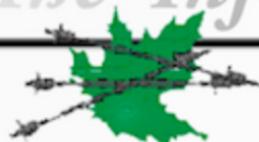


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# The Informative

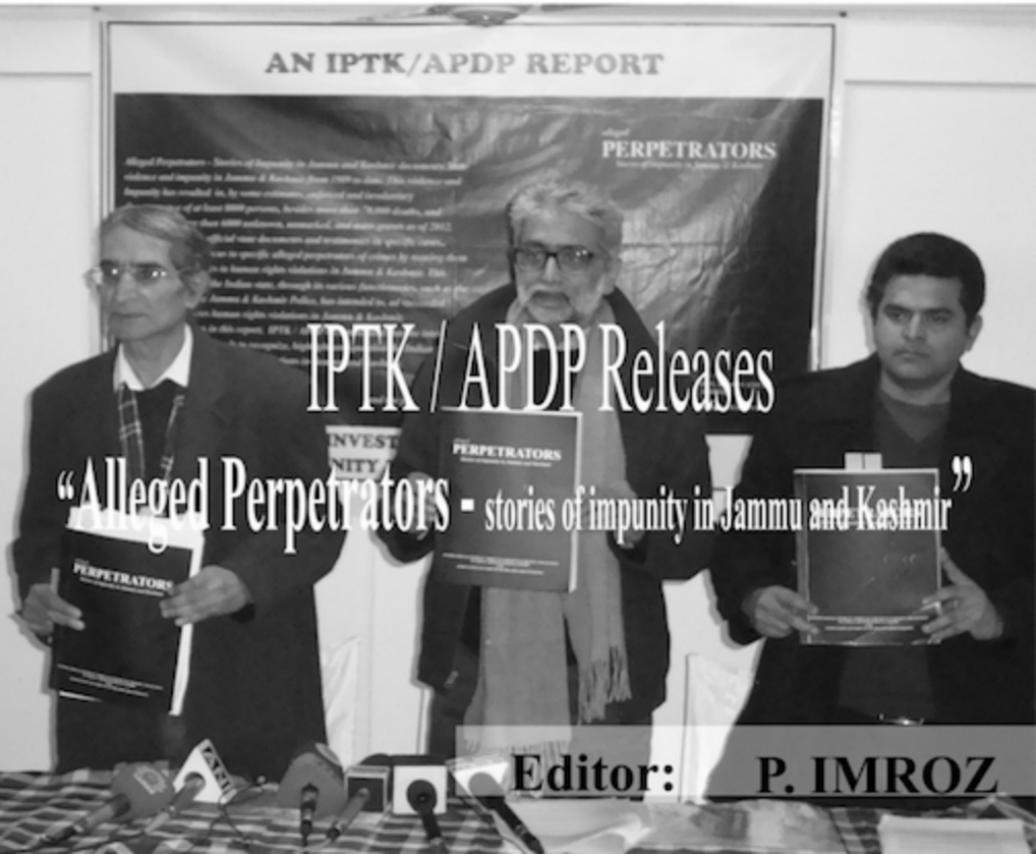


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AN IPTK/APDP REPORT

Alleged  
**PERPETRATORS**  
Stories of Impunity in Jammu & Kashmir

IPTK / APDP Releases

“Alleged Perpetrators - stories of impunity in Jammu and Kashmir”

Editor: **P. IMROZ**

## ALLEGED PERPETRATORS: A BACKGROUND

The idea about the report Alleged Perpetrators was conceived, while fighting cases of human rights violations in different courts of the state. Lots of cases have been filed before the courts where the names of the perpetrators have been mentioned. Blaming state and its institutions for human rights violations without identifying the individual perpetrators has become a fashion. It was felt that to seek the process of accountability for institutional crime, the identities of the individual perpetrators should be made known and brought into public domain.

The report would not have been possible without the help of one volunteer K, who happened to visit Kashmir in 2011. K, who had worked for UN in the Rwandan War Tribunal for 5 years, got first in touch with G at Delhi after reading Buried Evidence, a report on the existence of unmarked and nameless graves in Kashmir. G recommended him to us. K requested CCS to assign him with some voluntary work. It was decided that K would be assigned with the task of the Alleged Perpetrators report. At that time, one could never think that K would work on this assignment for more than a year and stay here of his own. Earlier, the idea was to restrict it to 100 cases and to finish the report within 6 months i.e. to make it public in April or May. But with the passage of time, more cases were followed. The accessibility of more cases encouraged us and finally the report got extended to 214 cases with more names of perpetrators.

K's commitment towards the assignment was inspiring. During his stay in Kashmir, he tirelessly worked on the report. He was provided case files, which were arranged by the legal section of our office from different lawyers. Even he himself visited offices of lawyers for collecting their briefs. At times, he had to pay several visits to collect one case file from a lawyer's chamber. The report was mostly restricted only to those human rights violations where FIRs had been filed and the perpetrators identified. People are generally aware about perpetrators, some accused of indulging in massive killings, which have become household names in localities and valley, but there was no record or FIR registered against them. It needs another study.

For the first time, a volunteer that too an Indian had worked for so long in the office of CCS. With the passage of time, he got obsessed with his assignment. He was first to come to the office and last to leave. He was working tirelessly on his laptop. Though he was applying for new jobs in the UN, he assured us that he will not leave Kashmir until he finished his commitment. His commitment to the task was exemplary for locals. Even in severe cold weather conditions (*Chilia Kalan*), when local activists were warming themselves in cozy comfortable spaces, K was busy working in office without proper heating arrangements. Only once he had to be shifted to a hotel for convenience.

While the report was in progress the new legislation RTI got implemented. It was decided that the information relating to the report should be sought from Public Information Officers (PIOs), so that the report will be more substantive. Applications were filed before the state and federal departments including police and army to obtain relevant information. Through this new legislation some of the information was obtained, however, in majority of the applications the information was withheld. Reasons were given that sharing of information would be prejudicial to public order and would further jeopardize 'peace' in the state. Whatever information was obtained had been incorporated in the report. K with other colleagues, besides preparing the report, pursued appeals filed before the State Information Commission (SIC) and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC). The officials at SIC and SHRC were astonished to see the zeal of this volunteer, a non-Kashmiri, that too an Indian, relentlessly pressing for the petitions *sub judice* before them.

During his stay, K in principle had agreed that there is a need of such report, as for the first time the report of this nature is coming where names of the perpetrators are figured. K did not like references to his commitment or voluntary work and would often say "I do it for my CV".

Finally, the report was prepared and suggestions were sought about the concerns we had. One of the major concerns was how state was going to take this report and what would be its reaction. How state would respond to it being conscious of its sensitivities, as the report was carefully prepared and the reliance was made on official documents like FIR, enquiry reports, findings of the SHRC and official statements. More importantly, the written consents of victims were taken on separate forms, which were obtained without any hesitation. Only in one case, where the name of an officiating IGP figures, a video recording was made. The other concerns which came into discussions were that the state may take legal action citing it as inciting by naming perpetrators and will endanger their security by terming the report a 'hit-list' using killing of a retired Dy. SP. Also the apprehensions were that the report may be banned or suit of defamation may be filed against the authors in different courts.

There were several meetings with friends including a journalist about how to design and what name be given to the report and how to release it. The names, which were earlier suggested were "Chargesheet", "Dispatch Them" "Face of Janus" but finally the consensus was built on "Alleged Perpetrators". The idea of grafting names of perpetrators on the cover page was dropped after disapproval from IPTK associates, who consulted American lawyers and experts in international humanitarian laws. Also for the reasons that it would be 'unethical' and would tantamount to 'taunt and incitement'. Finally, it was agreed upon that the carefully drafted report is already powerful enough and there is no need to give any opportunity to the critics who would be unhappy with this task. At the final stage of the report, it became impossible to avoid phone communications (as routine phones are tapped) regarding the report. However, the government, definitely got sense of it, but not about the content as during communications the word "impunity" was frequently used.

Printing of the report was another challenge. The printing involved Rs. 80,000, a big amount and the suggestions poured in that few copies shall be printed on officer printer and CDs be prepared to distribute to journalists. But it would be ridiculous not to publish the report of such importance. Emailing the report also came into discussion, as downloading the report of 350 pages would be time consuming and discouraging. Somehow, the report was published and the transportation became an issue. From Delhi, G carried 20 copies along with him for its release. Again there was uncertainty whether he would be allowed to enter Kashmir or face deportation like last year on the pretext that his visit would disturb 'peace and tranquility' in the state. We heaved a sigh of relief after hearing from him from his houseboat where he normally used to stay.

On the eve of the release, we received 50 more copies. Before releasing the report an executive summary was drafted and the bullet points were discussed about the press conference. On its release, the Guardian was first to carry the news (of embargoed copy) much to the annoyance of local reporters. The media in Europe and America carried it widely, however, Indian mainstream media chose to ignore it (with an exception of two newspapers), as they did with the mass grave report. Even one local leading newspaper, known for its tilt towards government, buried it inside whereas the other local dailies, besides gave it prominence and wrote editorials about it. Some of the reporters of mainstream Indian media felt frustrated, as they had dispatched it to their offices but the same was not carried. They felt deceived. From Europe few Kashmiris requested for the report.

The copies were emailed to the Chief Minister, State Home Minister, Prime Minister's Office and the official State response was customary, "comments would be made only after going through the report". The army rubbished the report with no supportive arguments. This exercise of naming the perpetrators in Kashmir has jolted the police and army establishments. Never ever in any conflict area in Asian such a report was published where alleged perpetrators were named. PUDR, a Delhi based organization was accused of preparing 'hit list' when it came up with a report "Guilty Men of 1984". The process is likely to continue...

## **IPTK / APDP RELEASES ALLEGED PERPETRATORS, NAMING 500 ALLEGED PERPETRATORS**

On Dec 6, first of its kind, a report Alleged Perpetrators, stories of impunity in Jammu and Kashmir, naming 500 personnel of army, paramilitary and police for their involvement in human rights violations since 1989 was released during a press conference in a local hotel in Srinagar. The report was prepared by two human rights groups International Peoples Tribunal in Indian Administered Kashmir (IPTK) and Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP).

Prepared in two years, the 450-page report titled "Alleged Perpetrators- Stories of Impunity in Jammu and Kashmir," was released by noted human rights activists, Gautam Naulakha, Parvez Imroz, Zaheer-ud-Din, Kartik Murukutla and Khuram Parvez. They said the report had been sent to Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and chief minister, Omar Abdullah, so that the perpetrators could be punished but expressed no hope adding "the Indian system of delivering justice will not pave any way to bring perpetrators to justice."

While talking to the media persons Kartik said, "The latest report is evidence not of failure of the Indian State in delivering justice but its success in ensuring impunity, through a sophisticated, constant lowering of standards in justice delivery system where the quest for justice is reduced to a matter of minor victories like getting an FIR lodged," said Kartik Murukutla, a human rights lawyer and one of the authors of the report. "Even if the state wanted to prosecute the guilty, what will it prosecute them for in absence of the required legislation or law," he asked.

"Our search for truth and justice has taken a step forward with this report," noted human rights activist, Gautam Navlakha, told the press conference. "At a time when India is bidding for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, it is imperative to bring this report on international arena," he said.

"With this report, one can point out that seeking justice under Indian justice system is not possible because crimes committed in J&K are beyond the realm of Indian justice system. Therefore, it is essential to seek justice from international justice system,"

Asked about the expected results of making the report public, Navlakha said, "It is to make the people aware and to bring the authorities to shame as we believe that victims are to gain from that climate."

IPTK convenor advocate Parvez Imroz said the report was in continuation of his work on the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir. However, he said the significance of the report was that it negates the claims of aberrations made by the government.

"Human rights violations in Kashmir are not aberrations as the state says. It is institutional and systematic. And the worst forms are legal impunity, moral and political impunity," he said.

Imroz said that the state was maintaining that the rule of law was prevalent in the state. However, on the contrary, he said, the state was awarding and rewarding

the perpetrators of violence. "So it was very important to report so that we can expose the lies of the state."

The report used information gleaned mostly from official documents and witness testimonies and portrayed the state of impunity prevalent in the state and seeks a process of accountability for institutional criminality established under international criminal law. The state documents it relies upon include records of police, judicial and quasi-judicial and government agencies obtained by using the Right to Information Act.

In the 214 cases the two organizations have examined, the report claimed, a list of 500 individual perpetrators, had emerged. They include 235 army personnel, 123 paramilitary personnel, 111 Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel and 31 government-backed militants / associates. Among them are two Major Generals, three Brigadiers, nine Colonels, three Lieutenant Colonels, 78 Majors and 25 Captains of the Indian Army. This list includes 37 senior officials of federal paramilitary forces, a recently-retired director-general of police and a serving inspector-general.

"The official designations of the alleged perpetrators and the geographical spread of the crimes committed against the people of Jammu and Kashmir indicate a decisive will of the Indian state, carried out by its functionaries as part of a policy," the press released distributed to media read, listing the rights abuses, including killings, massacres, arson, torture, rapes and custodial disappearances.

The report referred to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court [ICC], to assert that the focus of international law had gradually shifted from general responsibility for crimes (like that of the state) to individual perpetrators.

The report contains details of the places, dates, times of incidents along with their present status. The activists mentioned several specific incidents, including the one in which an Army Major, two senior police officials and four other personnel had brutally murdered 19 persons, including eight children, of three families in 1998.

The report read, the cases presented in the report alleged there was a policy not to investigate or prosecute the armed forces for human rights abuses. "There is an occasional willingness to order compensatory relief, but not to bring the perpetrators to justice. On the contrary, alleged perpetrators of crimes are awarded, rewarded and promoted," it said.

Despite occasional "strong orders" being passed by judiciary, the report referred to cases where, it alleged, the High Court had "effectively condoned" continuation of violations. "The general experience in Jammu and Kashmir has been that judicial and quasi-judicial authorities such as the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) have allowed themselves to be conscious of the power and will of the executive, thereby rendering themselves subservient

to the state," it said, adding the impunity fostered thus had been compounded by the existence of draconian laws like Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 1990.

"Based on the information before it, IPTK/APDP cannot conclusively pronounce on the guilt of any of the alleged perpetrators, but it is clear that enough evidence exists to warrant further investigations and prosecutions. However, in the absence of any institutional or political

**AFAD LAUDS IPTK/APDP FOR ALLEGED PERPETRATORS REPORT  
URGES GOVT. OF INDIA TO DELIVER JUSTICE**

December 11: Asian Federation Against Enforced Disappearances (AFAD), a regional federation of human rights organizations working directly on the issue of enforced disappearances lauds the release of the research "Alleged Perpetrators - Stories of Impunity in Jammu and Kashmir," painstakingly undertaken by the International Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-Administered Kashmir [IPTK] and the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons [APDP].

This landmark study, a compilation of stories of 214 cases of human rights violations where 500 individual members of the Indian army, police, para-military and State supported militants are identified perpetrators will serve as important ground for the families and relatives of

will to take the evidence to its natural conclusion- a trail where the crime and guilt of perpetrator can be proven beyond reasonable doubt- the Indian State - stands indicted," they said.

Before widening-up the press conference - a questions answer session was held during which journalists interacted with the IPTK/APDP representatives about the report.

Persons (APDP), a founding member-organization of AFAD, have been demanding for truth on the whereabouts of their disappeared children. They have been living in anguish and pain. Justice has been so elusive with the continued denial of the Indian government. Worse still, cases continue to happen with each passing day.

The Indian government signed the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on 6 February 2007. It committed to uphold the rights of disappeared persons and their families. The AFAD calls on the Indian government, which boasts itself as the biggest democracy in the world, to be true to its commitment and swiftly act on this long-drawn issue.

The victims and their families have been waiting

**PUDR WELCOMES STUDY ON 'ALLEGED PERPETRATORS'**

Dec 26: Peoples Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) has welcomed the release of the study "Alleged Perpetrators" by the International Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Kashmir (IPTK) and Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) on the culture of impunity ubiquitous in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, PUDR acknowledged that this was the first ever study in India which has broken the cover of anonymity which protects the perpetrators by raising the principle of 'individual criminal responsibility' which is well established under International Criminal Law starting with Nuremburg Trials and several UN tribunals.

"The study exposed the state of impunity through a study of 214 cases, using information garnered from official State documents."

"The documents include FIRs, statements before police and/or magistrates, police final reports, High Court petitions, objections, other documents forming a part of the court record such as compliance reports, status report, judicial enquiries, SHRC documents from complaints to objections, police submissions and final orders."

victims of enforced disappearances and other victims of human rights violations to demand accountability from the Indian government. The study clearly points to a high level of command decision, given the involvement of top ranking officers of the Indian Army, the highest of them a Major General. If used to the full, it will go a long way towards the unveiling of the truth, the prosecution of perpetrators, reparation for victims and the non-repetition of human rights violations in this paradise lost.

The AFAD calls on the Indian government to address the issue of impunity conducted against the people of Jammu and Kashmir. For many years now, members of the Association of the Parents of Disappeared

**INDIA MUST INITIATE IMPARTIAL PROBE INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE IN ALLEGED PERPETRATORS  
REPORT: AMNESTY**

Dec 11: Amnesty International on December 11 issued a statement urging the Govt. of India for taking responsibility and to initiate an independent investigation into the allegation made in the report. The AI statement

for justice for so long now. If the Indian government asserts itself as a rising force in the global political arena and a bastion of democracy at that, it must show its capacity to respect, promote and defend human rights of its citizens and fulfil its international obligations.

Break impunity in Jammu and Kashmir!

Justice for the victims of enforced disappearances NOW!

Signed and authenticated by:

Mugiyanto

Chairperson

and

Mary Aileen Diez-Bacalso

Secretary-General

read, "Indian authorities must take responsibility and initiate independent, impartial prompt and efficient investigations into serious allegations of human rights violations in Jammu & Kashmir. Two Srinagar-based

human rights organizations released a comprehensive report detailing these allegations on 7 December. The Indian central government and J&K state must bring to justice, in fair proceedings, anyone, irrespective of rank, pointed by such independent investigations as suspected of offences related to these violations. The authorities must also provide reparations to victims of human rights violations in the region and their families."

Further the statement says, Laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1990 and Disturbed Areas Act, 1990 and J&K policing practices shielded by such laws have long fostered a culture of impunity in the region for security forces. It is imperative that the authorities hold those responsible for human rights violations accountable, to ensure justice and combat this culture of impunity.

Amnesty International said that it is not in a position to comment on specific allegations within reports by other organizations. However, the Amnesty International said, it does share the general human rights concerns documented and discussed in the report, "Alleged Perpetrators - Stories of Impunity in Jammu and Kashmir" prepared by the International Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-Administered Kashmir (IPTK), and the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP)," said Raheela Narchoor, Amnesty International India's Jammu & Kashmir Researcher.

The report, largely based on official documents, lists 214 key pending cases of human rights violations and seeks to identify the roles of 500 alleged perpetrators, 235 members of India's armed forces, 123 paramilitary personnel, 111 Jammu and Kashmir police officers and 31 members of armed militias allegedly sponsored by the state agencies, in these violations. The cases examined by the report include 125 extrajudicial executions, 65 enforced disappearances and instances of torture, including rape and other sexual assault.

The goal of the report, according to the authors, is to strip away the "mask of the institution" and hold individuals accountable for human rights violations they have committed, a strategy they say has increasingly become an important aspect of international human rights law. They also call upon the international community to intervene where domestic processes in J&K and in India have failed.

The armed forces issued a response to the release of the report saying that it is "highly biased and motivated." They have stated that the report is "merely a collation of unsubstantiated allegations aimed at maligning the Army."

Amnesty International urges the J&K and central governments, to address what appears to be overwhelming evidence compiled in the report that judicial inefficiencies and draconian laws have facilitated an atmosphere in which individual officials cannot be held accountable for offences involving human rights violations.

Impunity in Jammu and Kashmir, which has witnessed a two decade-long armed insurgency, has been well documented. Members of both the state forces and non-state armed groups fighting the state are yet to be held accountable for hundreds of alleged human rights violations, Narchoor said.

Impunity in J&K is also pervasive. There is a lack of political will among political and security force leaders to hold civilian and in particular military officials accountable even in well-documented cases. Amnesty International, is concerned that even the exhaustive compilation of evidence by IPTK will fail to lead to prosecution as the Central Government has been reluctant in the majority of cases to grant sanctions to prosecute. [1] Of the cases already identified by official investigating agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, sanction has only been granted to a scant few, and others have been pending for years.

"In one of the latest instances in August 2012, the state authorities sent a communication to the state human rights commission in which they expressed reluctance to act on the commission's recommendation to identify those buried in the 2,100-odd unmarked graves found in north Kashmir after they had allegedly been killed in combat with Indian security forces. The commission managed to identify 574 bodies as those of local villagers disproving earlier official claims that all the bodies were those of foreign militants trying to cross over to India," she said.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions has noted that the state government of J&K was as reluctant as the central government to address allegations of serious human rights violations despite the presentation of comprehensive and credible evidence.

Amnesty International has repeatedly pointed out that the AFSPA violates Indian constitutional law and international human rights law, not least the right to life (Constitution, Article 21; ICCPR Article 6) and the right to remedy (ICCPR, Article 2(3)), and called for its repeal. However, India's authorities have been reluctant to repeal the AFSPA, despite longstanding demands from both domestic and international human rights organizations as well as concerns expressed and calls made by UN human rights monitoring bodies, including Special Rapporteurs who have visited India during the last two years.

## **BANDIPORA FAKE ENCOUNTER POLICE CLOSE CASE, INDICTS ARMY INFORMER**

**Dec 22:** Police have closed the investigation into the Aloosa 'staged encounter' case in which a 19-year old youth, Hilal Ahmed Dar, was killed on July 25 this year. Police have cited lack of "further evidence" as one of the main reasons to close the case.

Interestingly police in its final report have said the victim Hilal Ahmad Dar was killed by an Army source Muhammad Ramzan alias-Rameez in a fake encounter in Bandipora in north Kashmir. "The investigation has been closed as no further evidences are available," Police investigation states. However, the police investigation didn't mention about how Hilal was captured and killed. There is also no mention of army's role and how samples sent to Forensic Lab were distorted?

"Earlier Army unit was not cooperating, now they have replied some vital questions, which should be treated as final evidence, hence investigation stands closed," final supplementary closure report reads.

Police had filed the final (supplementary) report (No.2776/5A/012/PSB on 23rd Nov, 2012. Police in its earlier reports had mentioned that Army unit had not cooperated during the course of investigation. However, in its final report Police have 'acquitted' the Army.

Police have inducted two accused- Muhammad Ramzan alias Rameez -an Army Informer and Nazir Ahmed Bhat. The investigation, according to police, had revealed that Hilal was killed by an Army Source- Rameez in lieu for money, who procured two guns from Commanding Officer of 27 Rashtriya Rifles, a charge denied by Army.

During intervening night of July 24-25, 2012, Hilal Ahmed Dar of Lahipora Aloosa was killed allegedly in a fake encounter at Ashtangoo here in north Kashmir. It was suspected that Hilal was tortured before he was shot dead. Presence of a rusted gun near the body suggested that a conspiracy was hatched to eliminate the victim.

Hilal's killing had triggered massive protests in Bandipore and other adjoining areas, under pressure Police lodged an FIR No. 143 U/S 302/34 RPC and arrested two persons Nazir Ahmed Bhatt and Muhammad Ramzan -an Army source- in connection with the killing.

Meanwhile, parents of the deceased are visiting offices of the various investigating agencies with the hope that they would get justice. They alleged that a "conspiracy" was hatched to kill their son. "We have lost our innocent son. We want guilty should be punished," said Ghulam Mahiudin Dar father of the deceased.

Stating that various parties in the case were trying to soften the case, a relative of Hilal said: "Various parties approached us with offers but we refused to take back or soften the case."

Investigations revealed that there was a close contact between Army informer and Army unit over phone this has been proved from the multi page call

history sought by Superintendent of Police from the mobile company.

In its first closure report, the investigating team has revealed that the Hilal was killed by an Army source (One of the accused) in exchange for money. However, the searches would continue. If anything comes to the knowledge, the investigation shall be reopened."

The documents reveal that Army initially admitted that main accused in the case Rameez Ahmed is their source who informed them about the presence of militants in the area during the intervening night of July 24-25.

It has come to light that the main accused Muhammad Ramzan alias Rameez had hatched the fake encounter conspiracy in nexus with the CO-27 RR and fired upon Hilal during the staged encounter. The paper further revealed that Hilal was first captured by the Army then he was fired upon.

"On the intervening night of July 24 and 25 we got specific information from our source Rameez, an ambush was laid at Ashtingo, we noticed the movement of three persons they started firing towards us and in retaliation one person got killed. He was identified as Hilal Ahmed Dar," Army personnel had stated during investigation.

One of the senior Army Officer Naufil Kumar (No. IC 89080P) during earlier stages of investigation had admitted that they received the information about presence of militants in the area from Rameez the main accused, corroborating the statements of two accused.

Though Army outrightly denied that it had provided any weapon to their informer Rameez-main accused in the case, however, Rameez- during investigation admitted that he procured guns from commanding Officer of 27 RR.

While recording his statement under section 164 (recording of confession and statement) under CrPC, Rameez had confessed that he procured two guns and 3 magazines from Gill CO 27 RR. He called Hilal and Nazir to Radnaar Ashtangoo on July 24 evening and informed Army about presence of militants in the area. He further confessed that Army had first captured Hilal alive.

Recording of confession and statement read as ".....I unanimously got two guns and three magazines from CO 27 RR K S Gill, which I gave to Nazir Ahmed (another accused) and Hilal Ahmed. Followed by a plot, I asked both of them to reach Radnaar (encounter site) along with weapons and informed Army about militant movement in the area, then Major Nikal of Malangam camp informed me on Phone No 9797792410 that they have captured Hilal alive...."

However, another accused, Nazir Ahmed has confessed that it was Rameez who fired upon Hilal, at the encounter site.

Stating that they had not provided any gun or money to their informer Rameez, Army in a

letter (No.182/PA dated October 26, 2010, said that they have only talked to Ramaez on phone and had never made any commitment to him for killing anybody.

"Yes, he was one of our source, we received information from him and ambush was laid on the basis of the tip-off provided by him on 24 July" Army letter reads.

"...Not at all. No weapon of any kind was provided by this unit to any source at any time. Nor, he has ever visited our headquarters. Communication with this source was on mobile phone only," letter reads.

The report of Ballistic Division of Forensic Science

Laboratory has proved that the AK-47 was used but no finger prints were found on the weapon.

The reports bearing Number FSL/51-FP/Sgr and FSL/27-Bal/Sgr Dated 11-08-2012, reads as ".....the exhibit H-343/2012(recovered gun) has not been properly packed....."No finger prints have been discerned/detected on exhibit H-343/2012(recovered gun)....."

Talking to media Deputy Inspector General Rajesh Kumar said: "The investigation in the case has been closed". However, DIG refused to comment, when asked about role of the Army in the case.

### **15 INJURED IN PULWAMA FIRING**

**FOUR CRITICAL \*GOVERNMENT ORDERS MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY \*CURFEW CLAMPED IN MAIN TOWN  
\*EXERCISED RESTRAINT: ARMY**

**Dec 28:** At least 15 civilians were injured, four of them critically, after forces allegedly resorted to indiscriminate firing on the protesters at two different places in this south Kashmir district on Friday. The firing initially took place in Bubgam (Chandgam) village, where an encounter between militants and forces had occurred, and later at the Main Town. The incident triggered massive protests in the district following which the authorities clamped curfew in Pulwama town and some of its adjoining villages. Meanwhile, the Government ordered a magisterial probe into the incident.

Witnesses said people from Bubgam (Chandgam) and its adjoining villages held protest demonstrations and tried to march towards the encounter site. However the forces, they alleged, resorted to indiscriminate firing on the protesters, resulting in injuries to seven protesters.

The encounter started early December 28 morning after a joint team of Police, CRPF and Army laid siege around Chandgam village and engaged in a gun-fight with two militants holed up there. The encounter, police said, ended after several hours, resulting in killing of both the local militants of the LeT outfit.

"People in large numbers from Chandgam and its adjoining villages raised anti-India and pro-freedom slogans and tried to move towards the encounter site peacefully. However they were stopped by police and the paramilitary forces who fired indiscriminately on the protesters," the locals alleged. They said seven protesters received bullet injuries in the firing.

"After sometime, we were rushing the injured to the district hospital when the forces again fired at us near main Chowk Pulwama, causing injuries to more civilians," the witnesses said.

The injured were shifted to district hospital Pulwama. A medico there said 11 persons with bullet injuries were rushed to Srinagar hospitals while four persons with teargas canister injuries were being treated there.

Some of the injured have been identified as Muhammad Yaseen Bhat son of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat of Chit Parraypora; Ashiq Ahmad Mir son of Bashir Ahmad Mir of Nawnagri Barzulla; Jahangir Ahmed Mir son of Bashir Ahmad Mir of Nawnagli; Gowhar Ahmad Mir son of Ghulam Muhammad Mir of Nawnagli; Imran Bhat son of Abdul Rehman of Bathinoora; Showkat Ahmad Mir son of Ghulam Muhammad Mir of Nawnagri; Younis Ahmad Mir son of Parviez Ahmad Mir of Arimula; Imran Ahmad son of Abdul Rahim of Bathinoor and Suhail Ahmad Malik son of Muhamad Shafi Malik (16) of Bandizuwa village.

The injured were admitted to the SMHS and Bone and Joints Hospital in Srinagar while two of the critically-injured, Imran and Suhail Malik, a 10th class student who have received bullet injury in head, are being treated at SKIMS Soura.

The Assistant Commissioner of Revenue (ACR), Shopian also reportedly sustained minor injuries in the clashes while a cop identified as Riyaz Ahmad was also injured.

#### **POLICE VERSION**

The police however claimed that the protesters "attacked a vehicle carrying an injured Army Major to hospital, with stones."

"When the army Major was being evacuated for treatment, a mob attacked the ambulance by hurling stones at it. In the retaliatory action, seven persons were injured. Six injured have been moved to Srinagar hospitals," a police spokesman said.

However, one of the injured Showkat Ahmad Mir, who has received bullet in his stomach, said that security forces opened "indiscriminate fire in Bubgam area."

Showkat, who lives in adjacent village Nownagri, said two stray bullets hit one of his relative Jehangir Ahmad at Nownagri, one km from Bubgam.

"When we were carrying Jehangir in a Sumo vehicle, Army opened fire at our vehicle at Pulwama Chowk, injuring three persons including me," he said.

Mir, who is admitted in the SMHS hospital Srinagar, said: "We were carrying an injured in our

vehicle which only tried to overtake the Army vehicle. So there was no justification for Army to open fire." Jehangir has received three bullet injuries.

The staff at the district hospital Pulwama alleged that the forces went berserk and thrashed them. "As the injured were being treated in the hospital, the forces forcibly entered the hospital and after smashing the vehicles parked at the hospital premises ransacked the hospital and thrashed the doctors, paramedical staff and nurses," said one of the doctors.

#### **GOVT ORDERS MAGISTERIAL PROBE**

Curfew was today imposed in Pulwama town of south Kashmir following clashes between protesters and security forces after the death of two militants in a gunfight.

"Curfew has been imposed in Pulwama town as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order," Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Shafat Noor told reporters.

He said there was apprehension of protests after the December 28 congregation prayers, necessitating the imposition of prohibitory orders in the town.

Noor said a magisterial inquiry will be conducted into the incident that led to the firing by security forces in the town and consequent injuries to the civilians.

#### **SHRC TO INVESTIGATE 1990 GAW KADAL MASSACRE 'REPORT TO BE COMPLETED IN 2-MONTHS'**

**Dec 26:** In a significant development, the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) ordered an inquiry by its investigation wing into the 1990 Gaw Kadal massacre here in which 51 people were killed in firing allegedly by paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force.

The investigation in the case which was closed by police as "untraced" in mid-nineties would be conducted by the Superintendent of Police of the Commission's police investigation wing.

"He will submit his report within two months," said member SHRC Rafiq Fida.

The order was passed by the Commission's division bench comprising JA Kawoos and Fida on a petition filed by International Forum for Justice/Human Rights Forum. It has fixed February, 26, 2013 as next date of hearing of the case.

Fida said the inquiry was ordered after officials from the state government failed to respond to the Commission's notice for successive eight hearings to submit their report over the incident.

"We had sought complete report from the Director General of Police, state Home Secretary and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar on the case but there was no response from their side," Fida said.

The SHRC had warned the respondents (state) that if they failed to come with their report the Commission would be forced to go for its own investigation.

The enquiry shall be conducted by Additional District Magistrate Pulwama who has been asked to furnish the report within 15 days.

#### **ARMY VERSION**

A senior Army official of 15 Corps told media that on receipt of specific intelligence input about presence of two armed militants in village Bubgam in Pulwama, a joint operation was launched by soldiers of 55 RR, 182 Bn CRPF and SOG in the wee hours of 28 December, resulting in killing of both the militants." During the course of the operation two Army officers and one policeman sustained injuries," the officer said.

The officer said one of the Army casualties had "sustained life-threatening gunshot wound and required immediate medical attention." "Accordingly he was being jointly evacuated in an Army Ambulance escorted by a police vehicle. On its way to Base Hospital Srinagar, the ambulance was attacked at Pulwama by a group of 500 to 600 people. They resorted to heavy stone pelting," the officer said, adding that "due to deteriorating condition of the casualty and to ward-off the threat from the group of people, warning shots were fired in the air by the escort."

He said: "It was later learnt that seven civilians have suffered injuries. Despite provocation, Army exercised utmost restraint in the entire operations," the officer added.

"It will be an independent inquiry which will go into the details of the case," Fida said.

In Kashmir's recent political history Gaw Kadal was the first massacre which took place after New Delhi had appointed Jagmohan as the Governor of J&K when valley would witness frequent and massive anti-India protests.

Eyewitness and survivors of the massacre continue to allege that CRPF opened firing on thousands of peaceful protesters.

Though the official figure put number of fatalities at 21, the human right groups say 50 persons were killed in the massacre.

Following the incident the government had clamped curfew for many days to curb the ensued public anger.

On the same day police registered an FIR 3/90 at Kral Khud Police Station under RPC 307, 148, 149, 188 and 153.

However the police records mentioned that on January 21, an "unruly mob" raising anti-India and anti-forces slogans was heading towards Lal Chowk and the security forces tried to stop the crowd near Gaw Kadal. The crowd, the police records mention, instead of dispersing started pelting stones at government buildings and security force personnel and "tried to snatch weapons" from them.

"The security personnel responded with firing resulting in some deaths and injury to some persons," the records mention.

For years human right groups have been demanding that the cases should be re-opened to provide justice to the families of the victims.

"Not only was the case closed as untraced many of the injured and killed ones were shown as accused in the case," said human right activist Khuram Parvez.

### **DISABLED GIRL BOOKED FOR STONE PELTING**

CHARGED WITH ATTEMPT TO MURDER, DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

**Dec 22:** Police on December 21 detained 17- year old disabled girl for her alleged involvement in stone pelting during the 2010 summer unrest in Anantnag district. She was booked under attempt to murder and other serious offences. However, she was released on December 22 (Saturday) after court granted interim bail to her.

Police on December 21 detained, Zahida Akhtar daughter of Ghulam Ahmad Dar of Batengoo area here in south Kashmir. "Zahida was summoned by the police to the Saddar Police Station, Islamabad on the pretext that they had to seek some information regarding the bullet injury she received in 2010 but was later detained by them," said the family members.

They said that her brother who accompanied her to the police station was told by the cops there that she has a case of stone pelting pending against her and would be released only after getting bail. They said that Zahida had received a bullet injury in her leg when the forces fired upon the funeral procession of Maroof Ahmad Nath during the 2010 summer agitation.

The body of Maroof Nath was fished out from the river Jehlum days after he had drowned in it while being chased away by the forces. The forces had fired on the funeral procession of the deceased at two different places resulting into the killing of Bilal Ahmad Najar and Noor-ul-Amin Daggia while others including Zahida received bullet injuries. Pertinently, a case stands registered against the two deceased persons as well as the injured in this connection. "Zahida has been also been booked under same charges as those of deceased and other persons who were injured on that day," sources said.

Police said that Zahida was involved in stone pelting during the 2010 summer unrest.

"Zahida was involved in stone pelting during the 2010 summer unrest and was booked under various charges including attempt to murder," a police official told media.

He said that a case FIR no 355/2010 US 307, 148, 149, 188, 336, 427 RPC and ¾ Prevention of Public Property Act stands registered against the girl.

However, the family members contest the police claim saying that she was implicated on frivolous grounds.

He accused successive state governments of scuttling the investigation into the case.

However Khuram says the SHRC decision would raise hope among families of the victims about reopening of the case.

"But we fear, like in the past, government will overrule the SHRC recommendations in this case too," Khuram said.

"My daughter has never been involved in stone pelting and on the day she received bullet injury she had gone to her relatives house in Islamabad when the funeral procession was fired upon," said Zahida's mother.

She said that since then Zahida is on medication and cannot walk without any support. "My daughter cannot spend a single moment without me. I don't know how she has would have spent the whole night in the Police Station, where there are only male inmates," said Mukhtee.

She alleged the policemen did not even allow them to provide her medicines and blanket.

"Though her sister was allowed to accompany her only after we pleaded to the cops but I am worried about her and could not sleep the whole night," said Mukhtee.

The family lives in abject poverty in a small muddy house.

"My husband and me are both aged and ailing. Our sons who live separately toil hard to support us as well as their own families," said she.

Zahida's brother Adil Dar said: "I don't know what my ailing sister has done that she has suddenly become threat to the state."

He said that his sister is only 17 and was in 7th standard when she received the bullet injury. "Zahida could not pursue her studies further as she was rendered handicapped due to the bullet injury and was forced to leave her studies midway," said Adil.

"If mourning the death of your loved ones killed in forces firing is a crime then the government should punish all the Kashmiris," said Adil.

He said that it is a matter of shame that even our sisters are being booked on "false charges." Meanwhile reports said that Zahida was released on Saturday evening after her family members managed to get interim bail.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Anantnag, RK Jalla when contacted said, "The girl had a case of stone pelting of 2010 registered against her and was hence arrested."

He said the girl was released on bail on Saturday. Asked about the age of the girl the SSP said that she was 25.

### **FAMILY QUESTIONS POLICE CLAIM**

### OUR SON NOT A MILITANT: PARENTS

**Dec 22:** Rebutting the police claim that the boy arrested in Raipora Palhallan is involved in the killing of a Sarpanch, the family of boy has accused the police of falsely implicating their son.

Police on December 21 said it arrested Altaf Ahmad Ganai of Raipora Palhallan and claimed that the boy was involved in the killing of a Sarpanch at Palhallan this year.

Dismissing the police charges, the family said that forces are deliberately resorting to harassment by arresting innocents on false charges.

"In September this year, police arrested Nasir Molvi from Palhallan area and claimed that he is involved in the killing of Sarpanch and now they have devised one more story. We fail to understand the motive behind these repeated claims by security forces," said a relative of Altaf.

Pleading his innocence, the family said that their son is hardly 14-year old and can't kill anyone.

Terming the forces' claim of arresting the youth on December 19 baseless, the father of the arrested youth said that he was not arrested by the forces "but we handed him over to the STF Pattan after they sought his presence in the camp for some investigation purpose."

"I was called by the STF authorities of Pattan camp on December 8. After some time, they insisted me to get my son Altaf for some enquiry purposes and assured me that he will be released soon. However, he was not released and instead wrongly implicated in the Sarpanch's killing case," said Abdul Hamid Ganaie.

"He left his studies just one year back and was employed in a nearby mobile shop in Raipora village. He was never involved in any subversive activity," he said.

"We both were together, miles away from the place of occurrence of the incident. How can a person be present simultaneously at two places," questions Ghulam Mohiudin, his another relative.

When contacted, a police official said the militant outfits have changed their strategy and instead of taking youths across the border are providing them light training in the valley itself so that they remain within the society and carry out their activities without being noticed.

"The arrested youth has been detained after prolonged investigation. His involvement in the killing of Sarpanch in October this year at Palhallan has been established and he has admitted his hand in the killing," said the official.

### AMNESTY DEMANDS RELEASE OF KASHMIRI MINOR

**Dec 1:** Amnesty International has expressed "deep concern" over the continued detention of a 16-year-old Kashmiri boy Danish Farooq who was arrested by the police on charges of stone-pelting on November 19.

"After three days of arbitrary detention in police custody without any legal grounds, he was produced in court, which ordered his release on bail. Before any release Farooq was re-arrested on November 23 under sections 307, 285, 336 of the RPC for 'attempt to murder' for his alleged involvement in a petrol bomb attack. According to latest reports, he remains in police custody and it is unclear when he will appear before the local court in Srinagar," Amnesty said in a statement mailed to Kashmir Reader Friday.

Danish's family has been denied the right to communicate with him or see him, and is currently unaware of his condition, the statement said.

Police told the family that Danish will not be presented in court within the required time period set by law, but will keep him in custody for two months. He has not had access to a lawyer during this time, it said.

Amnesty International called on the J&K police to end Danish's arbitrary and unlawful detention, and either release him or produce him immediately before a magistrate. "If a court decides that he has to remain in detention, Danish Farooq must be moved to a juvenile detention home and be granted all the safeguards and protections guaranteed to children by the CRC and for judicial proceedings to go forward in accordance with international human rights law. He should also be granted, without delay, access to his family, and they should be kept informed of his whereabouts and condition, as well as access to a lawyer of his or his family's choice," it said.

"Amnesty International also urges the J&K authorities to halt the practice of arbitrary detentions in the state, in particular of children. Amnesty International reiterates its call to the J&K government to amend the Juvenile Justice Act to bring it into line with the CRC."

### 'REVOLVING DOOR DETENTIONS' UNDER PSA CONTINUE IN JK

ACT REAPPLIED ON 46 PERSONS IN 2 YEARS

**Dec 13:** Notwithstanding growing criticism from rights bodies over the 'revolving door detentions' in Jammu and Kashmir under the controversial Public Safety Act, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has revealed that 46 persons were re-detained under the Act in the past two years after their detention was quashed by the High Court.

The State Home Department has divulged the information in response to a RTI application filed by prominent social activist, Irfan Hafiz Lone. The Department has stated that the PSA was re-slapped against 46 persons in 2011 and 2012 after the High Court quashed their detention. Pertinently, the years 2011 and 2012 were relatively peaceful in Kashmir when

compared with the 2010 summer unrest, which led to detention of many youth under the PSA.

The PSA has been re-slapped against 39 persons in 2011 and seven persons in 2012, the information reveals.

The disclosure comes at a time when the state government repeatedly claims that it has "done away" with the harsher clauses of the Act by amending it. Pertinently, the law was amended in March this year but the rights activists rejected the Government claims, saying the "changes have failed to prevent misuse of the Act."

In 2011, the Amnesty International in its report said that the authorities "consistently thwart high court orders for the release of improperly detained

### **NO LET UP IN 'HARASSMENT' OF KASHMIRI STUDENTS**

CRISIS AT PANCHKULA ENGINEERING COLLEGE IN HARYANA; VALLEY STUDENTS QUIT HOSTELS FOR 'SAFETY'

**Dec 2:** There seems to be no let up in the "harassment" of Kashmiri students studying outside Jammu and Kashmir. In a fresh instance, the Kashmiri students undergoing studies at the Panchkula Engineering College in Haryana have allegedly been beaten to pulp by fellow colleagues for "being Kashmiris."

A group of students from the College told media over phone that they were "ruthlessly beaten and abused" by the students of the same college. "The situation took an ugly turn to the extent that we had to quit the hostels for safety," they said.

The students said they were beaten for none of their fault. "Our only fault is that we are Kashmiris," they said. "That is the reason why we are beaten everywhere."

The aggrieved students said the college authorities did not respond to their repeated phone calls after 'violence' against them. "The college authorities

### **J&K YOUTH ALLEGE HARASSMENT BY COLLEGE-MATES**

**Dec 4:** A group of youths from Jammu and Kashmir, studying in a private college in a Haryana town, have alleged they were thrashed by some of their peers, an incident termed as minor by the authorities who promised all security to them.

Studying in an engineering college in Panchkula, they said they were attacked last Sunday by some students from the same college who also called them "anti-nationals".

They told reporters that some of them were injured in the attack by their college-mates who, they alleged, had been harassing them for quite sometime over their origin.

When contacted, DCP (Rural) Ambala Naznin Bhasin said the police were looking into the matter.

"We are verifying details (of the incident of attack)," she said.

The college management termed the incident as a minor one and said the matter had been amicably

individuals by issuing successive detention orders." "Many detainees are thus trapped in a cycle of detention," the rights body said.

In its recently-released report, the AI also pulled up authorities for carrying out such detentions.

In its recent research, the Amnesty International found evidence that this practice is continuing. "The revolving door detentions are a way with which administrative detentions are used by police as an informal justice system and the regular criminal justice system is by-passed," the AI stated. "The authorities use multiple detention orders to keep individuals in detention instead of charging and prosecuting individuals through the regular criminal justice system."

are nowhere. They have switched off their cell-phones. The situation is worsening," the students said. "Even the police did not register a case against the hooligans and instead argued that it's an internal matter of the college."

Among students are a few girls, who accused the College authorities of being indifferent towards the grave crisis.

"Where shall we go? Who will protect us? The college authorities are not providing us any kind of security. That is the reason why we have left out of our hostels," said the aggrieved students.

When contacted, the Chairman of Panchkula College of Engineering, Sarwant Gupta said the matter is "very small and has been resolved." "It was a small incident and now the students have reconciled with each other," he said.

resolved. "Two groups of students having grudge against each other were involved in the incident. With the intervention of the college management, the matter was amicably resolved," college chairman S K Gupta told PTI. No police complaint was lodged, said the Chairman who claimed his college was affiliated to Kurukshetra University.

A student, hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, said some of them had left their hostel fearing more such attacks. The college chairman said some 20 students had decided to leave their hostel rooms but half of them later changed their minds.

"We have assured all students from J&K that we are committed to give them a safe and homely environment and they should not worry," he said.

"There are about 50 students from Kashmir Valley and 30 from Jammu province who are pursuing engineering and MBA courses in the college," the chairman said.

## **KASHMIRI YOUTH FACES WAGING WAR CHARGE**

**Dec 3:** The Delhi High Court ordered the trial court to frame charges of waging war against the government of India against Wasim Akram Malik for his role in the September 2011 terror strike in the high court premises.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and SP Garg allowed National Investigation Agency's plea against the trial court order, which had dropped stringent penal charge of 'waging war against the government' against Malik, who is facing trial in the September 7, 2011 attack case, in which 15 people were killed and 79 others were injured.

"The facts as alleged and material evidence relied upon and mentioned justify framing of charges under the appropriate section of the IPC," the bench said.

"Charges under section 121 (waging war against India), 121A (conspiracy to commit offences punishable by section 121), 122 (collecting arms etc, with intention of waging war against India) and 123 (concealing existence of design to wage war) read with section 120B (criminal conspiracy) will be framed by the trial court," the bench added.

Accepting the NIA's argument that the intention of the accused was not to cause injury to a particular person but the public in general, it said, "We allow the present appeal and set aside para 24 of the trial court order discharging the respondent (Malik) and holding that there is no ground or material to frame charges under section 121 of IPC."

"We record and note the contention that the bomb blast was not targeted to cause injury to a particular person but (the bomb) was kept at the reception counter of the Delhi High Court which issued passes that enables litigants and others to enter the main gate of high court building.

"The object, purpose and animus as propounded and alleged has to be given weightage and cannot be discounted or rejected at this stage," the court said.

#### **DISCLOSE INFORMATION OR FACE ACTION: CIC TO JKP UNMARKED GRAVES**

**Dec 4:** The State Information Commission has asked Jammu and Kashmir Police to disclose the information on unmarked graves within 30 days or else the Commission would take coercive action for getting its order implemented.

"Taking holistic view and keeping under consideration the submissions of the learned First Appellate Authority (FAA), the commission provides further time of 30 days. It is directed that order on the 1st appeal be passed without fail within 30 days from the receipt of this order. The commission is constrained to bring to the notice of the FAA and PIO the provisions of Section 17 of the Act and provisions as contained in Ranbir Penal Code for taking necessary coercive action

The bench rejected Malik's argument that unless security forces are specifically targeted section 121 is not attracted.

"The dividing line i.e., terrorist act or waging war in some cases may be there but the present case has its own peculiarities like the location where the bomb exploded, animus which has been attributed, the email, etc.," the bench said.

The special court had framed charges in the case on September 4, but had dropped the stringent charges against Malik saying more evidence was required to frame charges under those provisions.

"These offences (relating to waging war against country) require something more than the one which is available against the accused in this case. Merely because a bomb had exploded outside the Delhi High Court and in the e-mail, there was a reference of release of Afzal Guru, it does not mean that these three offences (of waging war against country) are made out," the lower court had said.

In its plea, the NIA had said, "The special court did not appreciate the fact that in the present case an institution like the Delhi high court was a target of the terror act and as per the appellant's respectful submission, it amounts to waging war against government of India and is punishable under Sections 121 and 121A of IPC."

In its plea, the NIA had also referred to the statements of Amir Abbas Dev, who later turned approver and other witnesses, to argue that harsher charges should have been framed.

The terror attack was plotted with an aim to get the death sentence of Parliament attack case convict Afzal Guru commuted to life term, the NIA had said.

The agency had filed a charge sheet against six persons, including three arrested accused Malik, Dev and a minor, besides three others - Amir Kamal, Junaid Akram Malik and Shakir Hussain Sheikh alias Chota Hafiz, who are suspected members of banned terror outfit Hizb-ul Mujahideen and evading arrest. The minor's case is being adjudicated separately.

for getting the orders of the commission implemented," the order passed Chief Information Commissioner G R Sufi reads while disposing off the second appealed filed by Khurram Parvez of Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society

The order was passed after police submitted, "we are on job to implement the directions of the Commission but the nature of the information sought is so intricate and it is spread over all the districts of State therefore inspite of best efforts the information has not been fully collected".

"It is further submitted that the information from certain districts in rough form has already started pouring in and after careful examination and to

authenticate the information it will be provided to the appellant," the FAA of police submitted.

### **TUFAIL MATTOO'S KILLERS 'UNTRACED', SAYS POLICE**

**Dec 1:** The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of police, set up on High Court directions, has closed as "untraced" its investigation into the killing of Tufail Mattoo which triggered the 2010 agitation in Kashmir Valley.

"Since the High Court had directed to submit the final report by or before November 30, the investigation has been closed as untraced," the SIT said in a report submitted before the court on November 30.

Tufail was returning home from tuitions on June 11, 2010 when a teargas shell hit him on the head near Gani Memorial Stadium in Rajouri Kadal area of old city, killing him on the spot. The killing unleashed massive and unprecedented street protests in the Valley. More than 120 protesters and bystanders were killed in police and CRPF action.

The police refused to file an FIR initially and it was only after directions of a local court that a case was registered. Later, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, ordered constitution of the SIT. And when the investigation did not make any headway, the court on September 26, 2011, passed direction for constitution of another investigation team to be headed by an officer not below the rank of SP.

"All the possibilities of collecting evidence in the case were explored to reach to some conclusion in the case, but SIT has not been able to find any conclusive evidence till now," the report adds.

However, the SIT said that 'secret search' will continue in the case. "If anything comes to knowledge, the investigation of the case shall be reopened at that time," the report said, adding, "Separately the final report of the case shall be submitted to the concerned court by SHO Police Station Nowhatta."

The report says the opinion of Central Forensic Science Laboratory Chandigarh was received on June 9 this year.

The CFSL, reports says, has found environmental particles containing iron and indicative

particles containing Titanium and Zinc from the hair samples and swabs taken from the body of Tufail Mattoo. No Gun Shot Residue (GSR) particles were detected in them, the CFSL said.

"Since no GSR Particles were detected from the swabs of the wound of the deceased as per CFSL report, it is to be investigated as what is the significance of environmental particles like iron (Fe) and indicative particles like Titanium(Ti) and Zinc (Zn)," said the SIT report.

In order to make the things clear, the report says, the anti-riot gun which was issued for 'law and order' duties on the fateful day was seized.

The seized gun, report says, was sent to CFSL Chandigarh for expert opinion. "The opinion about the gun was received on August 28 which reveals that the weapon is in working condition and its fire reveals indicative material like Titanium and Zinc, indicative material like Antimony, Copper, Zinc, Nickel and Lead," the report said, adding, "The fire of the anti-riot gun leaves unique GSR particles like Lead, Barium and Antimony and leaves GSR residues when fired on the experimental target.

Further, the report says that CFSL opinion reveals that the anti-riot gun fire can also be lethal if fired on vital parts of the body from close range.

Based on this opinion that the gun can be lethal, report says, correspondence was made with Central Gun Carriage Factory Jabalpur and its opinion was received on November 14. "It has given classification of anti-riot gun and the .303 cartridge as 'non-lethal gun'."

Meanwhile, a single bench of the High Court comprising Justice Virender Singh has asked the family of victim, represented by advocate Mian Qayoom, to file response to the report within a week.

### **80 CENTRAL JAIL DETAINEES ILL**

**'THEY ARE SERVED SUB-STANDARD FOOD'**

**Dec 12:** Around 80 detainees have fallen ill in the highly fortified Central Jail Srinagar reportedly due to consumption of sub-standard food, forcing the authorities to send a high level team to ascertain the facts.

Most of the detainees are suffering from gastric problems, skin disorders and influenza. A high level team comprising of Sessions Judge Srinagar, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Baseer Ahmad Khan and Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar Syed Aashiq Hussain

Bukhari visited the jail Wednesday morning to ascertain the facts.

A high level officer told media on the condition of anonymity that the detainees are being served sub-standard food. "They have fallen ill most likely because of food. They are suffering from various ailments and doctors there too agreed that cause of the illness is sub-standard food," he said. "I think the contractor who is supplying the edible items is providing sub-standard and rotten food items for inmates," he said.

The officer further said that scores of inmates are also suffering from bronchitis for the last two weeks.

The officer said the jail is in a messy state of affairs. "The jail dispensary is in shambles. There is no sanitation and heating system," he said, adding that they are going to submit a detailed report to the government.

The prison is also overcrowded causing immense inconvenience to the prisoners. Against the sanctioned capacity of 300, the jail is presently housing 477 inmates. "Overcrowding has also badly affected proper management of inmates in the jail," the officer said and added that most of inmates are suffering from communicable diseases. "The barracks don't have proper ventilation and it is also affecting the detainees' health," he said.

### **CCTV CAMERAS NOW IN BARAMULLA**

**Dec 12:** In a bid to "keep an eye on suspicious elements and the overall activities" in this north Kashmir town, the J&K Police is mulling installation of at least five 'sophisticated' closed circuit televisions (CCTVs) at different places in Baramulla.

The cameras, according to sources, would be installed at some 'important places' including the Tehsil Office, Police Station, Main Chowk and Kantbagh.

Giant towers have already come up at Tehsil office and in the premises of police station Baramulla where the highly sophisticated CCTVs are being reportedly installed.

### **GOVT. MAKES PASSPORT CLEARANCE TIME-BOUND**

VERIFICATION PROCESS BROUGHT UNDER PSGA, TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN 60 DAYS

**Dec 27:** In a significant development, the State Government Thursday ordered making passport clearance by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) a time-bound service.

The General Administration Department (GAD) issued a notice bringing the passport service within the ambit of the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA).

Under the Act, it will be mandatory for the CID to provide verification report for a passport applicant within 60 days. And in case there is no response, an applicant has the right to appeal before the designated authorities.

"If the service (report) is not provided in a time bound manner the designated authority can be penalized," said the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Sagar. "We are committed to provide hassle-free service and good governance to people."

Sources said the delay in getting verification report was a reason for piling up of the passport cases in J&K. They said around 30,000 to 35,000 cases are pending verification. "The pending cases will also come within the ambit of the PSGA now," sources said.

However, Superintendent of Police, Central Jail, Muhammad Ayub downplayed the issue. "There is no such problem and we have 10 bedded dispensary inside the jail," he said.

A Jail Manual for Superintendence and Management of Prisons has been notified in 2000 in J&K. The manual focuses on changing the concept of prisons from a place meant to punish criminals to centers of reformation.

J&K has 13 jails including two Central Jails at Kotbalwal (Jammu) and Srinagar, eight District Jails at Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla, Kupwara and Leh and three Sub-Jails at Hiranagar, Reasi and Kishtwar. The total capacity of prisoners is 2775.

"The aim is to keep a close eye on different locations in the town," said a senior police official, privy to the move.

According to sources, the work on two towers installed in Tehsil office premises and in police station Baramulla has been intensified following killing of a PSO by suspected gunmen in broad daylight on November 20.

"The installation of cameras at Kantbagh Baramulla would help maintain a vigil in the entire area which houses important army installations and is also senior army officials," they said.

The Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had earlier this year assured to bring passport service within the purview of the PSGA.

Regional Passport Officer, Firdous Iqbal said around 250 to 260 passports are being provided by the office daily and the annual figures would touch around 60000. "It will be a record in the history of J&K," Iqbal said.

An official clarified that under the move, the thrust would only be on providing the service (report) irrespective of its nature.

"Besides, there will be no third party redress mechanism like in case of the Right to Information Act where there is separate full-fledged Information Commission to address complaints," the official said.

A Deputy Superintendent (headquarters) in the office of the Additional DGP/IGP, CID has been designated as authority for providing the verification report within 60 days and SSP, CID, and ADGP/IGP of the department are the first appellate authority and second appellate authority respectively.

An official report of 2007 revealed that thousands of people were being denied passport after being blacklisted by intelligence agencies in Kashmir. In 2007, some 60,000 families across the Valley figured in the list.

To clear the index, Omar in July this year said his government would bring the passport clearance within the purview of PSGA.

He had revealed, for the first time, that 6000 cases which were placed on the blacklist were cleared by the CID for passports since January this year.

"We have cleared 6000 cases this year which were placed in blacklist," Omar had said. As per the GAD notification, the Government brought 13 another services under the PSGA.

The law has been extended to services like verification by Police Station concerned for certification

#### **NO 'OUTSIDE' GUESTS ALLOWED: ARMY 'DIKTAT' SPOILS WEDDINGS IN URI VILLAGE**

**Dec 13:** The residents of Charunda along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of Baramulla north Kashmir district allege that the army is not allowing their relatives and friends to attend wedding ceremonies in the village.

In the four weddings that took place in the village this week, the army "literally decides who can and who cannot attend the ceremony," the locals alleged.

"When our guests arrive at an army checkpoint outside the village, soldiers tell them to go back saying 'outsiders' are not allowed," the locals said, adding that the army had played "spoilsport" in the wedding ceremonies.

Four youth from the village— Muhammad Iqbal son of Ghulam Muhammad Massi, Nazir Ahmad son of Alif Din Deedar, Muhammad Ikhlaiq son Noor Din Deedar, and Muhammad Arif—were married this week.

#### **SOPORE ENCOUNTER AFTERMATH: FORCES ACCUSED OF DESTROYING ORCHARDS**

**Dec 20:** Residents of Saidpora, Sopore in this north Kashmir district accused the police and army of destroying their belongings and orchards during the 72-hour encounter in which six militants were killed. Police has, however, rejected the claims of the residents as "baseless".

One of the affected families alleged that 13 kanals of orchard was completely destroyed and around 100 fruit trees were uprooted by the soldiers using earth excavation machines.

"Earnings of our whole life were burnt down to ashes by troops," said Ghulam Mohammad Dar and his nephew Khursheed Ahmad Dar.

"This has reminded us of bitter memories of 1995 when during crackdown various persons in our village were tortured by the forces and my brother Mohammad Nawab Dar succumbed during torture," said Ghulam Mohammad Dar.

Denying that militants were present in their houses, Dar said, "Our village was under a siege for three days. We were asked to come out of our houses. There were no militants inside our house when we left. We had heard some gun shots early in the morning

of identity, character certificate; for copy of untraced reports in accident/drowning cases, stolen vehicles and theft cases.

In Health Department the law will be applicable in case of disability certificate, medical illness certificate, medical fitness certificate and postmortem report and issuance of NOC for installation of industry/project by the Pollution Control Board.

There were already 56 services covered under the PSGA in J&K.

"Following exchange of firing between Indian and Pakistani armies on the LoC recently, the soldiers have restricted the movement into the village. We had four weddings in the village this week but the army did not allow our relatives and friends from other areas to participate in them," Lal Din Muhammad, Sarpanch Charunda village told media.

"We requested the army to lift the curbs so that our guests could attend the wedding. However, they refused to do so," he added. Muhammad Iqbal, a newlywed groom, said that his close relatives were not allowed to attend his wedding by the army men. Brigadier Gulab Singh Rawat of the army's Pir Panchal Brigade refuted the allegations and said that his men did not enforce restrictions on the movement of the civilians. However, he said he'll still look into the matter.

"We don't even restrict the movement of villagers residing near the LoC. The villagers are free to move anywhere," he said.

at 4 O' clock. When we came out of the house, police and army burnt our residential houses along with two cowsheds."

Dar's nephew Khursheed alleged that his residential house and cowshed was also set on fire by the forces. His brother's widow Khadija said, "They killed my husband in 1995 and now they made us homeless and destroyed our fruit trees which was only source of income of our two families."

Meanwhile, Sub Divisional Magistrate Sopore Dr. Sayeed Hanief Balkhi while admitting the uprooting of fruit trees by the forces said, "Two residential houses, and two cowsheds have been damaged while uprooting of fruit trees in an orchard measuring 13 kanals have also been witnessed. I along with agriculture and Revenue officers visited the area. We found chopped trees in the joint orchard of Khursheed and Ghulam Mohammad Dar".

Dr Balkhi said that the sufferers have been shifted to local panchayat and government school buildings. "They were provided ration and gas cylinders", he said.

However, Superintendent of Police (SP) Sopore, Imtiyaz Hussain denied that trees were cut down. "It is possible that some trees might have received minor damage as some Casper vehicles had to run through these orchards", he added.

Meanwhile, amid a complete shutdown, violent clashes erupted in many areas of the Sopore town on December 20 leaving at least six people, including some cops injured.

According to reports, groups of youth appeared at Main Chowk, Khushal Matoo, Bus Stand,

#### **POLICE, CRPF LOCK HORNS**

**Dec 4:** Police and paramilitary CRPF are at loggerheads over the killing of a CRPF personnel at Bemina here last week. CRPF claims that constable Parveen Singh Rajput of Madhya Pradesh had died in a militant attack on November 28. However, police say that he committed suicide.

Media quoting its sources reported that the state law enforcing agency has not entertained a FIR

Arampora, Batpora, Model Town and other areas and staged demonstrations against the killing of militants. Chanting pro-freedom and anti-India slogans, the protesters pelted rocks and stones on the CRPF troopers and police. The forces lobbed teargas canisters after they failed to chase away the youth with baton charge. All shops, and business establishments remained closed and traffic was off the roads in the town on the second consecutive day in the memory of the slain militants who were buried by locals in Martyrs Graveyard Panzla Rafiabab.

application of CRPF. "We have not treated it as a case of militancy yet. We have started inquest proceedings under 174 CrPC," said a police official.

He said police are investigating all angles of the case. "Inquiry will prove whether it was a militant attack or a suicide case," he added.

#### **EXPLOSIONS**

##### **> GIRL WOUNDED IN MINE BLAST**

**Dec 2:** A girl was injured when an explosive device went off while she was collecting firewood in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said.

"Masrat Fatima, daughter of Nazir Hussain, of Pingla Hari Dal village sustained injuries when she came in contact with some explosive device which exploded," a police spokesman said. She was shifted to the sub-district hospital in Tangdhar town from where doctors referred her to the Bone and Joint Hospital for further treatment.

##### **> ARMY JAWAN INJURED IN MINE BLAST**

**Dec 8:** An Army jawan was today injured after he slipped and hit a land mine in Nangi Tikri forward belt in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Naik Rajeev Kumar slipped on an anti-personal mine along LoC in Rustum Post resulting in the blast, an Army spokesman said.

Kumar was injured and airlifted to Command Military Hospital in Udhampur for treatment, he said.

##### **> LOLAB GIRL LOSES LIFE IN LITTERED EXPLOSIVE BLAST**

**2 SIBLINGS ALSO INJURED; SOP NOWHERE IN SIGHT**  
**Dec 12:** A girl died while two of her siblings were injured in a littered explosive blast in Lolab area of frontier district of Kupwara.

Police sources said Nuzhat Akhter daughter of Ghulam Ahmad Shah of Warnow Lolab Kupwara died on spot while her two sisters Shaista (21) Kulsooma (10) were injured after a littered explosive blast in a Lolab forest at around 5 pm on December 12.

The siblings had gone to Warnow forests to extract timber. "They found some explosive substance and had fiddled with it," a police official, who visited the spot, told media, adding that the substance exploded, killing Nuzhat on the spot. He said the injured have been hospitalized.

Muhammad Amin, a local, said the blast was powerful. "We thought some encounter started but a woman accompanying the girls informed us that it was a blast," he said.

#### **MILITARIZATION**

##### **> '60 % HOTELS VACATED BY FORCES'**

**Dec 3:** While claiming that the state government was serious towards getting various hotels in valley vacated by the security forces, Director Tourism Kashmir, Talat Parvez said the government has so far been successful in vacating about 60 percent hotels from their occupation.

Parvez said the state government is very serious about vacating hotels and guest houses occupied by security forces to boost tourism industry in the State.

"Guest houses and hotels which were occupied by the security forces have already been

vacated to a large extent and now further steps are being taken in this process", said Parvez.

##### **> FORCES WON'T OCCUPY SCHOOL BUILDINGS: GOI**

**Dec 10:** The Indian government has given clear-cut instructions to the states that security forces engaged in the counterinsurgency operations should not be allowed to occupy school buildings, the government said.

Addressing the National Consultation on Education in Areas Affected by Civil Strife, organised by UNICEF here, HRD Minister M M Pallam Raju said occupation of schools by security forces engaged in operations in conflict-hit areas, particularly Naxal-

dominated districts, has been "one of the reasons for the extremists targeting educational institutions".

"Clear-cut instructions have been issued to the states to ensure that no school building is used or occupied by the security forces and states have ensured

that school buildings are free of such occupation," the Minister said.

Raju asked the collectors of the mineral-rich Naxal-affected districts to utilise the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to construct girls' toilets and address the drinking water problem.

## SUICIDES

### ➤ CRPF HANGS HIMSELF

**Dec 13:** A CRPF constable allegedly ended his life by hanging himself from the hook of the ceiling fan at Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu.

Police said that, Constable Gurmeet Singh son of Davinder Singh of Batala in Gurdaspur in Punjab was posted at Mahashpura in the Bakshi Nagar area.

"He was found hanging from the hook of the ceiling fan at the place of his posting and his body was shifted to

the GMC Hospital for post mortem and other legal formalities," police added.

Notably, few days back a rifle, five magazines and 100 bullets were stolen from the 166 CRPF Battalion's camp and, the deceased person was also questioned for this theft.

A case in this regard has been registered at the concerned police station and investigation is on, said a police official.

## OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

### ➤ 80 PANCHS, SARPANCHS RESIGNED IN JK: GOI '68 have withdrawn resignations'

**Dec 13:** Panchayati Raj Minister V Kishore Chandra Deo said out of 80 panchs and sarpanchs who resigned following militants threats in Jammu and Kashmir, 68 have withdrawn their resignations.

In written reply to Rajya Sabha, Deo said, "A total of 80 panchs and sarpanchs have tendered their resignation following militant threats in last one year. But of these 68 members have withdrawn their resignations."

On measures taken by the J&K government to provide security to panchs and sarpanchs, he said, "Jammu and Kashmir government has taken some measures to ensure security to the elected representatives of panchayats. This includes night patrolling by security forces in areas which are perceived to be vulnerable to such attacks."

He said three panchs were killed by militants in Rampora, Palhalan and Nowpora in September this year.

### ➤ VIOLENCE LEVEL IN JK AT ITS LOWEST:

#### SHINDE

**Dec 13:** Stating that Lashkar-e-Toiba and Hizbul Mujahideen continue to be dominant militant groups in the State, Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde has said violence level in Jammu and Kashmir was at its lowest ebb.

The Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to Ministry of Home Affairs reviewed the security situation in J&K in its meeting at New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde.

"The level of militancy, which was at its peak during the 1990s, started declining from 2003 onwards and today it is at its lowest in terms of incidents as well as casualties of the civilians and security men," he said.

### ➤ 232 UNDER-TRIALS LODGED IN JK JAILS

RTI REVEALS 219 MORE SERVING DETENTION UNDER PSA

**Dec 14:** State Government has disclosed that 232 local under-trials, charged of being militants or their over-ground workers, are behind the bars in the State while 219 more people, including 120 foreign nationals, are serving detention under the controversial Public Safety Act. About 44 foreign nationals are also facing trial in the State.

The information has been obtained through Right to Information Act. The RTI details further reveal that other 32 persons, including a foreigner, convicted by different courts are presently undergoing imprisonment.

The information, however, furnished by the State Home Department is silent about the number of Kashmiris either facing trial or convicted outside the State.

About PSA detentions, the Government says that 219 persons including 99 State subjects and 120 foreigners are presently serving detention under the law which permits detention for six months without trial. Among the 99 State subjects, 58 have been termed in the reply as militants and OGWs. Only 7 have been shown in separatist and stone-thrower categories. The remaining 41 are involved in normal crime- smuggling and drug peddling.

About 120 foreign nationals are serving detention under PSA within and outside the State. As per the reply, 21 foreign nationals including nine under-trials are presently languishing in jails outside the State and 99 foreign nationals, serving detention under the PSA, are lodged in State jails.

### ➤ 4081 MILITANTS SURRENDERED IN 22 YRS

**Dec 19:** As many as 4,081 militants, including 279 commanders have surrendered in Jammu and Kashmir during the past 22 years of militancy in the state.

According to a recent report on militancy compiled by the state Home Ministry, up to November end this year, 4,081, militants have surrendered to forces and police in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Only one militant has surrendered in 2012 till November. Nineteen militants have surrendered in

2011, 20 in 2010, 15 in 2009, 38 in 2008, 122 in 2007, 190 in 2006, 64 in 2005, 137 in 2004, 119 in 2003, 159 in 2002, 85 in 2001 and 104 in 2000," it said.

The highest number of 655 militants surrendered in 1996, followed by 612 in 1991, 601 in 1995, 444 in 1992, 270 in 1997, 187 in 1998, 109 in 1999, 98 in 1993 and 32 in 1994, it said.

Jammu and Kashmir government has formulated a 'surrender policy' for the rehabilitation of surrendered militants in the state.

Under this policy, 2,881 militants have been rehabilitated, helping them with a fixed deposit for three years of an amount of Rs 3 lakh and monthly relief of Rs 3,000. — PTI

➤ **ARMY SCUTTLED AFSPA REVOCATION: OMAR**

**Dec 19:** Blaming the Army for scuttling partial revocation of controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that while certain quarters in New Delhi favored revocation of the Law but the Army is vehemently opposing the move.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function organised in connection with the passing-out parade of around 900 police recruits at police training college at Sheeri (Baramulla), Omar said it is now clear that Army is the only hurdle in the revocation of AFSPA from J&K. "I had gathered support from certain quarters in New Delhi for AFSPA revocation from some pockets of state, but Army scuttled the move," he said and added that in J&K there are some areas where Army has no operational role now. "I want that law must go from those areas," Omar said.

At the same time Chief Minister said that he will not give up on his efforts to get the AFSPA revoked at least partially. "Its revocation will not take place overnight. I am making and will continue to make my efforts for the withdrawal of AFSPA from some areas of the state," he said.

➤ **KIN OF MISSING SHOULD SUBMIT DNA TAGS TO SHRC: OMAR**

**Dec 23:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said that the kin of disappearance victims should hand over their DNA profiles to the State Human Rights Commission for matching with the contents of unmarked graves found in the state's frontier areas.

Abdullah was replying to questions at a Press Club of India function in New Delhi December 22. "The stand of the government is clear," he told the media. "Those who talk of disappearances should submit their DNA profiles to the nodal officer of the State Human Rights Commission."

"Anyone who believes that his or her kin is buried in these unmarked graves should come forward give us his DNA sample. We will match it with persons buried in the unmarked graves," he said.

"The government is serious on this issue, and its intentions are sincere," he said. "But unfortunately, no one has come forward, even though we had made a clear offer," he said.

"The state needs a Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is authorised to conduct investigations on both sides of the Line of Control, "There are a lot of questions that beg for answers, and answers cannot be found only in the valley," he said.

"Speculation is rife that all those who have disappeared (in Jammu and Kashmir) were killed by the security forces," he said. "What happened to those who were killed by militants or those who went to Azad Kashmir and were killed on return during infiltration?" he claimed.

"And also, you have to account for those who are in (militant) training camps across the frontier," he said.

"These are the areas from where we ask the AFSPA to be withdrawn," he said.

DATE	TROOPERS	MILITANTS	CIVILIANS	OTHERS
Dec 01	-	-	-	-
Dec 02	-	-	-	-
Dec 03	-	-	-	-
Dec 04	-	-	-	-
Dec 05	-	-	-	-
Dec 06	-	-	-	-
Dec 07	-	-	-	-
Dec 08	-	-	-	-
Dec 09	-	-	-	-
Dec 10	-	-	-	-
Dec 11	-	-	-	-
Dec 12	-	-	1	-
Dec 13	1	3	-	-
Dec 14	-	-	-	-
Dec 15	-	-	-	-
Dec 16	1	-	-	-

Dec 17	-	-	-	-
Dec 18	-	6	-	-
Dec 19	-	-	-	-
Dec 20	-	1	-	-
Dec 21	-	-	-	-
Dec 22	-	-	-	-
Dec 23	-	-	-	-
Dec 24	1	2	-	-
Dec 25	-	-	-	-
Dec 26	1	-	-	-
Dec 27	-	-	-	-
Dec 28	-	2	-	-
Dec 29	-	-	-	-
Dec 30	-	-	-	-
Dec 31	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>In Toto</b>			<b>19 Killings</b>	

### CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

**Dec01:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec02:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec03:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec04:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec05:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec06:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec07:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec08:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec09:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec10:** A policeman suffered serious injuries during a demonstration in Srinagar. Eyewitness told media that a policeman was critically injured when the cops swung into action near Abi Guzar and arrested at least five activists of Jammu and Kashmir Freedom League led by Farooq Rehmani. The injured cop, whose identity could not be ascertained, was rushed to SMHS hospital for treatment.

**Dec11:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec12:** A girl died while two of her siblings were injured in a littered explosive blast in Lolab area of frontier district of Kupwara. Police said Nuzhat Akhter daughter of Ghulam Ahmad Shah of Warnow Lolab Kupwara died on spot while her two sisters Shaista (21) Kulsooma (10) were injured after a littered explosive blast in a Lolab forest at around 5 pm on December 12.

**Dec13:** Police said three unidentified militants were killed in two separate encounters with police and security men in Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. "The militants hiding in the forest area fired towards the joint search team, triggering an encounter. In the ensuing gunfight, a militant was killed and an army man injured," he said. He said another encounter took place in an orchid at Mundaji, Batengo, Sopore. "After receiving inputs, Sopore police and 22 RR launched a combing operation in Mundaji village. During the combing operation, the troopers came under fire from militants hiding in the area. The fire was returned by the troops, triggering an encounter. In the firefight, two unidentified militants were killed". The spokesman said identity of the deceased militants was being ascertained.

**Dec14:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec15:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec16:** A soldier died when his service rifles went off accidentally in Rajouri district of Jammu province. The deceased has been identified as Ajinder Kumar of Mahar regiment.

**Dec17:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec18:** Six militants of LeT were killed in an encounter with army and police in Sopore town of Baramulla district. Only one of the militants were identified as Atir bin Yousuf Dar, 19, r/o Model Town Sopore while the identity of other five slain militants were yet to be ascertained.

**Dec19:** Two soldiers, including a Major, were injured on the second day of a gun battle between militants and joint team of army and police in Sopore town of Baramulla in north Kashmir district. The injured were identified as, Major Vineet

Kumar and soldier Kamal Singh of 22 Rashtriya Rifles. Sources said that two residential houses and two cowsheds belonging to Ghulam Nabi Dar and Mohammad Nawab Dar, where militants were holed up, were damaged in the encounter

**Dec20:** Police claimed that it killed one of the prime accused in Delhi High Court blast case, Chota Hafiz, in an encounter in Kishtwar district. The encounter took place in Kadrana area of Marwah tehsil, where a joint party of police, army and NIA had launched searches to trace three accused in Delhi blast case. Chota Hafiz, according to police, was the prime accused in the Delhi High Court blast and was associated with Hizbul Mujahideen

**Dec21:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec22:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec23:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec24:** Two LeT militants and a police man were killed and an army soldier got injured in an encounter at Kulgam. The deceased militants were identified as district commander Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh alias Mawya of Yamrach, Kulgam and Tamim, a Pakistani national and police head constable as, Niyaz Ahmad.

**Dec25:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec26:** An army trooper was killed in firing from across the Indo-Pak border at a forward post in Mankote Poonch district.

**Dec27:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec28:** Two LeT militants were killed and two army officers and SOG constable were injured in an encounter that triggered at Chadgam, Pulwama. The deceased militants were identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Teeli of Pulwama and Mohammad Amir Bhat alias Khalid of Shopian. Troopers opened fire on villagers who were protesting against alleged troopers excesses while the encounter was going on. In the firing 15 civilians were injured some of them critically.

**Dec29:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec30:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

**Dec 31:** No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

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