants buried in the graveyard of north Kashmir.

DNA EXTRACTION:

The SHRC report has also hinted at DNA mapping. "The chances of DNA mapping for the unidentified bodies are still bright. As the time will go on, chances for DNA mapping will reduce. The commission should immediately pass the orders in this regard."

UNIDENTIFIED GRAVES:

There are 21 unmarked graves in Baramulla district-three each in Bandipora and Handwara and 11 in Kupwara districts, according to the report.

"851 unidentified bodies are buried in Baramulla, 14 in Bandipore, 14 in Handwara and 1277 in Kupwara district."

RECOMENDATIONS:

The rights commission has called for immediate steps to check the veracity of the claims.

It also said if the government does not handle the issue properly, it would be presumed that the "state wants to remain silent deliberately to hide rights violations".

"Till that time Government should be directed to ensure protection of the nameless graves and avoid their desecration/destruction."

The commission has also called for a proper FIR to be registered and thorough investigation of the claims by an impartial agency, not only in north Kashmir but throughout the State wherever such unmarked graves exist.

"If none of the above two steps are taken then the State should be directed to go for suitable compensation to NOKs of all the disappeared/missing persons (not less than seven lakh-keeping in view the inflation of the present time) and take immediate steps for their proper rehabilitation."

FUTURE PRECAUTIONS:

SHRC has also stressed on the need to take precautions to prevent misuse of laws like AFSPA, PSA and DAA.

"To stop the misuse of powers under AFSPA, PSA and DAA, it is very-much necessary that wherever anybody is killed whether he is militant or (innocent killed during cross firing) his or her identification profile should be maintained properly.

"The identification profile should be prepared and should include DNA profile, supplemented with physical description, dental examination, distinctive medical-characteristics if any, finger print etc so that no such doubt/claim arises in future, and if at all arises, and the same is neutralized/addressed within no time."

It has also asked for duplicate record of such identification profiles for future record.

DNA profiling:

"If the police in north Kashmir has already maintained DNA profiles with respect to 464 unidentified dead bodies then we

have to prepare the DNA profiles with respect to (1692) unidentified dead bodies only. If not then we have to prepare the DNA profiles with respect to 2156 unidentified bodies

IPTK WELCOMES SHRC REPORT

August 29: International People's Tribunal on Human Rights in Indian Administered Kashmir (IPTK) welcome the report of the State Human Rights Commission of Jammu and Kashmir (SHRC) on unmarked graves in north Indian-administered Kashmir (dated July 2011 and recently released), taking suo moto cognizance of the matter, and appreciate the courage and labour that this work signifies.

SHRC's report acknowledges and corroborates the research documented in the report, BURIED EVIDENCE, released by the International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice (IPTK) in December 2009.

SHRC investigated unmarked graves in Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara, and Handwara districts across 38 graveyards and verified 2156 unidentified bodies in unidentified graves.

Based on investigative research conducted between November 2006-November 2009, BURIED EVIDENCE had documented 2700 unknown, unmarked, and mass graves, containing 2943+ bodies, across 55 villages (in 62 sites within these villages) in Bandipora, Baramulla, and Kupwara districts of Kashmir. Of these, 2373 were unidentified and unnamed graves. See <http://www.kashmirprocess.org/reports/graves/toc.html>

To respond to the egregious violations of the past and secure justice requires that we acknowledge atrocities that have been committed and address their effects. In the matter of unknown, unmarked, and unidentified graves in Kashmir, we call for a three-tier process: Investigation, Prosecution, and Reparation.

Investigation and Prosecution: We request that SHRC extend its investigation to include each site documented by IPTK in north Kashmir, and beyond, to all twenty districts in Jammu and Kashmir. In particular, we ask that investigations take place in Anantnag, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, and Srinagar districts in Kashmir province and in Doda, Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi districts in Jammu province.

We ask that DNA-based profiles of those buried in the unmarked and unidentified graves be cross-tabulated with those that have been involuntarily disappeared in Kashmir. Further, in addition to the identification of the dead, we ask that comprehensive forensic examinations be conducted to determine the circumstances of death, including incidences of torture.

The Kashmir Police have stated that they have records of 464 unidentified graves. However, it appears that, even in these cases, the Kashmir Police have not maintained photographic, DNA, and other evidence. All unidentified graves that have been listed as holding the bodies of "foreign militants" must be investigated. The police have filed First Information Reports stating these persons as dead from encounter killings. However, these bodies have not been identified based on records or other verifiable evidence. Neither has conclusive evidence been offered to prove that the bodies are of Kashmir's disappeared.

SHRC has stated that 574 bodies have been identified as locals following their burial. However, the Kashmir Police and Indian Armed Forces had previously

buried in unmarked graves in North Kashmir from their dead remains and compare the same with the DNA profiles of NOKs of disappeared persons."

claimed these 574 bodies as those of "foreign militants." This indicts the government's negligence in identifying unclaimed bodies. Based on the above, the SHRC report evidences that there is every possibility that the 2156 unmarked graves hold the bodies of persons that were involuntarily disappeared. The cases of the 574 bodies also intimate that numerous persons have been killed in fake encounters and secretly buried in unmarked graves to conceal their identity. IPTK's 2009 report too had documented a list of 49 bodies, all designated by the state as "foreign militants," 47 of whom, on investigation, proved to have been killed in fake encounters, and none were identified as foreign insurgents.

If, in the course of future investigations, it is proven that disappeared persons were killed in fake encounters and buried in unmarked graves, exemplary punishments should be pronounced against those accused to deter future and repeated crimes of the same nature. In instances where non-local persons are killed in alleged "encounter" killings, relevant international human rights and humanitarian law must be applied in matters of redress.

SHRC has relied on statements from persons who, fearful of reprisal, wish for their testimonies to be placed on record anonymously. Given the nature of the issue, and the heightened risks involved in offering testimony, utmost care and caution should be exercised in securing witness protection, following international protocols and standards.

We ask that the matter of unknown, unmarked, and mass graves be subjected to a rigorous, independent, and impartial investigation. We ask that the story of these graves be investigated in their entirety: What are the particular legal and institutional histories of the graveyards? How did they come into existence? Per whose order? Did District Magistrates requisition the construction of graveyards, burials, and record keeping? Such historiography would permit holding actionable particular officers and offices that acted in violation of the law, with arrogance and indifference, and failed to follow the law in burying unidentified bodies. This would disaggregate the amorphous state and enable holding accountable particular institutions of state.

Reparation: The issue of unknown and unmarked graves involves the living as much as the dead. Reparation must both be individualized and collectivized, so that communities, neighbourhoods, and villages can heal and break their isolation. SHRC's either/or proposal of offering a relief of Rupees 700,000 to the next of kin or undertaking DNA testing-based investigation should be amended, and both the investigation and provision of relief be made mandatory. Monetary compensation to the next of kin should not be calculated as ex gratia relief, but should be particularized according to the individual circumstances of death, and the affect the death has had on the family, and relief should be calculated based on the complex task of quantifying loss of life and providing psychosocial and economic rehabilitation to family members.

We ask that all special laws and provisions of immunity that authorize the military and paramilitary forces to act with impunity in Kashmir be revoked unconditionally. We ask that the Government of India ratify the International

Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to which it has been a signatory since February 2007, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which it has been a signatory since October 1997. We ask that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir institute a comprehensive ban on practices of torture as defined by international law and humanitarian ethics.

In Kashmir, between 1989-2011, the actions of the military and paramilitary have resulted in over 8,000 enforced disappearances and 70,000 deaths. We ask that

INVESTIGATE UNMARKED GRAVES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: HRW

August 24: Human Rights Watch urged Indian authorities to immediately open an independent, transparent, and credible investigation into the unmarked graves discovered in Jammu and Kashmir state, Human Rights Watch said today. An inquiry by the police investigation team of the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has found 2,730 bodies dumped into unmarked graves in four of the state's 14 districts. Thousands of Kashmiris have been forcibly disappeared during the last two decades of violence, their whereabouts unknown.

The Enquiry Report of Unmarked Graves in North Kashmir, submitted by the investigating police team to the commission on July 2, 2011, said that the unidentified bodies had been buried in 38 sites in north Kashmir's Baramulla, Bandipora, Handwara, and Kupwara districts. At least 574 have been identified as the bodies of local Kashmiris. The government had previously said that the graves held unidentified militants, most of them Pakistanis killed over the two decades of violence in Jammu and Kashmir whose bodies had been handed over to village authorities for burial. However, in response to commission inquiries, in March 2010 district police claimed that a total of 464 unidentified bodies had been buried in north Kashmir.

"For years, Kashmiris have been lamenting their lost loved ones, their pleas ignored or dismissed as the government and army claimed that they had gone to Pakistan to become militants," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "But these graves suggest the possibility of mass murder. The authorities should immediately investigate each and every death."

According to the Srinagar-based Association of Parents of Displaced Persons (APDP), at least 8,000 people have disappeared since the insurgency began. In February 2003, the government of Jammu and Kashmir, then led by the current opposition leader, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, told the state legislative assembly that 3,744 people were missing and that many of those reported missing since 1990 were actually in Pakistan, where they had signed up to be trained as militants.

Human Rights Watch and other human rights groups have repeatedly called for an independent investigation into allegations of unlawful killings and enforced disappearances by Indian security forces. In a September 2006 report, "Everyone Lives in Fear," Human Rights Watch said: "The debate about the facts and the inconclusive nature of government and NGO claims make it clear why the government or a specially designated independent body should conduct a transparent

human rights violations in Kashmir be recognized as resulting from, and concomitant to, the impunity of militarization and state violence, and the dangers militarism imposes on civil society. We caution that, without addressing these structural and prevalent conditions, justice and peace will remain elusive.

In calling for conflict resolution in South Asia's nuclear zone, we recognize the precarious cross-border conditions between India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, and condemn the violent actions of misogynist state and non-state groups operating in the region.

investigation into each case of 'disappearance' reported since 1990."

The commission's report, which was leaked to journalists over the weekend, is the first official confirmation that such deaths occurred. Pointing out that Kashmiri groups, including APDP and the International People's Tribunal on Kashmir, have said there are similar unmarked graves in at least eight other districts, the report recommended a thorough investigation by an "impartial agency," and at least \$15,000 in compensation for each death. The Jammu and Kashmir state government and the central government in New Delhi have yet to respond to the findings.

When the new government of chief minister Omar Abdullah was elected in Jammu and Kashmir state in February 2009, Human Rights Watch wrote to him, saying: "Thousands of people remain victims of enforced disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir. The practices of 'disappearances' and extrajudicial executions violate basic human rights, including the right to life, the right to liberty and security of the person, the right to a fair and public trial, as well as the prohibition on torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment. Under international law, an enforced disappearance is a continuing crime until the 'disappearance' is resolved."

The enquiry report recommended that the commission call for immediate DNA sampling and other forensic tests to try to identify the bodies by matching them with the next of kin of people who have disappeared. Seventeen of the bodies found in the four districts have already been reburied by relatives in family graveyards. The investigation found that 18 of the graves contained more than one body.

Human Rights Watch has previously called for creation of an independent, transparent commission working within a specified time frame to which relatives and others can provide information about cases of enforced disappearance. This commission should be empowered to summon members of the security forces who might have been responsible, even if they are no longer posted in Jammu and Kashmir or have retired from service.

"The government has long been well aware that widespread killings and disappearances have occurred in Kashmir, but it has looked the other way," Ganguly said. "The discovery of these unidentified bodies will make it impossible to continue the long cover-up of the facts or to deny justice to the families of victims."

A similar pattern of abuses and cover-up took place in the neighboring state of Punjab during counterinsurgency operations from 1984 to 1995, Human Rights Watch said.

Indian security forces were implicated in thousands of killings and secret cremations to hide the evidence.

The National Human Rights Commission, which was specially empowered by the Supreme Court to address these cases, narrowed its efforts to merely establishing the identity of the people secretly cremated in three crematoria in just one district of Punjab. It rejected cases from other districts and ignored intentional violations of human rights by India's security forces. For more than a decade, the commission has failed to investigate a single case independently, and it refuses to identify any officials responsible for the abuses.

None of the key architects of the counterinsurgency strategy in either Kashmir or Punjab who bear substantial responsibility for these atrocities have been brought to justice.

"The fact that the investigation in Jammu and Kashmir has taken place and led to the confirmation of these

NEED TO SET UP T&R COMMISSION: OMAR

Aug 22: After shocking revelation by State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) about presence of unmarked graves containing over 2156 bodies at 38 sites in north Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday said there was a need to form a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to unearth the facts.

"I have said it before that there is need for Truth and Reconciliation (T&R) commission. The commission should be assigned the task to probe all the killings in the State. Whether the killings were carried out by militants or security forces it needs to be probed," Omar told reporters on sidelines of the inauguration of a floating postal office at Dal Lake, here.

He said he had demanded setting up of Truth and Reconciliation Commission when National Conference was

NAZIM'S BODY HAS TORTURE MARKS ALL OVER

SHRC & NHRC SEEK REPORTS

August 3: Doctors who had conducted autopsy on the body of Nazim Rashid, allegedly killed in police custody, confirmed torture marks on his body. The medicos' autopsy corroborated the allegations of Nazim's parents who repeatedly said that their son was killed by torture in custody. State and National Human Rights Commission sought reports from the state police Chief.

Nazim Rashid son of a retired police officer Abdul Rashid Shalla of Sopore on July 30 was taken into custody by an Army Major assuring to his father that no harm would be done to him. The family, Rashid said, fully cooperated with the army and police in their probe into killing of a civilian by unknown gunmen. Rashid said when the civilian Mohammad Ashraf was fired and killed by gunmen on July 28 my son was passing by the area. The fact he had already admitted to the army Major. But before taking him the Major had assured Rashid that he would be set free by evening.

"When my son did not return home till late evening, I contacted Army officer who informed me that Nazim had been handed over to Special Operations Group (SOG). All efforts to contact Nazim went in vain and the next morning we came to know about his death in custody," Rashid said while talking to *The Informative Missive*.

unmarked graves is encouraging, but as in Punjab the Indian government and security establishment have a long record of failing to hold anyone accountable for these deaths," Ganguly said. "The government now has the opportunity to deliver justice by prosecuting those responsible."

Human Rights Watch also urged the immediate repeal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act [AFSPA], a draconian law that grants the military widespread powers to arrest people without warrant and to shoot to kill. This law has enabled security forces to engage in crimes such as enforced disappearances, Human Rights Watch said. It protects military personnel responsible for serious crimes from prosecution, creating a pervasive culture of impunity.

"Even some senior government and judicial figures believe that the AFSPA leads to abuses and offends human rights principles," Ganguly said. "If the government is serious about justice, it needs to get rid of AFSPA immediately."

in opposition. "I repeat the same today. There is no way out but to setup the commission," he said.

Replying to a query on unearthing of mass graves by SHRC, Omar said, "It is too premature to comment on the issue. I will take up the matter during Unified Command meeting to be held on Tuesday."

Omar along with union Minister of State Communication and IT Sachin Pilot and NC president Farooq Abdullah inaugurated the first floating Postal office cum Museum of the country at Dal Lake.

"The improving IT technologies are posing a challenge to the conventional communication facilities. The concerned ministry has to come up with new ideas so that age old postal services remain at the disposal of people," said Omar.

Nazim was laid to rest after the medical board appointed by the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla conducted the autopsy.

The inquiry officer probing the custodial killing of Nazim recorded statements of medicos who conducted autopsy on the body. The medicos have reportedly confirmed torture marks on the body of the victim.

Reports said, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sopore Muhammad Ahsan Mir, probing the custodial killing of Nazim Rashid Shalla by police personnel, recorded the statements of three medicos.

"There were torture marks on his body and apparently it seems he died due to torture. But things will be clear once the report from Forensic Science Laboratory comes," doctors told the inquiry officer.

Mir also visited Tarzoo police station "to leave no room for any laxity in the investigation" as Krankshivan Colony where from the deceased youth hailed falls in its jurisdiction.

"It was necessary as far as investigation is concerned. He (inquiry officer) found there was no lock-up or place to confine people which implies he died in SOG camp," reports said.

They said entire focus of the magisterial probe would be now on quizzing the police personnel whose

names are likely to be submitted by police. The inquiry officer has sought the names of the police personnel from Superintendent of Police Sopore who were present in the SOG camp at the time the youth died in lock-up.

Following the unrelenting protests, government suspended three cops- Sub-inspector Dilraj Singh, constables Muhammad Yousuf and Irshad Ahmad. Besides, SP Sopore Altaf Ahmad Khan was transferred and Deputy Superintendent of Police SOG, Ashiq Hussain Tak, was attached.

SHRC AND NHRC SEEK REPORT:

Taking suo motto cognizance of State Human Rights Commission has issued notices to Director General of Police and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla to submit report about the inquiry.

"Having regard to the gravity of the situation, alarming facts and incriminating circumstances published in media pointedly and positively pointing to prima facie custodial torture and consequent killing of Nazim Rashid Shalla S/O Abdul Rashid Shalla R/O Alamdar Colony, Krankshivan Sopore district Baramulla, very severe case of violation of right to life and liberty is made," the chairperson of SHRC has written.

SURANKOTE FAKE ENCOUNTER

MAGISTERIAL PROBE ORDERED

On August 7, army and police made a claim that they have eliminated a top Lasker-e-Tayeeba (LeT) militant Abu Usman, a Pakistani national in Surankote area of Poonch district in a 12 hour long gun battle. The joint claim was questioned by the locals alleged that the killed youth was not a militant but a mentally retarded civilian.

Reports said, the civilian was picked up by SPO and a Territorial Army trooper from Rajouri and taken to Mehrote forest on August 4. And after a well-planned conspiracy, the duo allegedly killed the youth claiming that he was a top Lashkar-e-Toiba militant active in the area.

NHRC issued notice to the state government and ministry of defence and asked them to submit magisterial enquiry report, post-mortem report along with report of independent investigation into the fake encounter of a mentally challenged man in Poonch district of Jammu within eight weeks.

The body was brought for burial next day. However, people noticed that the deceased was not a Muslim and subsequently police launched the inquiry and declared that SPO and army man had killed a "mentally challenged Hindu boy". Police has filed FIR no. 135/2011 U/S 302 RPC in this regard.

Poonch SSP Ashkoor Wani had told reporters that SPO Noor Hussain and the jawan Abdul Majeed were arrested for carrying out the fake encounter by murdering a civilian and calling him divisional commander of Lashker-e-Taiba Abu Usman.

On August 9 district administration ordered magisterial probe into Surankote fake encounter. Police in the evening buried the slain civilian hurriedly to cover up his identity controversy, although he was earlier confirmed as a non-Muslim by both police and army.

Defence Minister A. K. Antony has directed the army to submit a detailed report to him on the incident. "The Minister has directed the army to submit a detailed report to

"The Commission finds merit to launch and hold inquiry in this case while life of a youth is lost during his captivity / incarceration in the police/ security forces custody by resort to mode and means beyond the pale of law. In result, issue notice to government through DGP for report on inquiry. Also issue notice to Deputy Commissioner Baramulla for submission of early report," he writes.

The commission has listed the hearing of the case on September 5.

On Aug 4, National Human Rights Commission sought explanation from Jammu and Kashmir Police as to why it did not intimate it about the death of a youth in custody within the stipulated 24 hours.

The action came after NHRC received a complaint from an activist about the incident.

An NHRC spokesperson said the Commission has asked its Director General (Investigation) to collect requisite reports from concerned authorities within eight weeks and report to it.

It has also sought an explanation from the Director General of Police as to why the intimation about the death in police custody was not communicated within 24 hours to the Commission as per its guidelines, the spokesperson said.

him on the incident that took place on August 7 Sunday in Poonch," Defence Ministry media quotes.

Resentment brewed among the locals over the burial of 'non-Muslim' civilian and half-day bandh call was observed.

Meanwhile, as the identity of slain civilian became a matter of dispute and the body remained unidentified, the police in a haphazard manner carried out the burial at Dahoor Shaheed graveyard, Surankot this evening at 5.30 PM. However, none of the senior officers of district or tehsil administration or local civilians were present during the burial. Yesterday, it was decided by the police to preserve the body for 72 hours to carry out identification process and trace the family of the deceased. But this evening, a decision of burial was taken all of a sudden and police even did not bother to collect his blood sample for DNA matching.

It was learnt that police detained a civilian for his alleged support to the jawans who enacted the fake encounter at Nikki Mohri forest area and also seized weapons of four other locals. The arrested villager has been identified as Mohammed Yaqub, son of Mohammed Farooq resident of Nikki Mori (Safeda Hari).

However, the senior police officers were tight lipped over the arrest and seizures of weapons of four locals.

As per locals, on the intervening night of August 5 and 6 when fake encounter of an innocent civilian was carried out, the police and army fired illumination bombs besides firing scores of rounds till late night with no fire from the other side. This created panic among them and later in the morning it was declared that one LeT commander was killed in fierce gun battle.

However, if some locals are to be believed, the slain civilian was Ashok Kumar Pandit, son of Chet Ram, resident of Lamber district Rajouri. He was father of three and was sporting a beard as he used to perform religious ceremonies and was not insane as claimed by the police. However, officially his identity could not be ascertained yet.

Senior police officer said that a TA jawan and SOG cop detained in connection with fake encounter were being questioned to get some clues regarding identity of slain civilian and to ascertain their role in other encounters took place in the tehsil.

However, sources claimed if investigated properly, their interrogation would unravel several mysteries of previous encounters in tehsils as several people are missing from the area in the past few years.

On August 10, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notice to the state government and ministry of defence and asked them to submit magisterial enquiry report, post-mortem report along with report of independent investigation into the fake encounter of a mentally challenged man in Poonch district of Jammu last week within eight weeks.

"NHRC has taken cognizance of complaints alleging that one Ashok Kumar was shot dead by a Special Police Officer, SPO and an Army personnel showing him as a militant named Abu Usman alias Abu Adnan alias Doctor of Lashkar-e-Taiba on the 7th August, 2011 in Poonch District of Jammu & Kashmir. Allegedly Ashok was a mentally challenged person," Information & Public Relations Officer, NHRC in a statement issued from New Delhi said.

The Commission has also asked the Superintendent of Police, Poonch to explain as to why the intimation regarding the death in police action was not reported to it within 48 hours in the prescribed format as per the NHRC revised guidelines communicated to all the Chief Ministers vide a letter dated 12th May, 2010.

On August 24, the DNA samples of the deceased civilian have been rejected for the second time by the forensic experts, this time from Hyderabad. Previously, they were rejected by experts at Forensic Science Laboratory in Chandigarh and sent to Hyderabad. Experts found that the DNA samples had rotted and were unfit for conducting tests.

The samples have been sent back to Poonch police, which will be again take the DNA samples of the slain civilian

KULGAM RAPE COMPLAINT FALSE: POLICE

Aug 16: A day after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced that investigation was going on in Kulgam rape case, police said on August 15 said the allegations were false as the woman (rape victim) has retracted from her earlier statement and has said that she was neither abducted nor raped by any army men or civilian.

"The woman was immediately got medically examined first at Sub District Hospital Damhal Hanjipora and subsequently at District Hospital Kulgam after she alleged that she was being raped. The exhibits were sent to FSL Srinagar for microscopic examination," SP Kulgam Mubassir Latiefi said.

He said during the course of investigation, the statements of the woman, her husband and brothers-in-law were recorded before the Chief Judicial Magistrate Kulgam and Judicial Magistrate First Class Damhal Hanjipora.

"The woman, in her statement, deposed that neither she was abducted nor raped by any army personnel or civilian," he said adding she said she had left her 'Dokh' (mud house) on her own in the morning of July 19.

"This contradicts her own statement that she was abducted," the officer said.

killed in the fake encounter, this time as per parameters laid down by Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Hyderabad.

Sources in police department revealed that the DNA samples which were previously taken by doctors at Surankote in the presence of a Magistrate were found rotten in FSL Hyderabad, where the experts have now given a proper perform to the police for taking samples. Now, the police will take the DNA within the parameters laid by FSL Hyderabad.

On August 16, Poonch police sent the DNA samples of the three claimants along with the DNA samples of the civilian slain in the fake encounter at Surankote to FSL Chandigarh for matching but the authorities returned the samples. Police then sent the samples to FSL Hyderabad for matching but the samples of the deceased civilian were found rotten and the experts of FSL Hyderabad asked police to send the DNA samples again. The experts have prescribed certain parameters for collection of DNA samples of the deceased which were not followed both by the police and doctors earlier.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Poonch Ashkoor Ahmed Wani, said that within few days police is going to give an application to Deputy Commissioner Poonch for granting permission to exhume the grave of the slain civilian. He said that it might be possible that the samples rotted while shifting from FSL Chandigarh to Hyderabad.

"The experts of FSL Hyderabad have sent us a perform and this time we will take DNA samples according to the predefined procedure. We will call an expert doctor from Jammu this time.

Meanwhile, District Session Judge Poonch today granted 15 days judicial remand to SOG cop Noor Hussain, son of Said Mohammad and jawan of 156 Territorial Army Abdul Majid, son of Mohammad Bashir, both resident of Hari Mahrote, allegedly involved in fake encounter at Hari Marothe.

On the question of judicial remand of both culprits, SSP Poonch said police will file charges within four days.

Latiefi said the forensic, laboratory tests and medical opinion also revealed that there is no evidence of rape.

On July 21, Ruqaya Bano of Gujardar Manzgam in Kulgam had reported in Damhal Hanjipora Police Station that on July 19 at about 1900 hours, she had gone to nearby spring where she was abducted by two army men in uniform having wireless sets, who took her towards forests and raped her.

"They left me in the forests on July 21 morning from where I reached my residence in Chhiranbal," she had alleged. After her allegations, police had formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the allegations.

On the directions of Director General of State Police Kuldeep Khoda a SIT headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Kulgam was constituted. It also included Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Kulgam.

Latiefi said the SIT is probing the circumstances leading a young woman to level the charges against the Army personnel.

"On the basis of investigation conducted so far, offences under Sec. 366 and 376 RPC have not been made out. The investigation of the case is still going on to find out

the circumstances and facts which led the lady to lodge a

GAUTAM NAVLAKHA APPROACHES HIGH COURT

SEEKS DIRECTIONS TO GOVT FOR HIS FREE MOVEMENT

Aug 16: Eminent human rights activist Gautam Navlakha has filed a writ petition in Jammu and Kashmir High Court challenging the order passed by District Magistrate Budgam in May this year imposing restrictions on his movements.

His counsel Parvez Imroz pleaded that the petitioner visited Jammu and Kashmir State on May 28, 2011 but was detained at the Srinagar Airport and forced to visit some police station.

The counsel for the petitioner has further pleaded in the petition that Navlakha was confined in the police station for a night.

He pleaded that in the morning the social activist was deported to Delhi and was told that District Magistrate Budgam has imposed restrictions under section 144 Cr PC, vide his order no. DMB /PA/ 2011/ 684-93 dated 28-05-2011.

He has sought from the court compensation and exemplary damages which he said would be fixed by the court.

false FIR against the Army Personnel," SP added.

The petitioner has also prayed for a direction to the government and its functionaries not to hinder his endeavour to visit the state in future at any time unless they are able to give good reason for their action by referring to some statutory law.

District Magistrate Budgam on May 28, 2011, imposed restrictions on the movement of Gautam Navlakha in district Budgam through an order which said his visit may disturb peace in the valley.

"It has appeared that Shri Gautam Navlakha, a social activist is going to visit the valley on May 28, 2011 and his visit may give rise to disturbance of public tranquillity or riot or an affray in the areas of Budgam," reads the order passed by the District Magistrate.

The order imposing restrictions under section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code also said social activists like Navlakha create a situation which affects the peace and tranquillity in the society and create disturbance to the civic amenities of the people.

2 LENS MEN DETAINED AMID CLASHES

Aug 19: The police detained two photojournalists including a foreigner when they were covering violent clashes that erupted in old city after Friday prayers.

Scores of youth after finishing the congregational prayers gathered outside the historic Jamia Masjid here and attempted to take out a march.

As soon they began to assemble, contingents of police and CRPF deployed in the area swung into action by charging them. They also used sling shots and marbles to frighten people away.

However the youth dispersed and divided themselves into small batches and starting hurling stones at the forces. The violent clashes continued in Nowhatta and adjoining places till reports last came in.

Meanwhile, police detained and beat up a freelance photo journalist- Showkat Shafi. Shafi, 25, was covering an assignment for a popular international channel- Aljazeera.

"All photographers were shooting at Nowhatta," a photojournalist who was present during Showkat's arrest told Greater Kashmir, adding, "The police and CRPF appeared from an alley and shouted at us. We got scared and ran away from there. They caught hold of Showkat and beat him up with plastic and bamboo canes. They also kicked him and dragged him on the road."

He said later the photojournalist was whisked away to police station Nowhatta.

A photograph taken from a distance clearly shows a CRPF man catching hold of Showkat by hair- who is surrounded by scores of CRPF men and policemen. Showkat was contributing to the Aljazeera's special online page on Kashmir- "Kashmir the Forgotten Conflict."

Another photographer, Narciso, covering assignment for the American press agency-Zuma- was also detained from Nowhatta. "I was standing there. As the protestors hurled stones, I took a back seat. Narciso was shooting the clashes," Rajesh Iyer, who was covering the protests along with Narciso, told media. "Later the caught hold of him. They used abusive language and beat him up with canes. They also kicked him." Iyer said Narciso showed

them press card but to no avail. "The dragged him and lodged him in police station," he said. Photographers have deplored the detention of photojournalists.

"They should announce downtown a no go zone," a photographer said. "If the police has objection, they should issue press statement to inform us not to go to old city. Whenever we go they humiliate and beat us. It has become a norm. Whether it's officially sanctioned or not, I have no information".

It is not the first time journalists have been targeted. Some days ago, photographers alleged that following proper instructions from the higher ups, the police and CRPF men beat or intimidate them when they are covering assignments. A photojournalist, Javed Dar, sustained injuries in his head recently when he was hit by a stone thrown by the cop.

SP, North city, Showkat Shah confirmed that they have detained the photojournalist from the old city.

"He was leading from the front with the pelters that is why we have detained him," Shah said. The SP also alleged that "individual photographers and reporters were on the pay rolls of army and Intelligence Bureau and other vested interests groups."

Kashmir Press Photographers Association (KPPA) condemned police action. "It is sheer highhandedness and we condemn it," a spokesman of KPPA said in a statement.

Meanwhile, late in the evening Police released both the photojournalists. "Police had subjected the duo to severe torture. Both were admitted in the hospital where they are undergoing treatment," a senior photojournalist told Greater Kashmir.

Friday prayers concluded peacefully: Police spokesman.

A police spokesman said Friday prayers concluded peacefully throughout Kashmir Valley today. "There were no reports of any untoward incident from any place, however, few miscreants after Friday prayers attempted to disrupt peace and resorted to stone pelting on police and security force deployment in Nowhatta area. Police however exercised restraint while dealing with the situation. These miscreants were chased away. No one was hurt in the incident," he said.

COURT ORDERS ENQUIRY IN TORTURE, MURDER OF SOURA YOUTH

SSP DIRECTED TO FINISH PROBE WITHIN 15 DAYS

August 1: Taking a strong exception to the functioning of police in Kashmir, a city court has ordered probe into death of a Soura youth who was allegedly tortured to the pulp while in custody, during last year's summer agitation.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Srinagar has also ordered SSP Srinagar to personally supervise the probe and appoint a deputy superintendent of police who will investigate the circumstances which led to death of Umar Qayoom Bhat-a 17-year-old-student, in August last year.

"The facts from the file reveal a sordid picture of how irresponsibly and irrationally state is police is functioning," CJM Srinagar Yashpal Bourney, has remarked while directing the SSP Srinagar to complete the probe within 15 days and file a detailed report by the next date of hearing.

Abdul Qayoom Bhat, father of Umar had complained before the police that when his son was still struggling for life and was on life support system at SKIMS, Umar was taken in custody on August 20, 2010 at 3.00 PM and beaten up severely in custody by police personnel in police station Soura and then left on August 21 evening at about 7.00 PM. Bhat had further alleged that his son had suffered damage to some vital organs because of being beaten and had to be hospitalized on August 23 because of severe internal pain.

According to Bhat, his son was released on bail in August 21, at 7.00 PM and he was admitted at SKIMS on August 23, where he was kept on ventilator for two days and he breathed his last in SKIMS on August 25.

However, the court while quoting police report has said that on August 20 last year, then SHO police station Soura Abdul Majid Malik along with escort team had picked up three boys during patrolling on the allegations that they had been forcing shopkeepers at Sabzi Mandi Soura to close their shops. "When they did not respond to his appeals to shun their activities for avoiding breach of peace, the trio were booked under sections 107, 151 Cr PC and produced before the executive magistrate concerned on August 25, 2010 in good state of health," reads the police reports.

GOVT APATHY STALLED PROBE IN 2010 KILLINGS: SHRC CHAIRMAN

Aug 7: State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) chairman Justice (Retd) Bashir-ud-Din claimed that the government apathy stalled investigations into the killings of summer unrest last year.

"The two member Court of Inquiry formed by the government to probe the killings of summer unrest 2010 has recorded statements of the witnesses. However, the accused CRPF men have moved to Jammu bench of the High Court and got stay order on their appearance before the commission," Justice Bashir told a local news gathering agency KNS.

He said after the stay order by the HC, commission couldn't submit the final report to the government. "Not only did CRPF managed to get stay order against recording their statements but they leveled some allegations against me also. Though state government had to defend me, they didn't and I personally filed a petition in the HC to defend myself," he said.

Justice Bashir, who was one of the member of the commission formed to probe the summer killings said the Commission had urged the state government to file an appeal in HC to transfer the case from Jammu to Srinagar. "However, they (govt.) didn't file the appeal," he said.

14 FAKE ENCOUNTER CASES IN JK IN 3 YRS: NHRC

Aug 7: According to NHRC at least 14 cases of alleged fake encounter were reported from Jammu and Kashmir in past three years.

Official sources said 14 cases of alleged fake encounter registered by NHRC in militancy-hit Jammu and Kashmir in past three years with the highest 11 cases registered in 2010-11. "No such case has been reported from the state so far this year," they said.

It is pertinent to mention her that a 26-year old youth Naazim Rashid Shalla son of retired police officer Abdur Rashid Shalla of Alamdard Mohalla, Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla

According to the Court it has been further reported by the police that all of the three were released on bail in the open court. "On the same day police had received information from their sources that Umar Qayoom has expired and there were rumours in the area that he was tortured by cops. This led to initiation of proceedings under section 174 CrPC which has not been concluded till date, the police reports reads further, as quoted by the Court.

The complaint of Umar's father had fallen to deaf ears in police and he then decided to approach the court through his counsel advocate Shabir Ahmad. "Yet subsequent complaint was filed by Umar's father on September 6, 2010 in this court and forwarded to SSP Srinagar has also met similar fate," the court has said.

Concluding the merit of the case, the court has found that the enquiry is being conducted by same officer against whom there are serious allegations of torturing the deceased while in his custody.

"The SSP should have taken note of all these facts and entrusted the enquiry to some other police officer, in order to guard the accusations being biased, interested and unfair conduct. It is the duty of the investigating agency to ensure that investigation is conducted in just, free and fair manner with promptitude," the court order reads.

"The court has said that the enquiry officer has maintained a total silence about the complaint filed by the father of the deceased at the earliest and has not taken the trouble to contact and examine the doctors who attended the deceased with regard to the injuries external, internal observed by them during the course of treatment and also to collect the record to that effect."

The judge has finally directed the SSP Srinagar to take charge of the matter and enquire into or get it inquired by officer not below the rank of DySP under his personal supervision and further take necessary action as per the result of enquiry. "Considering the fact that a lot of time has already been wasted, SSP shall make endeavour to complete the enquiry within 15 days and file a detailed report by the next date of hearing," the court has said.

The SHRC chairman said 14 cases had been referred by the government to the Commission for probe. "Three cases were from Islamabad, six from Srinagar and five from Sopore and Baramulla. We went to all these places to record the statements of people and witnesses. Everywhere people recorded their statements without any fear," he said.

On Shopian double 'rape and murder' case, Justice Bashir said, "There is a report pending before the SHRC in the case. But the family members of the victims and Majlis-e-Mushawrat are not coming forward to record their statements. Despite several reminders, they have failed to appear before the commission."

He said SHRC has taken suo-moto cognizance of Sopore custodial death and Kulgam rape cases.

The SHRC chairman pleaded helplessness in implementing the orders passed by the commission. "Our recommendations aren't being implemented in several cases. We don't have powers to implement any recommendations as we are just recommending body to the government," he added.

district died in police custody on July 31. He was picked up by police for questioning on July 30 and subsequently died in police custody.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the government has arrested two policemen allegedly involved in the custodial death of the youth. DySP Sopore has been attached while SP Sopore Altaf Khan was removed from his post.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh has earned the dubious distinction of witnessing the highest number of fake encounters with nearly 120 people being allegedly killed by police in such incidents in past three years.

In the first six months of this year, six persons were killed in the state in alleged encounters and their families have approached the National Human Rights Commission for justice.

In 2010-11, NHRC received complaints that 40 people were killed by security forces in Uttar Pradesh in alleged fake encounters. During 2008-09 and 2009-10, 71 people were killed in the state in alleged fake encounters.

Official sources said there were 369 cases of alleged fake encounters registered by NHRC beginning 2008-09 till June from across the country.

45 YOUTH HELD IN 2-DAYS

CRACKDOWN RETURNS

Aug 9: Police have detained more than 45 youth in Srinagar and south Kashmir during nocturnal raids during the past two days, sources told Greater Kashmir on Tuesday.

They said apart from that, several youth, who were earlier charged for participating in protests, are being called to police stations. A police official working in Old City told Greater Kashmir that they have detained 35 youth in the past two days in different areas falling under their jurisdiction.

"Around 20 protesters were detained on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday midnight from different pockets of the Old City," the officer said. "On August 9 we got their remand from the Court." On the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, the police officer said more raids were carried out and 15 protesters were arrested. "They are in the police lock-up and we have approached court to get their remand," the official said.

The police said the raids were carried out in police stations coming under the jurisdiction of MR Gunj, Nowhatta, Khanyar, Safkadal and Rainawari.

"We have allotted video cameras to each police station. Even CRPF personnel have the cameras. They shoot during the protests and then we identify them," a police officer said. "After identifying, we locate their homes and then go for a night raid. During day it's impossible to get catch them".

The police official involved in the crackdown on protesters admitted that it was more difficult to contain pelters than militants. "We are not sure how to counter this challenge. Militancy was a lesser menace for us," he said.

There are many youth in Old City who are on the run fearing arrest.

On the other hand, a youth who was charged in 2009 for taking part in protests in Safakadal areas said he is being regularly called by the concerned police station.

After Uttar Pradesh, Manipur recorded the second highest number of fake encounter cases during the three-year period -- 16 in 2008-09, 32 in 2009-10, 12 in 2010-11 and one in first half of 2011.

Naxal-hit Chhattisgarh has reported 11 cases of fake encounter in last three years while two other Maoists affected states Jharkhand and Orissa registered 13 and 12 such cases respectively.

Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh -- two relatively peaceful states -- have recorded 15 each cases of alleged fake encounters in the last three years.

West Bengal recorded altogether 23 cases of alleged fake encounters while national capital Delhi recorded six such cases in last three years.

"I am a salesman now. But from past six days, police station people are regularly calling me," a 24 year old youth told Greater Kashmir. "I am not alone. There are more people who are being called to appear in the police station".

He said their family members were worried over the police action. The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Srinagar, Ashiq Bukhari confirmed that they have arrested protesters during past two days- Monday and Tuesday- on charges of stone pelting.

"But I can't divulge the figures," Bukhari said. "We are expecting more arrests". In south Kashmir's Islamabad (Anantnag) town, the police said they have detained five protesters.

"We have arrested five protesters," SSP Islamabad (Anantnag), RK Jhalla said. However, residents said 10 youth have been detained so far. They said the arrests were carried out in Ashajipora, Dangarpura, Malak nag, and Janglat Mandi. "The arrested include an MBA student. He has a project and was about to appear in his internal exams," residents said. "All the arrests were carried during nights". In the morning, small protests broke out in Islamabad against the detention.

Similarly five youth were detained in Ratnipora area of Pulwama district. The residents said during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday police and CRPF swooped on the houses and detained five youth in the village.

"Due to arrests, the youth in entire village are on the run," a resident Farhat Ahmad said. "We have been told those youth were arrested who protested during the recent encounter in Puchal Pulwama".

SP Pulwama, Amit Kumar said they have picked five youth for questioning.

DELHI HIGH COURT UPHOLDS DISMISSAL OF 4 BSF MEN

ACCUSED SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN JAIL

CHUTRUS-GUDRU RAPE CASE

Aug 8: The dismissal of four Border Security Force (BSF) personnel by the government on the charge of raping a woman in Jammu and Kashmir nearly 15 years ago has been upheld by the Delhi High Court.

A bench of justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Sunil Gaur upheld the sacking of the four BSF constables, Narender Kumar, Kaptan Singh, Raj Bahadur Singh and Om Prakash, rejecting their joint plea against their dismissal for raping the woman in 1996.

The four had been sacked by the Union Home Ministry after a General Security Force Court had convicted them for raping the woman, a mother of six children, during their deployment at Sheikhpura village near Chutrus-Gudru, Sallar in district Anantnag on December 23, 1996. The court had also sentenced them to 10 years in jail.

Accepting the testimony of the victim's daughter, the high court bench said the convicts had breached their senior's direction not to go to the houses of the villagers due to the militancy in the area. The High Court noted that despite directions from the superior officer, the four personnel had gone to the house of the victim to make enquiries from her regarding the shop where bidis and cigarettes could be purchased by them.

"The very act of the petitioners of disobeying the directions of their superior officers and going to the house of the prosecutrix on a most flimsy reason when they were fully aware of the fact that no adult male member is present in the house of the prosecutrix (woman) lends credence to the claim of the prosecutrix that the petitioners had committed rape upon her," the bench said.

MILITARIZATION

WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM INDUSTRIAL ESTATES: FCIK

Aug 10: The Federation of Chamber of Industries of Kashmir (FCIK) has urged the Union Home Secretary R K Singh, who is on a two-day

visit to the State, to initiate an immediate withdrawal of troops from industrial estates in the Valley.

FCIK secretary general Nazir Shikari said a meeting of the office bearers of the organization was held. "The members appealed Union home secretary R K Singh to address the issue of evacuation of forces from the Industrial estates in the Kashmir region," he said.

He said more than hundred industrial units in different Industrial estates in Kashmir are under occupation of troops.

"The effected unit holders have requested the concerned authorities time and again to withdraw forces from these units but no action has been taken till date," he said.

Shikari said Industrial Estate Sopore, Industrial Estate zainakote, Industrial Estate Zakura and Industrial Estate Bijbehara are badly suffering due to occupation by troops.

DISLOCATED VILLAGERS RETURN HOME AFTER 10 YRS

Aug 26: It was not less than Eid celebrations for around 244 families of Kerni village along the Line of Control, who returned their homes after ten years in this border district.

Though the return for the border villagers, dislocated due to heightened tension between India and Pakistan army in 2001, started in February this year the process is to be completed in 6 phases.

Official sources said that 244 villagers returned home in the second phase. Earlier 12 families had returned home. Member Legislative Assembly Poonch Aijaz Jan, Commander 93 Bragaid of army Shri Niwasan, DC Poonch Ajeet Kumar Sahu and SP Ashkoor Wani were present on the occasion.

People started returning home after the authorities analyzed the situation and established there is not likely to be any

MIGRATED TO PAK, 2 FAMILIES DENIED PERMISSION TO RETURN

PUSHED BACK BY ARMY

Aug 27: Two families comprising about ten persons, including children, were pushed back by army after it tried to cross over to this side of Line of Control in Nowshera area of Rajouri district, according to officials.

The two families, official said, had migrated to Pakistan administered Kashmir in mid 70's and wanted to return back to their home.

They said that army personnel manning a forward post along the LoC in Lam sector noticed a group of people, including women and children, trying to cross over the border fence, this afternoon.

"Several FCIK delegations have met various ministers and senior civil and police officers in this regard. However, despite repeated assurances, nothing has changed on the ground. Recently a delegation of FCIK met MoS Home Nasir Aslam Wani and apprised him about the hardships being faced by the promoters of these Industrial units. He assured that a speedy action will be initiated for evacuation of these Industrial Estates; however nothing seems to have been initiated till date," he said.

He urged Union Home Secretary R K Singh to discuss this matter with the local command of the forces and the civil administration to initiate an early withdrawal of troops from these industrial estates. "The withdrawal of troops from these estates will provide much needed relief to the unit holders," added Shikari.

problem, and official told media. He said that the border was by and large calm and it was felt that the villager be permitted to return back.

Around fourteen hamlets located on the Line of Control were shifted to safer areas in Poonch sector in view of security constraints, continued Pakistani shelling and firing, in 2001

These hamlets along LoC are located on the zero line and ahead of Army posts and defence setup in Poonch district.

The villagers were living in make shift tented camps from the last ten years after their dislocation.

"We celebrated Eid on Juma-tulvida", a local resident Ghulam Ahmed said adding, "I am at the last stage of my life and I had almost given up hope that I would be able to use my own house and land in my life time again".

"The soldiers preferred not to open fire and instead allowed the suspects to come close to the border out post", an army officer claimed.

He said that the suspects when challenged surrendered and requested the army to allow them to proceed for their homes and they wanted to return back. They claimed to be residents of Fatehpur village and wanted to return, the army officer said.

They identified themselves as Mohammed Ayub, Zahida Bi, Mohammed Qayoom, Nowshen, Sabina, Rabia, Aiza, Mohamed Razak, Mohammed Rizban and Sahzeeb.

However, the army, sources said, denied them the permission and instead pushed them back to the other side of Line of Control.

BRIEFS

> CHILD INJURED IN EXPLOSION

August 1: A child was wounded when an explosive object he was fiddling with went off at Panzwa Vilgam, Handwara.

According to police, the wounded has been identified as Aqib Ahmad Lone son of Muhammad Ashraf. Police said Aqib's hands sustained injuries in the incident, adding the wounded was hospitalized in Government Health Centre Vilgam, Handwara where from he was discharged after given first aid.

> IED EXPLOSION

August 11: An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion was triggered off at Tahab area of Pulwama district last night.

Reports said, unidentified gunmen triggered an IED blast in the compound of Animal Husbandry office at Tahab causing partial damage to a shed, window panes of Animal office and to some nearby shops.

> SECTION 144 IMPOSED IN BLA

> SITUATION UNDER CONTROL IN KASHMIR: DGP

Aug 5: Stating that over 300 militants are waiting to cross into the Valley, Director General of Police (DGP) Kuldip Khoda said situation in Kashmir is totally under control.

August 19: District Magistrate Baramulla has ordered imposition of section 144 CRPC in the district for a period of two months w.e.f 19 August 2011.

In this connection no assembly of congregation shall be allowed without permission by District Magistrate, deputy Magistrate etc. Similarly no person other than security forces shall carry arms weapon etc and no person can use loud speaker without permission.

> CRPF OFFICER ENDS LIFE

Aug 28: An officer of paramilitary CRPF stationed at Pattan, Baramulla, in north Kashmir committed suicide by shooting himself.

Sources said, Raju Chuahan, Assistant Commandant of 45 BN CRPF- A company shot himself dead with his service weapon.

Police have filed an FIR vide no 217, 2011, under section 309 RPC in this case.

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

"There are varying numbers of militants staged on launching pads for infiltrations in J&K. Some guesses have been in the range of 300 militants," Khoda told reporters on sidelines of function.

"There are big success on the counter insurgency and counter infiltrations. There is a decrease of 70 per cent in militancy related incidents in Jammu region as well as decrease in the number of operating militants. However, efforts (to infiltrate) are being made from across the border and instructions are being given to the militants to engineer infiltrations," DGP said.

He said there have been several attempts of infiltration along the border in Kashmir. "These attempts are aimed to push more and more militants to this side before passes get closed," he said adding that due to alertness on the border several militants have been killed.

Khoda said the situation in Kashmir is totally under control but still there were some elements, who on the 'orders of their masters', are trying to keep the pot (militancy) boiling. "The elements who have been operating for more than the past 20 years are not still gone, they get funding from outside. Their job is to keep the pot boiling," he said.

➤ **10 INFILTRATION BIDS FOILED IN 11 DAYS: ARMY**

Aug 7: There has been a spurt in infiltration attempts by militants into Kashmir ahead of the onset of winter with army foiling nearly a dozen such bids at the Line-of-Control (LoC) in less than a fortnight, defence spokesman said.

"In last 11 days, army has detected 10 attempts by militants to cross over to this side of the LoC. Two of the attempts were made last night in Machill sector of Kupwara. The attempts were foiled. There were no casualties," Srinagar-based Defence spokesman Lt Colonel J S Brar said.

He said none of the attempts was successful. "Army has lost five personnel including a Junior Commissioned Officer while five militants were killed in the fierce gunbattles," he said.

He said the infiltration attempts from across the Line of Control started picking up soon after Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hizbul Mujahideen suffered setbacks at the hands of forces, losing some of their top "commanders".

"The first major infiltration bid was in Hyhama area of frontier Kupwara district on July 27 in which a JCO of army was killed while two army men were injured. The infiltration attempt was foiled," Brar said.

He said as per their input, there has been no successful infiltration attempt so far.

"The surge in the infiltration attempts suggested that militants were desperate to sneak into this side. The infiltration has picked up since July, until June we had ensured there was no infiltration attempts and this has led to desperation on their part. Now that the winter is approaching they are making all the attempts to try to come in," the defence spokesman said.

He said militants usually attempt to infiltrate, or exfiltrate, in the summer months when the snow melts over the mountains which are used by the militants to cross over. "Most of the infiltration attempts this summer have taken place in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Until June, the security agencies reported that there was "zero infiltration" from across the LoC," added Brar.

➤ **54 INFILTRATION BIDS IN JK THIS YEAR: GOI**

Aug 9: Government of India (GoI) said at least 54 infiltration attempts by militants have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir till June this year.

"52 infiltration attempts along the Jammu and Kashmir border have taken place till June this year. During last year the number was 489, slightly higher than in 2009 (485)," Minister of State for Home Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha in a written reply.

He said infiltration attempts from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir have shown a marginal increase during the year 2009 and 2010 in comparison with the year 2008.

On ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC), Singh said the number of violations which were 77 in 2008 came down to 28 in 2009 and it further increased to 44 in 2010.

"19 ceasefire violations were reported along LoC up to July this year," he said in a reply to another question.

He said there were no reports of ceasefire violation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Government of India has taken up the issue of ceasefire violations with Pakistan consistently. All such violations of ceasefire are also taken up with Pak military authorities at appropriate level through the established mechanism of hotline, flag meetings as well as weekly talks between the Director General of Military Operations," the minister said.

He claimed that about 2,500 militant are present in launching pads in Pakistan and Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK). "A number of training camps and launching pads are reportedly active in PaK / Pakistan," he added.

➤ **ARMY CANNOT LOWER GUARD ALONG LOC: ARMY**

CHIEF

Aug 11: Stressing that troops must remain vigilant along the Line of Control (LoC), Army Chief General V K Singh said the country cannot afford to lower guard along the borders.

The Army Chief visited forward areas in Akhnoor Sector. He was accompanied by Lt General KT Parnaik GOC-in-C Northern Command and Lt Gen J P Nehra GOC White Knight Corps . The Army Chief was received in Akhnoor by Major General Rakesh Sharma GOC Crossed Swords Division. He was briefed about the ongoing counter infiltration operations on the LoC. He later visited the forward posts in Sunderbani and Palanwala Sectors.

"Troops should remain vigilant and alert (along the LoC in J and K)," General Singh told Army personnel during an interaction with them at forward areas of Pallwanwala and Sunderbani along the LoC in Jammu and Rajouri districts today.

He said the troops need to maintain a high state of morale to overcome the strenuous routine on the LoC. "We cannot afford to lower our guard," he said after reviewing the counter-infiltration measures in place along the LoC with field officers.

The Army Chief also took stock of the various welfare measures initiated for army men and ex-servicemen.

He had arrived in Nagrota yesterday on a two-day visit of forward areas south of Pir Panjal Range.

He returned to Delhi this evening.

➤ **FORCES SHOULD TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: DM**

Aug 14: In the backdrop of alleged fake encounter in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister A K Antony asked armed forces to perform their duties with utmost caution and ensure that human rights are not violated in the state and the northeast.

Addressing the armed forces personnel on the eve of Independence Day, Antony said they must take special care of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir and northeast and other places.

"Bravery is required to deal with militants. At the same time, our armed forces must perform their duties with utmost caution. Armed forces personnel must take special care of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir and northeast and other places," the Defence Minister said.

➤ **'ZERO TOLERANCE' AGAINST HR ABUSERS: CM**

August 15: Omar reiterated his "resolve of zero tolerance" to human rights violations saying those found involved in such practices would be punished.

Referring to custodial killings of a youth, Nazim Rashid, in Sopore and fake encounter killing of an insane person in Surankote, Poonch, Omar said his government has taken prompt action and people involved in these incidents will be punished. However in Kulgam case, Omar said the allegations levelled were found to be incorrect.

A 32-year-old woman had alleged that she was kidnapped by 2-army men on July 19 and raped for two days before being set free, leading to protests in Manzgam area of Kulgam district.

"I appeal to you (people) to give me time to unearth allegations whenever they surface and help my government to bring truth to fore," Omar said.

ON SITUATION

Omar said there is "huge improvement" in situation today compared to last August 15 and people supported his government in maintaining peace.

The CM said taking advantage of peace this year JK is seeing huge rush of tourists. "More than 5.5 lakh tourists have already visited state," Omar said. However he said rush of tourists can not be a measure of peace and vice-versa.

➤ **219 PANDITS KILLED IN JK SINCE 1989: GOI**

Aug 16: The Government of India (GoI) revealed that 219 Kashmiri Pandits were killed and around 58,000 families of the community have left Jammu and Kashmir in last 22 years after the eruption of militancy in the State.

"As per information received from the Jammu and Kashmir government, 219 Kashmiri Pandits were killed in the state since 1989 and 58,697 families are reported to have left their homes due to the eruption of militancy in Kashmir," Minister of State for Home Jitendra Singh told Lok Sabha.

He said the J&K government has registered FIRs in respect of all the incidents which have taken place in the State and taken further action as per law.

Singh said GoI as well as the J&K government have taken all measures to protect the lives and properties of the Kashmiri Pandits

"For facilitating the return of migrants who are willing to return to the Valley, a comprehensive package of Rs 1618.40 crore has been announced in 2008 for return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants," he said.

Singh said J&K government has given employment to 2,120 KP migrants and 1,409 candidates have already joined in various departments of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The state government has enacted 'The J&K Migrants Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restrain of Distress Sales) Act 1997' and 'J&K Migrants (Stay of Proceedings) Act, 1997' to protect and restrain the distress sale of properties left behind in the Valley by the migrants," he added.

➤ **19 TROOPERS AMONG 100 KILLED IN JK THIS YEAR: SINGH**

Aug 16: Revealing that 100 persons including 25 civilians and 19 force personnel were killed in militancy related incidents in Kashmir till July this year, Minister of State for Home Jitendra Singh told Lok Sabha. He said that a total of 100 people have been killed in 202 incidents of militant violence in Jammu and Kashmir till July this year. "The dead includes 25 civilians, 19 forces personnel and 56 militants," he said.

➤ **36 MILITANTS OPERATING IN JAMMU REGION: IGP**

Aug 18: Claiming that militancy is on its last leg in Jammu region IGP Jammu during a press conference asserted that five districts in the region are totally militancy free while thirty-six militants including 27 local and nine foreign mercenaries are operating in other five districts.

However, to a question of winding up of Special Operation Group or Special Striking Reserves (SSRs) from these districts, the officer said that the militancy graph has come down but not gone out totally.

To a question, IGP said that 153 applications under rehabilitation policy has been received by police and positive report in all cases have been sent with no objection to police. "Now it's upon government to decide," he asserted

➤ **GOOD MILITANTS ENSURED SMOOTH YATRA: IG CRPF**

'NOT A SINGLE STONE HURLED DURING PILGRIMAGE PERIOD'

Aug 19: The Inspector General of Central Reserve of Police Force (Operations) Dr B N Ramesh said good elements within the ranks of militants played their role in the conduct of smooth Amarnath Yatra this year.

"If there are good hearted militants they too played their role. They couldn't create much disturbance this time, perhaps they too had intentions of not doing much this time," he said addressing a news conference here.

Commending the locals for the smooth conduct of Yatra, Ramesh said not a single incident of stone-pelting was witnessed during the Yatra period this year.

"Not a single stone was hurled on CRPF or any other vehicle. Although they (youth) carried stones in their hands, but when we appealed they left stones and took decision by their heart and not mind," he said, adding that prior to the pilgrimage CRPF build atmosphere for conducting smooth Yatra.

Replying to a query on whether CRPF had any plans to reduce the bunkers from the towns of the Valley on the pattern of Srinagar, he said that there are no permanent bunkers in Valley except in summer capital.

He said that the bunkers definitely cause inconvenience and are stumbling block to the return of normalcy, but added that concerned Superintendent of Police has to take decision on their removal.

When asked about the presence of dozens of bunkers in Sopore, Ramesh said that the Apple town is a special case requiring special measures.

➤ **AS GOODWILL GESTURE, GOVT WITHDRAWS CASES AGAINST 1200 STONE PELTERS: CM**

Waiting for SHRC final report on

Aug 28: In a significant development, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced withdrawal of 'all cases and charges' against youth involved in at least 1200 cases of stone-pelting in Kashmir "as a goodwill gesture to give them a chance to behave as responsible citizens."

CM made this admission during a press conference in Srinagar. On Nameless graves issue CM said, "we are awaiting the final and formal report from the Commission. They have asked for our views on the matter for our investigative report to be made available to them. I am sure they would factor that into their final report. I would be able to announce course of action only after the final report is made available to the government. As soon as that is done, we will study it and ensure that action is taken that will satisfy concerns of people," he said..

FACT FILE

- * 35 persons serve detention under Public Safety Act
- * 1300 cases registered in past 16 months
- * 92 govt/pvt buildings set ablaze during 2010 protests
- * 62 govt/pvt vehicles set ablaze during 2010 protests
- * 35 persons in police custody, 70 on judicial remand
- * 900 applications under Rehabilitation Policy for Ex-Militants

DATE	TROOPS	MILITANTS	CIVILIANS	OTHERS
Aug 01	-	--	-	-
Aug 02	-	-	-	-
Aug 03	-	1	-	-
Aug 04	-	6	-	-
Aug 05	-	-	-	-
Aug 06	1	-	-	-
Aug 07	-	3	1	-

Aug 08	-	-	-	-
Aug 09	-	-	-	-
Aug 10	-	-	-	-
Aug 11	-	1	-	-
Aug 12	-	-	-	-
Aug 13	-	-	-	-
Aug 14	-	2	-	-
Aug 15	-	-	-	-
Aug 16	-	-	-	-
Aug 17	-	-	-	-
Aug 18	-	-	-	-
Aug 19	-	-	-	-
Aug 20	1	12	-	-
Aug 21	-	1	-	-
Aug 22	-	-	1	-
Aug 23	-	3	-	-
Aug 24	-	-	-	-
Aug 25	1	1	-	-
Aug 26	1	-	-	-
Aug 27	-	-	-	-
Aug 28	1	-	-	-
Aug 29	-	2	-	-
Aug 30	-	-	-	-
Aug 31	-	-	-	-
IN TOTO	5	32	2	0

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Aug 01: A child was wounded when an explosive object he was fiddling with went off at Panzwa Vilgam, Handwara. While a complete shutdown was observed in Sopore, Baramulla and Bandipora towns. Protests were staged in several parts of north and south Kashmir against the killing of a Sopore youth in police custody.

Aug 02: No violent incident reported from any part of the state.

Aug 03: Police said a militant has been killed in an encounter in Butshugni Kawnar Jungle, Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. The identity of the militant was not established.

Aug 04: Three militants were killed in Kupwara, two in Kishtwar and one in Pulwama. The militants killed in Kishtwar were identified as District Commander Habib alias Salman son of Khairdin of village Sarawan Keshwan and his Deputy Irshad Ahmed Kohli son of Jamal Din Gujjar of Kohli Mohalla Chatroo and the militant killed in Puchul Pulwama had been identified as Shakoor Ahmad Teeli alias Abu Bakar of Trich Pulwama of LeT.

Aug 05: Clashes broke out in old city between protesters and police after Friday prayers against the curbs on the movement of Hurriyat (M) Chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, even as the government put all the top separatist leaders under house detention. Protests were witnessed in north and south Kashmir against the custodial death of a youth in Sopore.

Aug 06: An army soldier was killed in exchange of fire with militants near LOC in border district of Kupwara.

Aug 07: Army and police claimed to have killed three top militants of Lashker-e-Toiba in Rjaward forests of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. The militants were identified as Dujanna, Darda and Fahadullah. In another incident a civilian was allegedly killed in fake encounter and passed as militant of LeT by forces. In Srinagar downtown Nowhatta two persons were injured after police and paramilitary troopers burst tear smoke shells to disperse protestors.

Aug 08: No incident of violence related killing was reported from any part of the state.

Aug 09: No incident of violence related killing was reported from any part of the state.

Aug 10: No incident of violence related killing was reported from any part of the state.

Aug 11: One militant was killed in an encounter with troops in a forest in border district of Kupwara.

Aug 12: A youth was injured in clashes between police and protesters in old Srinagar after Friday prayers. He was identified as Sahil Ahmad Khan, 17, son of Ghulam Nabi resident of Zoonimar Soura.

Aug 13: Two rifle grenades were fired by suspected militants in downtown Srinagar area towards a CRPF installation without causing any damage.

Aug 14: Army said two decomposed dead bodies of HM militants were recovered from high altitude of 4,000 meter Badidoke area in Bonja belt of district Kistwar. The deceased were identified as Shahdin Khanday alias Shabir Shah r/o Chilly Balla, Gandoh and Mushtaq Ahmad alias Abu Talla r/o Kithar, Kistwar.

Aug 15: No incident of violence related killing was reported from any part of the state.

Aug 16: No incident of violence related killing was reported from any part of the state.

Aug 17: No incident of violence related killing was reported from any part of the state.

Aug 18: No incident of violence related killing was reported from any part of the state.

Aug 19: No incident of violence related killing was reported from any part of the state.

Aug 20: Twelve militants and an army lieutenant were killed and two soldiers injured as army claimed to have foiled a major infiltration bid near the Line of Control in north Kashmir's Gurez sector. The deceased identified was identified as Navdeep Singh.

Aug 21: One militant was killed, army said, while infiltrating into this part of Kashmir along the LOC in Balonie forward belt in Krishnagti sub-sector Poonch.

Aug 22: A woman, army claimed, died in cross firing in Rajwar forests of Handwara Tehsil of Kupwara district and one civilian injured. She was identified as Saleema Begum, 35, a mother of six children.

Aug 23: Two unidentified militants were killed in an encounter with troopers in North Kashmir's Handwara district and one unknown militant was killed in Gurez sector.

Aug 24: A SPO was fired and injured by unknown gunmen in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. The injured was identified as Javed Ahmad (Belt No. 28/SPO).

Aug 25: A civilian and a BSF man were killed in a grenade blast in Jehlum market of Baramulla town. The deceased were identified as Abdul Gani Gojree son of Muhammad Ahsan of Ganapora, Langate and Havaldar Harish Kumar of 9th battalion of BSF. Abdul Gani, 26, worked as a salesman and is survived by wife and two children. The two other injured were Abdul Hamid of Delina and Y Halder of BSF. In another grenade explosion eleven persons were injured in Batmaloo area of Srinagar district.

Aug 26: An army soldier was killed in an ongoing counter-insurgency operation against militants at Rajwara area in Handwara, Kupwara district, officials said, while violent clashes broke out in Nowhatta soon after the Friday prayers were over at the historic Jamia Masjid. In a separate incident unknown gunmen shot at and critically injured a man in north Kashmir's Sopore area on. The injured has been identified as Mehrajudin Nadroo near Mominabad, Sopore.

Aug 27: No incident of violence reported.

Aug 28: An officer of paramilitary CRPF stationed at Pattan, Baramulla, in north Kashmir committed suicide by shooting himself. The deceased was identified as, Raju Chuahan, Assistant Commandant of 45 BN CRPF- A company.

Aug 29: Two militants were killed in an encounter with soldiers and police in Pulwama district while unidentified gunmen shot at and injured a truck driver in a village in north Kashmir's Sopore area of Baramulla district. The slain militants were identified as, Farooq Ahmad Lone of Kandi Aglar, Pakherpora Budgam, and Ikram Bhai of Pakistan of Jaish-e-Muhammad. A police constable was injured when youth pelted stones on police during the gunfight, reports said.

Meanwhile, Zahoor Ahmad Shah, a resident of Wagub village near Sopore town, was shot at by some unknown gunmen at his house. Shah, who received gunshot wounds, was admitted to a hospital.

Aug 30: No incident of violence reported.

Aug 31: No incident of violence reported.

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