
Quarterly review of human rights situation in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir

(January to March 2019)

Prepared by:

Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society
(JKCCS)

and

Association of Parents of Disappeared
Persons (APDP)



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In the first quarter of 2019, Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir witnessed continued violence and heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, where Kashmir yet again appeared to be the nuclear flashpoint leading to speculations about an impending war. The tensions escalated when a Kashmiri militant rammed his explosive laden car into a bus moving with a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy on the Jammu – Srinagar highway, leading to the killing of 48 Indian soldiers. India claimed that the attack was sponsored by Pakistan supported militant organization Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM), which led to the two countries violating each other's air space. In these ensuing attacks, an India pilot was captured by Pakistani army and was released after two days by the Pakistan Prime Minister as a gesture of goodwill, which led to de-escalation of the tensions between the two countries.

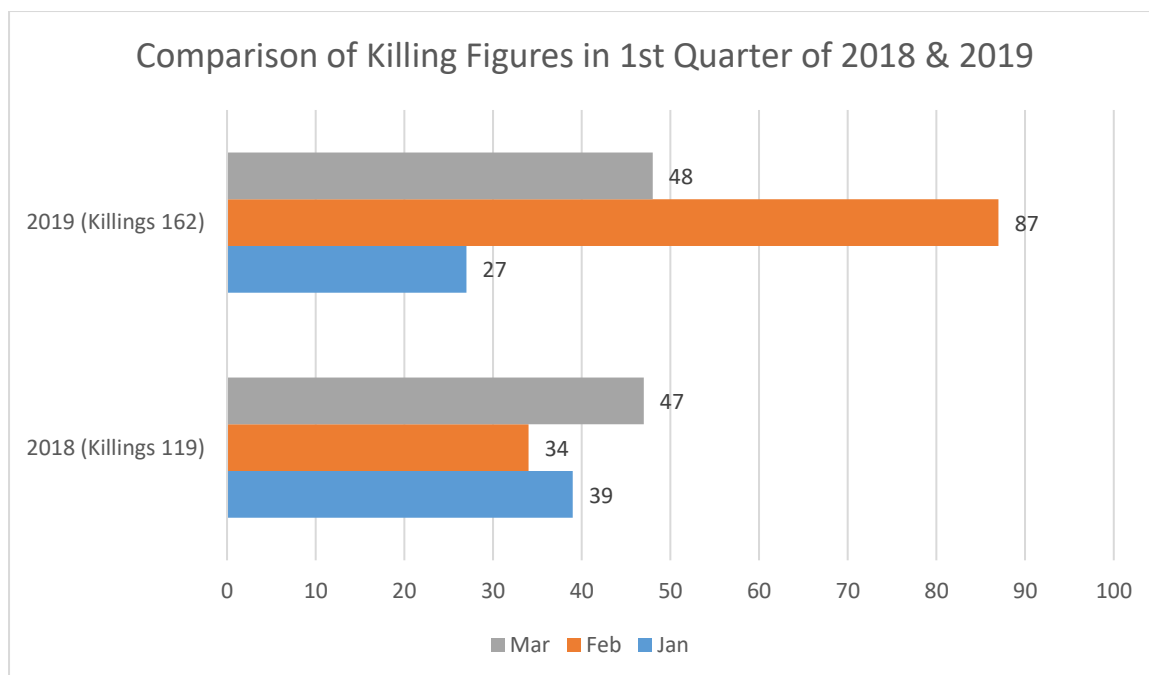
But the de-escalation did not lead to any decrease in violence against the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The government of India announced Parliamentary elections, followed by the deployment of 100 additional companies in Kashmir. Mass arrests of political and religious leaders and banning of religious and political organizations was carried out, ahead of the elections in India. Interestingly, Election of Commission of India's decision to not announce Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir was based on India's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) assessment of not possessing 'inadequate security personal' for conducting elections.¹ The admission by MHA proves that elections in Jammu and Kashmir are a military exercise and are only made possible by the massive presence of armed forces on ground.

Killings from January to March 2019

2018 was the deadliest year of the last decade in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir, with 586 killings recorded in the year. However, the graph of violence significantly increased in 2019. The first three months of 2019 saw at least 162 killings in various incidents of violence in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir, which include 21 civilians, 58 militants and 83 Indian armed forces personnel.

In comparison to the first three months of 2018, which witnessed 119 killings, the number of killings significantly increased in the first three months of 2019.

¹ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/elections/lok-sabha/india/inadequate-security-personnel-hinders-jk-assembly-polls/articleshow/68350594.cms>



For the first time in twenty-nine years of armed conflict, the killing figures (83) of Indian armed forces personnel in Jammu and Kashmir is higher in ratio as compared to the killings of militants.

Killing Figures (January to March 2019)

| | Civilians | Militants | Armed Forces | Total Killings |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2019 | 02 | 17 | 08 | 27 |
| February 2019 | 05 | 22 | 60 | 87 |
| March 2019 | 14 | 19 | 15 | 48 |
| Total Killings | 21 | 58 | 83 | 162 |

Among the 83 Indian armed forces and Jammu Kashmir police personnel killed in Jammu and Kashmir, the highest (65) forces personnel were killed in counter-insurgency related incidents, including in a suicide attack by a Kashmiri militant on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama on 14 February, which resulted in the killing of at least 48 CRPF personnel, while 6 Indian armed personnel were killed at the volatile Line of Control (LOC). 7 armed forces committed suicide, 3 CRPF troopers were killed in a fratricidal incident by a CRPF trooper in Udhampur district of Jammu and 2 Special Police Officers (SPO) of Jammu Kashmir Police were killed by suspected militants.

Among the 21 civilians killed in Jammu and Kashmir in the first three months of 2019, the highest (7) killings were carried out by unidentified gunmen in which 2 killings were suspected to be carried out by militants, while 6 were killed due to shelling at LOC. 3 persons were killed by armed forces and 4 persons died in grenade and IED explosions.

Among the 3 civilians killed by armed forces in the first quarter of 2019, 2 were killed by armed forces following encounters with militants, and one 28-year-old youth was killed due to torture inflicted on him by government forces during his detention at Cargo, an infamous torture center in Srinagar.

Pulwama recorded the highest (8) number of civilian killings in the first quarter of 2019, followed by Poonch (3), Baramulla (2), Kupwara (2), Jammu (2), Anantnag (1), Bandipora (1), Shopian (1) and one non-local person who was killed in an explosion.

The killing of civilians accused of being army informers by armed gunmen points to the ways the unresolved conflict in Jammu and Kashmir is inevitably endangering the lives of the civilian population.

Among the 21 civilian casualties, three were minors including twelve-year-old Atif Mir, who was first held hostage by militants at his house in Hajan Bandipora and later was killed when armed forces blasted the very house where he was held hostage.

Cordon and Search Operations

Despite claims of the Government of India that the ongoing Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir has brought down incidents of violence and that militant recruitment has also stopped, the situation on the ground speaks otherwise. In the first quarter of 2019, at least 89 Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) were conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. A majority of these CASO's were conducted in four south Kashmir districts of Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag and Kulgam.

The 89 CASO's have resulted in the killing of at least 58 militants, three civilians and destruction of at least 18 civilian properties.

The frequency of CASO's was particularly increased following the militant attack on a CRPF convoy in February.

Destruction of Civilian Property

In the first quarter of 2019, at least 18 cases of destruction of civilian properties were reported in Jammu and Kashmir. Out of the 18 cases, 15 are residential houses and 3 are cowsheds. In all these cases, armed forces, in a direct violation of Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law, used disproportionate force to inflict damage on civilian property, sometimes resulting in the death of civilians as well, as the killing of 12-year-old Atif Mir reveals.

The reported cases of destruction of civilian property by armed forces during encounters with militants in the first quarter of 2019 are listed below:

- On January 5, the house in which the militants were trapped in Aripal village of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district was set on fire by the government forces during an encounter².
- On 23 January, a residential house was partially damaged and people were confined to houses as India and Pakistan traded fire along the line of control in Jammu division's Poonch district. Reports said that in an exchange of firing at

² <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/tral-gunfight-firing-stops-house-goes-up-in-flames/308550.html>

Krishna Ghati Sector of Mendhar area in Poonch, a residential house belonging to Mohammad Sharf at Nar Mankote suffered damages.³

- On 5 March, media reported that 8 residential houses and 3 cowsheds were damaged in the 56-hour encounter in Babagund village in Handwara in which two militants, five security personnel and a civilian were killed.⁴
- On 25 March, media reported that at least nine structures, including five residential houses belonging to four families, were destroyed during the 12-hour-long fire fight in which two local militants were killed Gadapora village in Shopian district⁵.

Internet Blockades

Internet services continue to be curtailed as part of the ongoing counter insurgency measures by the government in Jammu and Kashmir. In the first quarter of 2019, internet services were suspended 23 times in Jammu & Kashmir and most of these suspensions of data services were reported in South Kashmir.

Recently, the frequency of internet shutdowns in Kashmir were subject of critique of a report '*Of Blackouts and Bandhs: The Strategy and Structure of Disconnected Protest in India*'⁶ by Stanford University in USA. The report stated, "India has witnessed 134 network shutdowns in 2018, with more than 100 shutdown seen in 2016-17." The report highlighted that Kashmir is most prone to internet shutdowns with the Valley being under a digital curfew for more than 203 days after 2016 unrest following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen Commander Burhan Wani.

Upsurge in attacks against Kashmiris across India

Following the militant attack on CRFP convoy in Pulwama district of Kashmir on 14 February 2019 – in which at least 48 CRPF men were killed, thousands of Kashmiris living in Indian cities, came under attack of Hindu right-wing mobs and angry Indians.

In the first quarter of 2019, at least 42 incidents of attacks on Kashmiris across India were reported. The reported incidents of violence against Kashmiris in the first quarter of 2019 (42) are significantly higher than the combined incidents of attacks against Kashmiris in India last year in 2018 (22).

As an immediate consequence of the militant attack on CRPF, violence escalated in Jammu city on 15 February after Hindu right-wing mobs attacked Muslim majority areas and Kashmiri Muslims, torched vehicles bearing Kashmir registered number plates, attacked homes of Kashmiris with stones and demanded them to leave Jammu city.

³ <https://kashmirilife.net/residential-house-damaged-as-india-pak-armies-trade-fire-in-poonch-199629/>

⁴ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/handwara-encounter-destruction-of-8-houses-leaves-families-devastated/315113.html>

⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/shopian-gun-battle-leaves-behind-a-trail-of-devastation/317430.html>

⁶ https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3330413

The government enforced a curfew in Jammu city for 6 days yet violent right-wing mobs held protests and processions against the CRPF attack and their ire was directed towards Kashmiri Muslims living in Jammu.

There were attacks on Kashmiris living in Indian cities. Kashmiri students came under attack and many were beaten, threatened and demanded to leave colleges and universities. Some Kashmiri students were also booked for sedition for allegedly posting on social media. The incidents of these hate crimes against Kashmiris have only risen – with even the Governor of Meghalaya (a state in North Eastern India) calling for a social boycott of Kashmiris and Kashmiri products. There was also news of Kashmiri students suspended from colleges.

While calling for revenge against the militant attack on CRPF, A JNU Professor called for “public execution of 40 Kashmiris for 40 soldiers.” The rising attacks against Kashmiris left thousands of Kashmiris living in India and cities like Jammu and Dehradun feeling unsafe and fearing for their lives. Owing to such threats to life, scores of Kashmiri students returned to their homes, which could gravely affect their studies and careers.

The attacks on and persecution of Kashmiris living outside in Indian cities is not uncommon. Kashmiri people are looked at with suspicion and the idea of nationalism is projected by attacking Kashmiris. In 2018, the instances of persecution and harassment of Kashmiris living outside was frequently reported. According to the data compiled by APDP and JKCCS, at least 22 incidents of harassment and persecution of Kashmiris living outside were reported in 2018 in which 24 Kashmiri students were assaulted and 19 were arrested.⁷

Following war-like tensions between India and Pakistan, the government in Jammu and Kashmir also arrested hundreds of political and religious leaders in the valley and NIA conducted raids on prominent Pro-Independence leaders.⁸

Arbitrary and Administrative Detentions

The use of arbitrary and preventive detention to indefinitely detain individuals perceived to be dissenting with the government continued unabated.

In addition to many Hurriyat and pro-Independence activists being detained and put under house arrest throughout these three months, massive arrests of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) activists took place after the two organizations were banned by the Government of India. Nearly 150 people, mainly from the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir including its chief Abdul Hamid Fayaz, were detained during the intervening night of 22 and 23 February.

Between January and March, at least 25 people were booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA), including but not limited to many of the prominent activists of JeI, as well as JKLF chief Yasin Malik.

⁷ <http://jkccs.net/2018-deadliest-year-of-the-decade-jkccs-annual-human-rights-review/>

⁸ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/kashmir-tense-after-crackdown-on-jamaat-and-hurriyat/articleshow/68126017.cms>

Many youths were arrested in night raids, predominantly, in South Kashmir. Following the Pulwama attack on 14 February, in which 49 CRPF personnel died, media reported that as many as 35 persons, including two minors, were detained by government forces during raids in Tral, Awantipora, Pampore and Khrew.

Three minors were also arrested. Notably, the 14-year-old son of a widow Mahmooda, whose house was razed to the ground in the Aripal encounter in Tral on 5 January, was detained by the police. Another juvenile arrest was reported on 10 January in Awantipora where the police detained a minor who was taken to Kathua for questioning in connection with a militancy-related case. Media also reported that the person who was arrested and accused of lobbing a grenade at the Jammu bus stand on 7 March is a 15-year-old.

The following presents a detailed account about detentions in this quarter.

- On January 1, a youth from south Kashmir's Islamabad district was booked under PSA for the second time in succession even as he remained in custody. The youth Shabir Ahmad Rather, son of Ghulam Hassan Rather of Mominabad, Dooru was slapped with the second PSA while his previous one expired was shifted to Hiranagar jail in.⁹
- On 2 January, media reported that two persons were arrested late previous night after they failed to stop at a barricade set up by the army in Anantnag district of south Kashmir. A source said the duo travelling in the load carrier was later detained from Kanganhal village and handed over to the police¹⁰.
- On 2 January, police detained nine persons in Rajouri for their alleged involvement in unlawful activities. "These persons have been taken into preventive custody from various areas of Rajouri town on the orders issued by executive magistrate Rajouri," said SSP Rajouri, Yougal Manhas. The officer said that those detained include Sanjeev Kumar resident of Dhani Dhar, Gourav Kumar resident of Khandli Rajouri, Jaipal Singh resident of Kallar, Shahbaz Ahmed resident of Kakora, Haq Nawaz resident of ward number 9, Nissar Bhat resident of ward number 8, Rajan Sudan resident of ward number 9, Mohammad Majid resident of Dhanore Loharan, Imtiaz Bhat resident of ward number 8¹¹.
- On 2 January, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said that the zonal organizer of JKLF Bashir Ahmad Kashmiri who was in police custody from December 12, 2018, was booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted to Kot Bhalwal Jail¹².
- On January 3, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was arrested to prevent him from leading protests against the desecration of Jamia Masjid by some masked youth last Friday.¹³

⁹ <https://kashmirilife.net/islamabad-youth-detained-under-fresh-psa-shifted-to-hiranagar-196824/>

¹⁰ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/two-persons-detained-after-vehicle-jumps-barricade-in-south-kashmir/308219.html>

¹¹ <https://greaterkashmir.com/news/pir-panjal/9-persons-detained-in-rajouri/308166.html>

¹² <https://kashmirilife.net/jklf-zonal-organizer-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-kot-balwal-jail-malik-196886/>

¹³ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/jklf-chief-yasin-malik-arrested-on-eve-of-youm-e-taqadus-in-srinagar/308347.html>

- On January 7, police picked up at least six youth from Rajpora area of south Kashmir district Pulwama. As per local sources, the youth detained during nocturnal raids have been identified as Mohsin Farooq, Muzammil Ahmad Wani, Owais Dar, Anif Rasheed, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir and Tameel Muzaffar. A senior police official confirmed that the youth have been detained. “They were wanted in stone pelting cases,” the official said¹⁴.
- **[Juvenile]** On January 7, media reported that after the house belonging to a widow Mahmooda was razed to the ground in the Aripal encounter in Tral on 5 January, Mahmooda’s 14-year old son was detained by the police. “They took the 14-year-old boy into custody and forced him to make a statement that there was a militant hiding in his house.” A police official however said a militant was present in the house who escaped¹⁵.
- **[Juvenile]** On 10 January, media reported that the police in Awantipora have detained a juvenile who has been taken to Kathua for questioning in connection with a militancy-related case, as per officials. The police began searching for the juvenile—whose date of birth as per official records is 20/02/2003—on 5th of this month but couldn’t trace him at his home, and asked his parents to get him to a police station “as soon as possible”.¹⁶.
- On 10 January, media reported that five persons were detained by the government forces during a night raid in Kanjiullar village of south Kashmir’s Shopian district on 8 Jan. While one was later released, the four others were still in the custody of the forces. The local residents identified them as Mohsin Rashid Lone son of Ab Rashid Lone, Farooq Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, Showkat Ahmad Thockar son of Abdul Khaliq Thockar and Azad Ahmad Itoo¹⁷.
- On 11 January, three persons were booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) in north Kashmir’s Bandipora district, official said. An official said that Tawseef Ahmad Lone son of Wali Mohmad Lone a resident of Gundpora, Abdul Samad Malla alias Samad Inqalabi, a resident of Ganastan and Suhail Ahmad Parrey son of Zahoor Ahmad, a resident of Bangar Mohalla Hajin have been booked under PSA¹⁸.
- On 11 January, media reported that Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) said that its incarcerated chief Shabir Shah has been shifted to “Kasturi ward” of Tihar jail meant for the prisoners whose jail record or behavior towards other inmates or towards jail staff is not good. In a statement the DFP spokesperson said, “he (Shah) has been placed in a small cell of the ward where he is unable to even spread his legs while sleeping. Prisoners are shifted to Kasturi ward as a case of punishment and Kashmir’s resistance leader, Shabir Shah is virtually being punished in Tihar

¹⁴ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/01/07/police-picks-up-6-youth-in-pulwama/>

¹⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/widow-loses-house-in-tral-gunfight-14-yr-old-son-detained-by-police/308693.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/awantipora-juvenile-detained-taken-to-kathua-for-questioning/309022.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/forces-detain-five-shopian-residents-during-night-raid-one-set-free/309077.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/three-booked-under-psa-in-north-kashmir-s-bandipora/309179.html>

jail for advocating right to self determination of the people of Jammu Kashmir¹⁹.”

- On 16 January, media reported that the J&K High Court quashed thirteen detention orders under Public Safety Act. A bench of Justice Rashid Ali Dar quashed the preventive detention orders under the PSA after hearing the counsel for the detainees and the government.²⁰As per another media report, in total, the J&K High Court has quashed 20 Public Safety Act (PSA) detentions in recent days, citing in most cases the lack of any fresh grounds for detention in the police dossiers²¹.

- On 19 January, media reported that three youth from south Kashmir’s Pulwama district have been booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted to a jail in Jammu, officials said. Amir Shafi Bhat (20) son of Mohammad Shafi Bhat of Karimabad, Mohammad Shafi Mir (22) son of Mohammad Ramzan Mir of Kharpora Sirnoo and Suhail Ahmad Wagay (23) son of Ghulam Mohammad Wagay of Sirnoo were booked under the stringent Act. “All three were involved in stone pelting incidents and were also working as over ground workers for the militants,” an official said²².

- On 20 January, police foiled the proposed ‘march’ of PPP by arresting senior Hurriyat (M) leader and People’s Political Party (PPP) chairman, Er Hilal War from his residence ahead of protest march on the 29th anniversary of Gawkadal massacre, a PPP spokesman said in a statement. He said the PPP’s march was scheduled on 21 January from Maisuma to pay homage to martyrs of Gawkadal massacre. “A heavy contingent of Jammu and Kashmir Police surrounded the War Lane Maisuma this afternoon and took Er War in custody. He was detained at Police Station Maisuma,” the spokesman added²³.

- On 21 January, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was arrested to prevent from leading programmes on Gaw Kadal massacre anniversary, said a spokesman.²⁴

- On 25 January, police detained Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik in Srinagar on the eve of Republic Day. A large posse of police reached the Abi Guzar office of JKLF and took Malik into custody²⁵.

- On 25 January, media reported that a person from Sumbal was detained by the Delhi Police Special Cell (DPSC) from his home on January 22. Hilal Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Majeed Bhat of Sumbal, according to his family, was on January 22 detained by police for questioning and later shifted to Delhi by the Delhi Police Special Cell. The family members of Hilal, while refuting some news reports about his involvement in Lajpat Nagar

¹⁹ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/01/11/shabir-shah-shifted-to-tihars-kasturi-ward/>

²⁰ <https://kashmirobserver.net/2019/local-news/hc-quashes-13-psa-detention-orders-39465>

²¹ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/01/16/20-psa-detention-orders-quashed/>

²² <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/student-among-three-booked-under-psa-in-pulwama-shifted-to-jammu-jail/310029.html>

²³ <https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-arrest-hial-war-foil-ppp-s-scheduled-march/310202.html>

²⁴ <https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/gaw-kadal-massacre-anniversary-jklf-chief-yasin-malik-arrested/310227.html>

²⁵ <https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-detain-jklf-chief-yasin-malik-in-srinagar-on-january-26-eve/310702.html>

'blast', said that had he been involved in any such activity he would have been arrested way back and not years after the incident²⁶.

- On 2 February, Hurriyat (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house detention just a day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir²⁷.
- On 2 February, AIP President and former MLA Er Rasheed placed under house detention ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir²⁸.
- On 2 February, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Chairman Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai was placed under house arrest, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kashmir²⁹.
- On 3 February, police detained Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik from his Maisuma residence just hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Jammu and Kashmir³⁰.
- On 5 February, at least nine persons were detained by the government forces during overnight raids in two villages of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. A police official said that the forces raided Arigam and Arihal villages of the district and picked up as many as nine persons. Eight persons were detained from Arigam and one from Arihal. The official said that the detainees were being quizzed for their alleged role in various stone-pelting incidents³¹.
- On 6 February, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was detained after he took out a protest march to demand release of political prisoners³².
- On 8 February, Hurriyat (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house arrest on the eve of hanging anniversary of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru³³.
- On 9 February, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said that three of their leaders were detained by the police from their houses in Srinagar. A spokesman said that Noor Muhammad Kalwal, Showkat Bakshi and Mohd Saleem Nanaji were detained by the police from their homes in Elahibagh, Bemina and Natipora respectively³⁴.

²⁶<http://www.kashmirtimes.com/newsdet.aspx?q=87181>

²⁷<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/mirwaiz-put-under-house-detention-ahead-of-pm-modi-s-kashmir-visit/311619.html>

²⁸<https://kashmirilife.net/er-rasheed-put-under-house-detention-ahead-of-pm-modis-kashmir-visit-200477/>

²⁹<http://risingkashmir.com/news/sehrai-placed-under-house-arrest-in-srinagar-343082.html>

³⁰<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-detains-jklf-chief-yasin-malik-as-modi-arrives-in-jammu-and-kashmir/311724.html>

³¹<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/nine-detained-during-night-raids-in-south-kashmir-s-pulwama/311919.html>

³²<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/srinagar-city/police-detain-jklf-chief-yasin-malik-during-protest-march-in-srinagar/312031.html>

³³<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/mirwaiz-put-under-house-arrest-on-eve-of-afzal-guru-hanging-anniversary/312273.html>

³⁴<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/afzal-guru-anniversary-three-jklf-leaders-detained-in-srinagar/312373.html>

- On 11 February, police detained scores of the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) activists during a protest to demand the return of mortal remains of JKLF founder Maqbool Butt on his 35th death anniversary.³⁵
- On 14 February, media reported that police arrested a Hurriyat Conference (G) activist in a late night raid at Kralgund area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. A police team arrested the Hurriyat (G) activist Mohammad Akram Nagar son of Abdul Gaffar during a raid at Kralgund, a local news agency reported³⁶.
- On 16 February, media reported that after the audacious attack on a CRPF convoy, government forces conducted nocturnal raids and arrested over 8 youth. Reports said that the raids were conducted in different parts of South Kashmir's Pulwama district including Lelhar, HatiwaraLetapora, Ratnipora and Lelhar. Police sources said that over 8 youth were arrested. All these people are considered as the militant 'sympathizers', said a source³⁷.
- On 17 February, three persons including the father of a slain militant and a government teacher were arrested during nocturnal raids in South Kashmir's Shopian district. Locals from Amshipora Shopian told news agency CNS that government forces raided three houses in the village in the middle of the night and arrested three persons. Those who have been arrested include Rafiq Ahmed, a government school teacher, Fayaz Ahmed Malik, the father of a slain militant and a student Umar Nagari³⁸.
- On 18 February, media reported that following the Pulwama attack in which 49 CRPF men were killed, government forces have detained more than 30 persons from different parts of south Kashmir, mainly from Pulwama district. The attack carried out on 14 Feb by a lone Kashmiri suicide bomber, in Lethpora area of Pulwama district was the biggest ever in terms of fatalities caused during the last 30 years of militancy in Kashmir. The arrests have been made in parts of Tral, Awantipora, Kakapora, Rohmoo and some villages located along the NH-44.³⁹
- [**Juvenile**] 19 February, media reported that as many as 35 persons, including two minors, have been detained by government forces during raids in Tral, Awantipora, Pampore and Khrew. Several local residents told Greater Kashmir that soon after the suicide attack in Pulwama last week, the forces have been raiding the homes of militants, their relatives and friends besides carrying out random raids. A juvenile was detained by the forces on 16 February from Khasipora, Tral. His school registration card shows he is 15. Another juvenile, also 15, was detained from Dadsara area of Tral⁴⁰.
- On 23 Feb, media reported that dozens of Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI) leaders including the party chief were detained during a massive crackdown by the government forces during the previous night in Kashmir. In a statement, a JeI spokesman said the police and other forces launched a "mass

³⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-foil-jrl-march-on-maqbool-butt-anniversary-detain-several-activists/312584.html>

³⁶ <https://kashmirobserver.net/2019/local-news/police-arrests-hurriyat-activist-40289>

³⁷ <https://kashmirlife.net/lethpora-attack-aftermath-youth-who-rescued-21-soldiers-in-2014-floods-among-8-persons-arrested-from-pulwama-201927/>

³⁸ <https://kashmirlife.net/trio-including-slain-militants-father-teacher-arrested-in-shopian-during-nocturnal-raids-202017/>

³⁹ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/02/18/more-than-30-detained-as-investigation-into-pulwama-attack-picks-up-pace/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/pulwama-attack-2-minor-students-among-35-detained/313598.html>

arrest drive” during the intervening night of February 22 and 23 and arrested dozens of its central and district-level leaders. “Those detained include Ameer Jama’at Dr Abdul Hamid Fayaz, Advocate Zahid Ali (Spokesperson), Ghulam Qadir Lone (Former Secretary General), AbdurRouf (Ameer Zila Islamabad), Mudasar Ahmad (Ameer Tehsil Pahalgam), Abdul Salam (Dialgam), Bakhtawar Ahmad (Dialgam), Mohammad Amin Wani (Tral), Bilal Ahmad (Chadoora), Ghulam Mohammad Dar (ChakSangran) and dozens more,” said the spokesman⁴¹. As per media sources, nearly 150 people, mainly from the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir including its chief Abdul Hamid Fayaz, were detained during the intervening night of 22 and 23 Feb as tension gripped the Valley ahead of a hearing by the Supreme Court on Article 35A of the Constitution⁴².

- On 23 Feb, media reported that police have booked a youth under Public Safety Act (PSA) in south Kashmir and shifted him to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu, news gatherer *GNS* quoted an official source as saying. They said Muzamil Ganie, son of Ghulam Mohd Ganie, a resident of Chatpora village of Pulwama was shifted to Kot Bhalwal 22 Feb evening after he was arrested by police last week and booked under PSA for his alleged role in pelting stones on the forces⁴³.

- On 24 Feb, crackdown continued for the second consecutive day on Jamaat-e-Islami and other religious leaders in Kashmir valley with police detaining dozens of more leaders. Prominent among those detained are Hurriyat (G) leader Ghulam Nabi Sumjhi who was arrested from his Bijbehara residence during the night. Eight more Jamaat-e-Islami activists were arrested in overnight raids in Anantnag district. In Shopian, the police executed a string of overnight takedowns and arrested fifteen persons, including five Jamaat activists. Bashir Ahmad Rather, brother of Peoples League Member Nisar Ahmad Rather was arrested during late night from his residence at DadsaraTral. Over 150 people, mostly from Jamaat, were detained by the police and the forces in a massive crackdown during the intervening night of February 22 and 23. JKLF chief Yasin Malik was detained from his residence in Maisuma on Friday night. He is lodged at Kothibagh police station⁴⁴.

- On 1 March, 6 Jamaat-e-Islami activists were detained by the police during fresh raids in various villages of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, sources said. A source said six Jamaat activists were detained from Laribal, Pinglish, Dardsara, Panner, Mandoora and Lurgam villages of Tral last night. The detainees were lodged at police station Tral, he said.⁴⁵

- On 3 March, media reported that 3 prominent leaders of the recently banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) were arrested and nearly a dozen assets sealed during raids across six districts of Jammu province, police said. The day-long

⁴¹ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/crackdown-on-jama-at-e-islami-in-kashmir-party-chief-among-dozens-detained/313988.html>

⁴² <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/crackdown-on-jama-at-e-islami-in-kashmir-party-chief-among-150-persons-detained/313988.html>

⁴³ <https://kashmirilife.net/youth-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-kot-bhalwal-202636/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/crackdown-continues-on-jama-at-other-kashmiri-outfits/314107.html>

⁴⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-detain-six-jamaat-e-islamia-activists-in-tral/314733.html>

raids on the offices and houses of JeI leaders and activists were conducted in Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu districts, during which a large quantity of documents were seized for scrutiny, a police officer said⁴⁶.

- On 6 March, as per a report of the High Court Bar Association on the condition of jails in the state, prisons lack medical care, have shortage of space, and function without any proper method of allowing the inmates to meet their family members. On the high court directions issued in a Public Interest Litigation petition, several teams constituted by the High Court Bar Association Kashmir visited different jails and prepared the report.⁴⁷

- On 6 March, The Jamaat-e-Islami J&K said that its chief spokesperson advocate Zahid Ali was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA). A statement issued by Jamaat said, under “concocted and baseless” charges SSP Ganderbal slapped Public Safety Act (PSA) on party’s chief spokesperson Advocate Zahid Ali who is under police detention since February 22, 2019.⁴⁸

- On 7 March, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was booked under Public Safety Act (PSA), said a party spokesman. “Malik sahab has been booked under the draconian law, Public Safety Act. He is being shifted to Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu,” he said.⁴⁹

- **[Juvenile]** On March 8, media reported that the person accused of lobbing a grenade at the Jammu bus stand on 7 March, killing two men, is under 16 years of age. Police have claimed that the boy, who will turn 16 on March 12, was apprehended while fleeing after hurling the grenade at the bus stand that left two people dead and 31 others injured, reported news agency PTI. The officials said his Aadhaar card and other identity proofs, including school records, show his date of birth as March 12, 2003⁵⁰. Meanwhile, the family of the juvenile boy arrested in Nagrota vouched for his innocence and appealed to Governor Satyapal Malik for justice. In Khanpora village of Desun, in Yaripora area of Kulgam district, the family of Yasir refuted the allegations and said their juvenile son was innocent. “He is only 14 years old. He has nothing to do with all of this,” the family members said, adding that there must have been a mistake.⁵¹

10 March: It has been more than 48 hours and the police are yet to hand over the custody of the juvenile, who was held in Jammu bus stand bomb case, to the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), Jammu. On Friday, the selection-cum-oversight committee (SCOC), the apex body for monitoring and evaluation of the Juvenile Justice Act, had asked the police to hand over the boy to the JJB. SCOC chairperson justice Hasnain Masoodi said, “The JJB Jammu has called the police and asked them to hand over the custody of the juvenile but the

⁴⁶ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/three-jei-leaders-arrested-a-dozen-assets-sealed-in-jammu-province/314974.html>

⁴⁷ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/jail-inmates-face-shortage-of-space-inadequate-medical-care-bar-association-report/315276.html>

⁴⁸ <https://kashmirilife.net/advocate-zahid-ali-booked-under-psa-jamaat-says-203921/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/yasin-malik-booked-under-psa-being-shifted-to-jammu-jail-spokesman/315406.html>

⁵⁰ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/jammu-grenade-blast-accused-turns-out-to-be-juvenile/315519.html>

⁵¹ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/03/09/our-son-is-innocent-family-of-juvenile-arrested-for-jammu-grenade-attack/>

police are contradicting their own statement and saying the suspected boy is not a juvenile.”⁵²

- On 9 March, Chairman Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house arrest soon after he was summoned by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to Delhi for questioning in an alleged funding case.⁵³

- On 12 March, media reported that authorities have booked a youth under Public Safety Act (PSA) from Srinagar and shifted him to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu. An official said that Hashim Farooq Mir of Ikhrajpora, Srinagar was shifted to KotBhalwal jail after he was arrested by police around a fortnight ago and was later lodged in central jail Srinagar. On 11 March, Hashim was brought to police station Rajbagh and later shifted to Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu jail under PSA (vide number DMS/PSA/2019/47 dated 11/03/2019). (GNS)⁵⁴

- **[Juvenile]** March 13: The Juvenile Board of Jammu and Kashmir rejected medical reports suggesting that the teenager allegedly involved in a grenade attack in Jammu last week was in fact an "adult", officials said. The board has sought for all school records of the accused, which it suspects to be a minor. The officials said that the reports of the bone and teeth test conducted on the accused showed that his age was around 19 years and it had sought 10 days of remand which was rejected by the board.⁵⁵

- On 14 March, authorities booked the religious preacher and Jamiat Alhadees vice-president Moulvi Mushtaq Veeri under Public Safety Act (PSA) and he was shifted to Jammu Jail. Reports said that Veeri was arrested on February 23, from his residence when dozens of Jamaat leaders were also arrested.⁵⁶

- On 14 March, Government booked several Jamaat activists under PSA in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and shifted them to Jammu jails. The activists were arrested last month during a crackdown against JeI that preceded the ban of the socio-religious organization. Those detained under PSA include ameerhalqa Sangam Muhammad Shaban Dar (64) of Marhama village of Sangam, former Qaim-e-Zillah JeI, Islamabad, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani (67) of Tangpawa Kokernag and Ameer Halqa Soaf Shali Kokernag Nowshad Ahmad (65). All the three were shifted to Kathua Jail Jammu. 19-year-old Aqib Gulzar, son of Ameer tehsil Anantnag Gulzar Ahmad has also been booked under PSA and shifted to Hiranagar jail.⁵⁷

- On 16 March, media reported that two youth were booked under Public Safftey Act in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on March 15 for allegedly disrupting the "law and order". A police official said Nasir Rashid son of Ab Rashid of Raj Pora and Ashiq Hussain Dar son of Gh Nabi Dar of Rohmoo village were slapped with PSA and were sent to Kot Bhalwal jail in

⁵² <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-yet-to-hand-over-juvenile-to-jjb/315682.html>

⁵³ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/mirwaiz-placed-under-house-arrest-after-nia-summon/315644.html>

⁵⁴ <https://kashmirilife.net/rajbagh-youth-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-jammu-jail-204438/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/jk-juvenile-board-rejects-medical-reports-suggesting-jammu-grenade-blast-accused-as-adult/316066.html>

⁵⁶ <https://kashmirilife.net/mushtaq-veeri-booked-under-public-safety-act-shifted-to-jammu-jail-204556/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/teenage-son-of-jama-at-leader-three-activists-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-jammu-jails/316181.html>

Jammu. Nasir was booked under PSA vide no DMP/ PSA/ 2019/15 while Ashiq was booked vide no DMP/2019/ 17, the official said.⁵⁸

- On 19 March night, government forces detained eleven persons including a prominent religious cleric from south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Reports said that Moulana Mohammad Amin was detained by the police from his residence in Dangarpura village. A police official said that ten persons were picked up by the forces from their residences during a string of overnight raids in Kakapora area.⁵⁹

- On 21 March, Sajjad Ahmed Khan was arrested by the Special Cell, Delhi Police and produced in Special NIA Court, Delhi on 22.3.2019. NIA arrested Sajjad Ahmed Khan, 26, of Handoora, J&K, in case RC number 08/2019/NIA/DLI. He was booked under section 120B and 121A of IPC and sections 17, 18, 18A, 18B, 20, 38 and 39 of UAPA. NIA spokesman said the case pertains to a “criminal conspiracy” by top leadership of JeM based in Pakistan to strengthen base of JeM in India, “by recruiting persons for carrying out terrorist acts in India”. In furtherance of this criminal conspiracy, he said, “Sajjad Ahmed Khan was specially sent to Delhi to set up hideouts in Delhi NCR. This was done to select specific targets and also to radicalize and recruit Muslim youths to further terror activities,” he added.⁶⁰

Update (22 March): Refuting the Delhi police claim that their son was nabbed on 21 March near Lal Quila red light, the family of Sajjad Ahmad Khan of Hundoora Tral alleged that he was “already in police custody for one month”. “How is it possible that my son who is in police custody in Delhi for last one month was nabbed on Thursday near Lal Quila in Delhi?” asked his father Ghulam Nabi Khan. “It is an absolute lie that my son was detained by police in Delhi on 21 March when the fact is that he is in their custody since 15 February. Police is cooking up a story to implicate my son in a fake case,” Khan told Greater Kashmir. He said on 15 February his son along with six others “was detained by police in Delhi. While six of the detainees were released Sajjad was kept under detention.”⁶¹

- On 21 March, Amir Shafi Bhat (18) of Kareemabad, Pulwama, in South Kashmir and another youth from the district were booked under Public Safety Act and shifted to Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu. According to the family, it is the second time in three months that Amir has been booked under the controversial law, which allows detention without trial.⁶²

- On 22 March, media reported that the government has booked a 20-year old boy under Public Safety Act (PSA) for “following in the footsteps” of his father, a Jamat I Islami (JeI) member who has been evading arrest ever since a crackdown was launched against the politico-socio-religious outfit. The boy has been shifted to a Jammu jail. Aaqib Gulzar, a second-year BA student, according to his kin, was picked up by the government forces from

⁵⁸ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/two-pulwama-youth-booked-under-public-safety-act-shifted-to-jammu-jail/316403.html>

⁵⁹ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/prominent-religious-cleric-among-11-detained-in-night-raids-in-pulwama/316783.html>

⁶⁰ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/nia-takes-custody-of-pulwama-youth-from-delhi-police/317255.html>

⁶¹ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/our-son-was-already-in-police-custody-family-alleges/317256.html>

⁶² <https://beta.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/2-more-pulwama-youth-booked-under-psa/>

his house at Uranhall village of Bijbehara last month after they couldn't locate his father- Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Ameer e Tehsil, Jamat for Anantnag.⁶³

- On 22 March, Chairman Hurriyat (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house detention. The detention comes ahead of a protest call by Joint Resistance Leadership against custodial killing of Awantipora school principal Rizwan Pandith.⁶⁴

- On 22 March, Jammu and Kashmir police detained a man under public safety act (PSA) for his alleged involvement in "multiple theft cases as well as narcotic smuggling". Senior superintendent of police, Yougal Manhas, identified the accused as Haroon Rashid. "He has been lodged in Kot Bhalwal jail, Jammu," the officer said, adding that the accused was involved in several criminal cases.⁶⁵

- On 24 March, authorities booked two Jamaat-e-Islami activists under Public Safety Act. An official said that Hafiz Muhammad Sikander Malik, a resident of Gundpora Rampora and Sheikh Ali Muhammad, a resident of Ashtengoo village have been booked under PSA and were shifted to Kotbalwal jail in Jammu. "Sikander has been booked under PSA vide order No. DMB/PSA /2019/35 dated 18-3-2019 and Sheikh has been booked under PSA vide order No. DMB/PSA/2019/36 dated 19-3-2019 respectively," the official said.⁶⁶

- On 24 March, the principal of a Jamaat-e-Islami run private school was booked under Public Safety Act in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Reports said Mubashir Hussain, principal Shah-e-Hamdan institute was booked under PSA and sent to a jail in Kathua district of Jammu.⁶⁷

- On 25 March, media reported that government forces late on 24 March night raided a village in south Kashmir's Shopian district and picked up at least seven persons. A police official said that forces raided Arhama village, some 2.5 kms from the main town and detained seven persons. They were lodged in police station Shopian and were being quizzed for their role in militancy related activities, he said. The official identified the detainees as Ishaq Ittoo S/O Ahsan Ittoo, Mehrajuddin Mir S/ O Qadir Mir, Arshid Lone S/ O Jabbar Lone, Shabir Kulley S/ O Rashid Kulley, Gh. Nabi Mir S/ O Gh Qadir Mir, Irfan Ittoo S/ O Ab. Rashid and Fayaz Ahmad Mir S/ O Ahsan Mir.⁶⁸

- On 26 March, at least 6 youth were detained during nocturnal raids in Arampora and Janwara villages of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, reports said. The youths were detained on charges of stone pelting, reports said.⁶⁹

⁶³<https://beta.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/20-year-old-bijbehara-boy-booked-under-psa/>

⁶⁴<http://www.risingkashmir.com/news/mirwaiz-placed-under-house-detention-346479.html>

⁶⁵<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/pir-panjal/man-detained-under-psa-police/317264.html>

⁶⁶<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/jamaat-district-tehsil-prez-booked-under-psa-in-bandipora/317331.html>

⁶⁷<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/principal-of-jamaat-run-school-in-shopian-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-jammu-jail/317378.html>

⁶⁸<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/seven-youth-detained-during-night-raids-in-south-kashmir-s-shopian/317475.html>

⁶⁹<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/several-youth-detained-during-nocturnal-raids-in-sopore/317579.html>

<http://www.risingkashmir.com/news/six-youth-detained-from-sopore-village-346743.html>

A quarterly brief on human rights situation in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir (January to March 2019)

by

Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS)

and

Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP)

In the first quarter of 2019, Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir witnessed continued violence and heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, where Kashmir yet again appeared to be the nuclear flashpoint leading to speculations about an impending war. The tensions escalated when a Kashmiri militant rammed his explosive laden car into a bus moving with a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy on the Jammu – Srinagar highway, leading to the killing of 48 Indian soldiers. India claimed that the attack was sponsored by Pakistan supported militant organization Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM), which led to the two countries violating each other's air space. In these ensuing attacks, an Indian pilot was captured by Pakistani army and was released after two days by the Pakistan Prime Minister as a gesture of goodwill, which led to de-escalation of the tensions between the two countries.

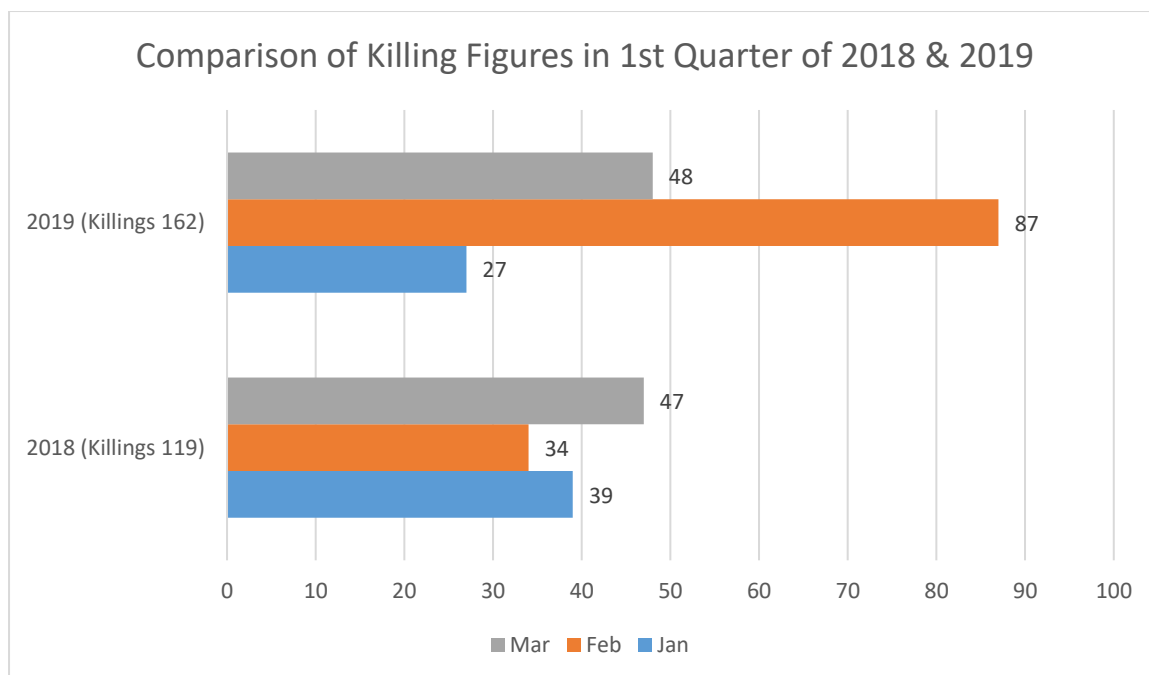
But the de-escalation did not lead to any decrease in violence against the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The government of India announced Parliamentary elections, followed by the deployment of 100 additional companies in Kashmir. Mass arrests of political and religious leaders and banning of religious and political organizations was carried out, ahead of the elections in India. Interestingly, Election of Commission of India's decision to not announce Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir was based on India's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) assessment of not possessing 'inadequate security personal' for conducting elections.¹ The admission by MHA proves that elections in Jammu and Kashmir are a military exercise and are only made possible by the massive presence of armed forces on ground.

Killings from January to March 2019

2018 was the deadliest year of the last decade in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir, with 586 killings recorded in the year. However, the graph of violence significantly increased in 2019. The first three months of 2019 saw at least 162 killings in various incidents of violence in Indian administered Jammu and Kashmir, which include 21 civilians, 58 militants and 83 Indian armed forces personnel.

In comparison to the first three months of 2018, which witnessed 119 killings, the number of killings significantly increased in the first three months of 2019.

¹ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/elections/lok-sabha/india/inadequate-security-personnel-hinders-jk-assembly-polls/articleshow/68350594.cms>



For the first time in twenty-nine years of armed conflict, the killing figures (83) of Indian armed forces personnel in Jammu and Kashmir is higher in ratio as compared to the killings of militants.

Killing Figures (January to March 2019)

| | Civilians | Militants | Armed Forces | Total Killings |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2019 | 02 | 17 | 08 | 27 |
| February 2019 | 05 | 22 | 60 | 87 |
| March 2019 | 14 | 19 | 15 | 48 |
| Total Killings | 21 | 58 | 83 | 162 |

Among the 83 Indian armed forces and Jammu Kashmir police personnel killed in Jammu and Kashmir, the highest (65) forces personnel were killed in counter-insurgency related incidents, including in a suicide attack by a Kashmiri militant on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama on 14 February, which resulted in the killing of at least 48 CRPF personnel, while 6 Indian armed personnel were killed at the volatile Line of Control (LOC). 7 armed forces committed suicide, 3 CRPF troopers were killed in a fratricidal incident by a CRPF trooper in Udhampur district of Jammu and 2 Special Police Officers (SPO) of Jammu Kashmir Police were killed by suspected militants.

Among the 21 civilians killed in Jammu and Kashmir in the first three months of 2019, the highest (7) killings were carried out by unidentified gunmen in which 2 killings were suspected to be carried out by militants, while 6 were killed due to shelling at LOC. 3 persons were killed by armed forces and 4 persons died in grenade and IED explosions.

Among the 3 civilians killed by armed forces in the first quarter of 2019, 2 were killed by armed forces following encounters with militants, and one 28-year-old youth was killed due to torture inflicted on him by government forces during his detention at Cargo, an infamous torture center in Srinagar.

Pulwama recorded the highest (8) number of civilian killings in the first quarter of 2019, followed by Poonch (3), Baramulla (2), Kupwara (2), Jammu (2), Anantnag (1), Bandipora (1), Shopian (1) and one non-local person who was killed in an explosion.

The killing of civilians accused of being army informers by armed gunmen points to the ways the unresolved conflict in Jammu and Kashmir is inevitably endangering the lives of the civilian population.

Among the 21 civilian casualties, three were minors including twelve-year-old Atif Mir, who was first held hostage by militants at his house in Hajan Bandipora and later was killed when armed forces blasted the very house where he was held hostage.

Cordon and Search Operations

Despite claims of the Government of India that the ongoing Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir has brought down incidents of violence and that militant recruitment has also stopped, the situation on the ground speaks otherwise. In the first quarter of 2019, at least 89 Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) were conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. A majority of these CASO's were conducted in four south Kashmir districts of Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag and Kulgam.

The 89 CASO's have resulted in the killing of at least 58 militants, three civilians and destruction of at least 18 civilian properties.

The frequency of CASO's was particularly increased following the militant attack on a CRPF convoy in February.

Destruction of Civilian Property

In the first quarter of 2019, at least 18 cases of destruction of civilian properties were reported in Jammu and Kashmir. Out of the 18 cases, 15 are residential houses and 3 are cowsheds. In all these cases, armed forces, in a direct violation of Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law, used disproportionate force to inflict damage on civilian property, sometimes resulting in the death of civilians as well, as the killing of 12-year-old Atif Mir reveals.

The reported cases of destruction of civilian property by armed forces during encounters with militants in the first quarter of 2019 are listed below:

- On January 5, the house in which the militants were trapped in Aripal village of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district was set on fire by the government forces during an encounter².
- On 23 January, a residential house was partially damaged and people were confined to houses as India and Pakistan traded fire along the line of control in Jammu division's Poonch district. Reports said that in an exchange of firing at

² <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/tral-gunfight-firing-stops-house-goes-up-in-flames/308550.html>

Krishna Ghati Sector of Mendhar area in Poonch, a residential house belonging to Mohammad Sharf at Nar Mankote suffered damages.³

- On 5 March, media reported that 8 residential houses and 3 cowsheds were damaged in the 56-hour encounter in Babagund village in Handwara in which two militants, five security personnel and a civilian were killed.⁴
- On 25 March, media reported that at least nine structures, including five residential houses belonging to four families, were destroyed during the 12-hour-long fire fight in which two local militants were killed Gadapora village in Shopian district⁵.

Internet Blockades

Internet services continue to be curtailed as part of the ongoing counter insurgency measures by the government in Jammu and Kashmir. In the first quarter of 2019, internet services were suspended 23 times in Jammu & Kashmir and most of these suspensions of data services were reported in South Kashmir.

Recently, the frequency of internet shutdowns in Kashmir were subject of critique of a report '*Of Blackouts and Bandhs: The Strategy and Structure of Disconnected Protest in India*'⁶ by Stanford University in USA. The report stated, "India has witnessed 134 network shutdowns in 2018, with more than 100 shutdown seen in 2016-17." The report highlighted that Kashmir is most prone to internet shutdowns with the Valley being under a digital curfew for more than 203 days after 2016 unrest following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen Commander Burhan Wani.

Upsurge in attacks against Kashmiris across India

Following the militant attack on CRFP convoy in Pulwama district of Kashmir on 14 February 2019 – in which at least 48 CRPF men were killed, thousands of Kashmiris living in Indian cities, came under attack of Hindu right-wing mobs and angry Indians.

In the first quarter of 2019, at least 42 incidents of attacks on Kashmiris across India were reported. The reported incidents of violence against Kashmiris in the first quarter of 2019 (42) are significantly higher than the combined incidents of attacks against Kashmiris in India last year in 2018 (22).

As an immediate consequence of the militant attack on CRPF, violence escalated in Jammu city on 15 February after Hindu right-wing mobs attacked Muslim majority areas and Kashmiri Muslims, torched vehicles bearing Kashmir registered number plates, attacked homes of Kashmiris with stones and demanded them to leave Jammu city.

³ <https://kashmirilife.net/residential-house-damaged-as-india-pak-armies-trade-fire-in-poonch-199629/>

⁴ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/handwara-encounter-destruction-of-8-houses-leaves-families-devastated/315113.html>

⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/shopian-gun-battle-leaves-behind-a-trail-of-devastation/317430.html>

⁶ https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3330413

The government enforced a curfew in Jammu city for 6 days yet violent right-wing mobs held protests and processions against the CRPF attack and their ire was directed towards Kashmiri Muslims living in Jammu.

There were attacks on Kashmiris living in Indian cities. Kashmiri students came under attack and many were beaten, threatened and demanded to leave colleges and universities. Some Kashmiri students were also booked for sedition for allegedly posting on social media. The incidents of these hate crimes against Kashmiris have only risen – with even the Governor of Meghalaya (a state in North Eastern India) calling for a social boycott of Kashmiris and Kashmiri products. There was also news of Kashmiri students suspended from colleges.

While calling for revenge against the militant attack on CRPF, A JNU Professor called for “public execution of 40 Kashmiris for 40 soldiers.” The rising attacks against Kashmiris left thousands of Kashmiris living in India and cities like Jammu and Dehradun feeling unsafe and fearing for their lives. Owing to such threats to life, scores of Kashmiri students returned to their homes, which could gravely affect their studies and careers.

The attacks on and persecution of Kashmiris living outside in Indian cities is not uncommon. Kashmiri people are looked at with suspicion and the idea of nationalism is projected by attacking Kashmiris. In 2018, the instances of persecution and harassment of Kashmiris living outside was frequently reported. According to the data compiled by APDP and JKCCS, at least 22 incidents of harassment and persecution of Kashmiris living outside were reported in 2018 in which 24 Kashmiri students were assaulted and 19 were arrested.⁷

Following war-like tensions between India and Pakistan, the government in Jammu and Kashmir also arrested hundreds of political and religious leaders in the valley and NIA conducted raids on prominent Pro-Independence leaders.⁸

Arbitrary and Administrative Detentions

The use of arbitrary and preventive detention to indefinitely detain individuals perceived to be dissenting with the government continued unabated.

In addition to many Hurriyat and pro-Independence activists being detained and put under house arrest throughout these three months, massive arrests of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) activists took place after the two organizations were banned by the Government of India. Nearly 150 people, mainly from the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir including its chief Abdul Hamid Fayaz, were detained during the intervening night of 22 and 23 February.

Between January and March, at least 25 people were booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA), including but not limited to many of the prominent activists of JeI, as well as JKLF chief Yasin Malik.

⁷ <http://jkccs.net/2018-deadliest-year-of-the-decade-jkccs-annual-human-rights-review/>

⁸ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/kashmir-tense-after-crackdown-on-jamaat-and-hurriyat/articleshow/68126017.cms>

Many youths were arrested in night raids, predominantly, in South Kashmir. Following the Pulwama attack on 14 February, in which 48 CRPF personnel died, media reported that as many as 35 persons, including two minors, were detained by government forces during raids in Tral, Awantipora, Pampore and Khrew.

Three minors were also arrested. Notably, the 14-year-old son of a widow Mahmooda, whose house was razed to the ground in the Aripal encounter in Tral on 5 January, was detained by the police. Another juvenile arrest was reported on 10 January in Awantipora where the police detained a minor who was taken to Kathua for questioning in connection with a militancy-related case. Media also reported that the person who was arrested and accused of lobbing a grenade at the Jammu bus stand on 7 March is a 15-year-old.

The following presents a detailed account about detentions in this quarter.

- On January 1, a youth from south Kashmir's Islamabad district was booked under PSA for the second time in succession even as he remained in custody. The youth Shabir Ahmad Rather, son of Ghulam Hassan Rather of Mominabad, Dooru was slapped with the second PSA while his previous one expired was shifted to Hiranagar jail in.⁹
- On 2 January, media reported that two persons were arrested late previous night after they failed to stop at a barricade set up by the army in Anantnag district of south Kashmir. A source said the duo travelling in the load carrier was later detained from Kanganhal village and handed over to the police¹⁰.
- On 2 January, police detained nine persons in Rajouri for their alleged involvement in unlawful activities. "These persons have been taken into preventive custody from various areas of Rajouri town on the orders issued by executive magistrate Rajouri," said SSP Rajouri, Yougal Manhas. The officer said that those detained include Sanjeev Kumar resident of Dhani Dhar, Gourav Kumar resident of Khandli Rajouri, Jaipal Singh resident of Kallar, Shahbaz Ahmed resident of Kakora, Haq Nawaz resident of ward number 9, Nissar Bhat resident of ward number 8, Rajan Sudan resident of ward number 9, Mohammad Majid resident of Dhanore Loharan, Imtiaz Bhat resident of ward number 8¹¹.
- On 2 January, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said that the zonal organizer of JKLF Bashir Ahmad Kashmiri who was in police custody from December 12, 2018, was booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted to Kot Bhalwal Jail¹².
- On January 3, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was arrested to prevent him from leading protests against the desecration of Jamia Masjid by some masked youth last Friday.¹³

⁹ <https://kashmirilife.net/islamabad-youth-detained-under-fresh-psa-shifted-to-hiranagar-196824/>

¹⁰ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/two-persons-detained-after-vehicle-jumps-barricade-in-south-kashmir/308219.html>

¹¹ <https://greaterkashmir.com/news/pir-panjal/9-persons-detained-in-rajouri/308166.html>

¹² <https://kashmirilife.net/jklf-zonal-organizer-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-kot-balwal-jail-malik-196886/>

¹³ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/jklf-chief-yasin-malik-arrested-on-eve-of-youm-e-taqadus-in-srinagar/308347.html>

- On January 7, police picked up at least six youth from Rajpora area of south Kashmir district Pulwama. As per local sources, the youth detained during nocturnal raids have been identified as Mohsin Farooq, Muzammil Ahmad Wani, Owais Dar, Anif Rasheed, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir and Tameel Muzaffar. A senior police official confirmed that the youth have been detained. “They were wanted in stone pelting cases,” the official said¹⁴.
- **[Juvenile]** On January 7, media reported that after the house belonging to a widow Mahmooda was razed to the ground in the Aripal encounter in Tral on 5 January, Mahmooda’s 14-year old son was detained by the police. “They took the 14-year-old boy into custody and forced him to make a statement that there was a militant hiding in his house.” A police official however said a militant was present in the house who escaped¹⁵.
- **[Juvenile]** On 10 January, media reported that the police in Awantipora have detained a juvenile who has been taken to Kathua for questioning in connection with a militancy-related case, as per officials. The police began searching for the juvenile—whose date of birth as per official records is 20/02/2003—on 5th of this month but couldn’t trace him at his home, and asked his parents to get him to a police station “as soon as possible”.¹⁶.
- On 10 January, media reported that five persons were detained by the government forces during a night raid in Kanjiullar village of south Kashmir’s Shopian district on 8 Jan. While one was later released, the four others were still in the custody of the forces. The local residents identified them as Mohsin Rashid Lone son of Ab Rashid Lone, Farooq Ahmad Bhat son of Mohammad Ayoub Bhat, Showkat Ahmad Thockar son of Abdul Khaliq Thockar and Azad Ahmad Itoo¹⁷.
- On 11 January, three persons were booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) in north Kashmir’s Bandipora district, official said. An official said that Tawseef Ahmad Lone son of Wali Mohmad Lone a resident of Gundpora, Abdul Samad Malla alias Samad Inqalabi, a resident of Ganastan and Suhail Ahmad Parrey son of Zahoor Ahmad, a resident of Bangar Mohalla Hajin have been booked under PSA¹⁸.
- On 11 January, media reported that Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) said that its incarcerated chief Shabir Shah has been shifted to “Kasturi ward” of Tihar jail meant for the prisoners whose jail record or behavior towards other inmates or towards jail staff is not good. In a statement the DFP spokesperson said, “he (Shah) has been placed in a small cell of the ward where he is unable to even spread his legs while sleeping. Prisoners are shifted to Kasturi ward as a case of punishment and Kashmir’s resistance leader, Shabir Shah is virtually being punished in Tihar

¹⁴ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/01/07/police-picks-up-6-youth-in-pulwama/>

¹⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/widow-loses-house-in-tral-gunfight-14-yr-old-son-detained-by-police/308693.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/awantipora-juvenile-detained-taken-to-kathua-for-questioning/309022.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/forces-detain-five-shopian-residents-during-night-raid-one-set-free/309077.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/three-booked-under-psa-in-north-kashmir-s-bandipora/309179.html>

jail for advocating right to self determination of the people of Jammu Kashmir¹⁹.”

- On 16 January, media reported that the J&K High Court quashed thirteen detention orders under Public Safety Act. A bench of Justice Rashid Ali Dar quashed the preventive detention orders under the PSA after hearing the counsel for the detainees and the government.²⁰As per another media report, in total, the J&K High Court has quashed 20 Public Safety Act (PSA) detentions in recent days, citing in most cases the lack of any fresh grounds for detention in the police dossiers²¹.

- On 19 January, media reported that three youth from south Kashmir’s Pulwama district have been booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted to a jail in Jammu, officials said. Amir Shafi Bhat (20) son of Mohammad Shafi Bhat of Karimabad, Mohammad Shafi Mir (22) son of Mohammad Ramzan Mir of Kharpora Sirnoo and Suhail Ahmad Wagay (23) son of Ghulam Mohammad Wagay of Sirnoo were booked under the stringent Act. “All three were involved in stone pelting incidents and were also working as over ground workers for the militants,” an official said²².

- On 20 January, police foiled the proposed ‘march’ of PPP by arresting senior Hurriyat (M) leader and People’s Political Party (PPP) chairman, Er Hilal War from his residence ahead of protest march on the 29th anniversary of Gawkadala massacre, a PPP spokesman said in a statement. He said the PPP’s march was scheduled on 21 January from Maisuma to pay homage to martyrs of Gawkadala massacre. “A heavy contingent of Jammu and Kashmir Police surrounded the War Lane Maisuma this afternoon and took Er War in custody. He was detained at Police Station Maisuma,” the spokesman added²³.

- On 21 January, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was arrested to prevent from leading programmes on Gaw Kadala massacre anniversary, said a spokesman.²⁴

- On 25 January, police detained Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik in Srinagar on the eve of Republic Day. A large posse of police reached the Abi Guzar office of JKLF and took Malik into custody²⁵.

- On 25 January, media reported that a person from Sumbal was detained by the Delhi Police Special Cell (DPSC) from his home on January 22. Hilal Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Majeed Bhat of Sumbal, according to his family, was on January 22 detained by police for questioning and later shifted to Delhi by the Delhi Police Special Cell. The family members of Hilal, while refuting some news reports about his involvement in Lajpat Nagar

¹⁹ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/01/11/shabir-shah-shifted-to-tihars-kasturi-ward/>

²⁰ <https://kashmirobserver.net/2019/local-news/hc-quashes-13-psa-detention-orders-39465>

²¹ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/01/16/20-psa-detention-orders-quashed/>

²² <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/student-among-three-booked-under-psa-in-pulwama-shifted-to-jammu-jail/310029.html>

²³ <https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-arrest-hilal-war-foil-ppp-s-scheduled-march/310202.html>

²⁴ <https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/gaw-kadal-massacre-anniversary-jklf-chief-yasin-malik-arrested/310227.html>

²⁵ <https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-detain-jklf-chief-yasin-malik-in-srinagar-on-january-26-eve/310702.html>

'blast', said that had he been involved in any such activity he would have been arrested way back and not years after the incident²⁶.

- On 2 February, Hurriyat (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house detention just a day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir²⁷.

- On 2 February, AIP President and former MLA Er Rasheed placed under house detention ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir²⁸.

- On 2 February, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Chairman Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai was placed under house arrest, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kashmir²⁹.

- On 3 February, police detained Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik from his Maisuma residence just hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Jammu and Kashmir³⁰.

- On 5 February, at least nine persons were detained by the government forces during overnight raids in two villages of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. A police official said that the forces raided Arigam and Arihal villages of the district and picked up as many as nine persons. Eight persons were detained from Arigam and one from Arihal. The official said that the detainees were being quizzed for their alleged role in various stone-pelting incidents³¹.

- On 6 February, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was detained after he took out a protest march to demand release of political prisoners³².

- On 8 February, Hurriyat (M) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house arrest on the eve of hanging anniversary of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru³³.

- On 9 February, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said that three of their leaders were detained by the police from their houses in Srinagar. A spokesman said that Noor Muhammad Kalwal, Showkat Bakshi and Mohd Saleem Nanaji were detained by the police from their homes in Elahibagh, Bemina and Natipora respectively³⁴.

²⁶<http://www.kashmirtimes.com/newsdet.aspx?q=87181>

²⁷<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/mirwaiz-put-under-house-detention-ahead-of-pm-modi-s-kashmir-visit/311619.html>

²⁸<https://kashmirilife.net/er-rasheed-put-under-house-detention-ahead-of-pm-modis-kashmir-visit-200477/>

²⁹<http://risingkashmir.com/news/sehrai-placed-under-house-arrest-in-srinagar-343082.html>

³⁰<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-detains-jklf-chief-yasin-malik-as-modi-arrives-in-jammu-and-kashmir/311724.html>

³¹<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/nine-detained-during-night-raids-in-south-kashmir-s-pulwama/311919.html>

³²<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/srinagar-city/police-detain-jklf-chief-yasin-malik-during-protest-march-in-srinagar/312031.html>

³³<https://greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/mirwaiz-put-under-house-arrest-on-eve-of-afzal-guru-hanging-anniversary/312273.html>

³⁴<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/afzal-guru-anniversary-three-jklf-leaders-detained-in-srinagar/312373.html>

- On 11 February, police detained scores of the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) activists during a protest to demand the return of mortal remains of JKLF founder Maqbool Butt on his 35th death anniversary.³⁵
- On 14 February, media reported that police arrested a Hurriyat Conference (G) activist in a late night raid at Kralgund area of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. A police team arrested the Hurriyat (G) activist Mohammad Akram Nagar son of Abdul Gaffar during a raid at Kralgund, a local news agency reported³⁶.
- On 16 February, media reported that after the audacious attack on a CRPF convoy, government forces conducted nocturnal raids and arrested over 8 youth. Reports said that the raids were conducted in different parts of South Kashmir's Pulwama district including Lelhar, HatiwaraLetapora, Ratnipora and Lelhar. Police sources said that over 8 youth were arrested. All these people are considered as the militant 'sympathizers', said a source³⁷.
- On 17 February, three persons including the father of a slain militant and a government teacher were arrested during nocturnal raids in South Kashmir's Shopian district. Locals from Amshipora Shopian told news agency CNS that government forces raided three houses in the village in the middle of the night and arrested three persons. Those who have been arrested include Rafiq Ahmed, a government school teacher, Fayaz Ahmed Malik, the father of a slain militant and a student Umar Nagari³⁸.
- On 18 February, media reported that following the Pulwama attack in which 48 CRPF men were killed, government forces have detained more than 30 persons from different parts of south Kashmir, mainly from Pulwama district. The attack carried out on 14 Feb by a lone Kashmiri suicide bomber, in Lethpora area of Pulwama district was the biggest ever in terms of fatalities caused during the last 30 years of militancy in Kashmir. The arrests have been made in parts of Tral, Awantipora, Kakapora, Rohmoo and some villages located along the NH-44.³⁹
- [**Juvenile**] 19 February, media reported that as many as 35 persons, including two minors, have been detained by government forces during raids in Tral, Awantipora, Pampore and Khrew. Several local residents told Greater Kashmir that soon after the suicide attack in Pulwama last week, the forces have been raiding the homes of militants, their relatives and friends besides carrying out random raids. A juvenile was detained by the forces on 16 February from Khasipora, Tral. His school registration card shows he is 15. Another juvenile, also 15, was detained from Dadsara area of Tral⁴⁰.
- On 23 Feb, media reported that dozens of Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI) leaders including the party chief were detained during a massive crackdown by the government forces during the previous night in Kashmir. In a statement, a JeI spokesman said the police and other forces launched a "mass

³⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-foil-jrl-march-on-maqbool-butt-anniversary-detain-several-activists/312584.html>

³⁶ <https://kashmirobserver.net/2019/local-news/police-arrests-hurriyat-activist-40289>

³⁷ <https://kashmirlife.net/lethpora-attack-aftermath-youth-who-rescued-21-soldiers-in-2014-floods-among-8-persons-arrested-from-pulwama-201927/>

³⁸ <https://kashmirlife.net/trio-including-slain-militants-father-teacher-arrested-in-shopian-during-nocturnal-raids-202017/>

³⁹ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/02/18/more-than-30-detained-as-investigation-into-pulwama-attack-picks-up-pace/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/pulwama-attack-2-minor-students-among-35-detained/313598.html>

arrest drive” during the intervening night of February 22 and 23 and arrested dozens of its central and district-level leaders. “Those detained include Ameer Jama’at Dr Abdul Hamid Fayaz, Advocate Zahid Ali (Spokesperson), Ghulam Qadir Lone (Former Secretary General), AbdurRouf (Ameer Zila Islamabad), Mudasar Ahmad (Ameer Tehsil Pahalgam), Abdul Salam (Dialgam), Bakhtawar Ahmad (Dialgam), Mohammad Amin Wani (Tral), Bilal Ahmad (Chadoora), Ghulam Mohammad Dar (ChakSangran) and dozens more,” said the spokesman⁴¹. As per media sources, nearly 150 people, mainly from the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir including its chief Abdul Hamid Fayaz, were detained during the intervening night of 22 and 23 Feb as tension gripped the Valley ahead of a hearing by the Supreme Court on Article 35A of the Constitution⁴².

- On 23 Feb, media reported that police have booked a youth under Public Safety Act (PSA) in south Kashmir and shifted him to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu, news gatherer *GNS* quoted an official source as saying. They said Muzamil Ganie, son of Ghulam Mohd Ganie, a resident of Chatpora village of Pulwama was shifted to Kot Bhalwal 22 Feb evening after he was arrested by police last week and booked under PSA for his alleged role in pelting stones on the forces⁴³.
- On 24 Feb, crackdown continued for the second consecutive day on Jamaat-e-Islami and other religious leaders in Kashmir valley with police detaining dozens of more leaders. Prominent among those detained are Hurriyat (G) leader Ghulam Nabi Sumjhi who was arrested from his Bijbehara residence during the night. Eight more Jamaat-e-Islami activists were arrested in overnight raids in Anantnag district. In Shopian, the police executed a string of overnight takedowns and arrested fifteen persons, including five Jamaat activists. Bashir Ahmad Rather, brother of Peoples League Member Nisar Ahmad Rather was arrested during late night from his residence at DadsaraTral. Over 150 people, mostly from Jamaat, were detained by the police and the forces in a massive crackdown during the intervening night of February 22 and 23. JKLF chief Yasin Malik was detained from his residence in Maisuma on Friday night. He is lodged at Kothibagh police station⁴⁴.
- On 1 March, 6 Jamaat-e-Islami activists were detained by the police during fresh raids in various villages of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, sources said. A source said six Jamaat activists were detained from Laribal, Pinglish, Dardsara, Panner, Mandoora and Lurgam villages of Tral last night. The detainees were lodged at police station Tral, he said.⁴⁵
- On 3 March, media reported that 3 prominent leaders of the recently banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) were arrested and nearly a dozen assets sealed during raids across six districts of Jammu province, police said. The day-long

⁴¹ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/crackdown-on-jama-at-e-islami-in-kashmir-party-chief-among-dozens-detained/313988.html>

⁴² <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/crackdown-on-jama-at-e-islami-in-kashmir-party-chief-among-150-persons-detained/313988.html>

⁴³ <https://kashmirilife.net/youth-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-kot-bhalwal-202636/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/crackdown-continues-on-jama-at-other-kashmiri-outfits/314107.html>

⁴⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-detain-six-jamaat-e-islamia-activists-in-tral/314733.html>

raids on the offices and houses of JeI leaders and activists were conducted in Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban, Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu districts, during which a large quantity of documents were seized for scrutiny, a police officer said⁴⁶.

- On 6 March, as per a report of the High Court Bar Association on the condition of jails in the state, prisons lack medical care, have shortage of space, and function without any proper method of allowing the inmates to meet their family members. On the high court directions issued in a Public Interest Litigation petition, several teams constituted by the High Court Bar Association Kashmir visited different jails and prepared the report.⁴⁷

- On 6 March, The Jamaat-e-Islami J&K said that its chief spokesperson advocate Zahid Ali was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA). A statement issued by Jamaat said, under “concocted and baseless” charges SSP Ganderbal slapped Public Safety Act (PSA) on party’s chief spokesperson Advocate Zahid Ali who is under police detention since February 22, 2019.⁴⁸

- On 7 March, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik was booked under Public Safety Act (PSA), said a party spokesman. “Malik sahab has been booked under the draconian law, Public Safety Act. He is being shifted to Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu,” he said.⁴⁹

- **[Juvenile]** On March 8, media reported that the person accused of lobbing a grenade at the Jammu bus stand on 7 March, killing two men, is under 16 years of age. Police have claimed that the boy, who will turn 16 on March 12, was apprehended while fleeing after hurling the grenade at the bus stand that left two people dead and 31 others injured, reported news agency PTI. The officials said his Aadhaar card and other identity proofs, including school records, show his date of birth as March 12, 2003⁵⁰. Meanwhile, the family of the juvenile boy arrested in Nagrota vouched for his innocence and appealed to Governor Satyapal Malik for justice. In Khanpora village of Desun, in Yaripora area of Kulgam district, the family of Yasir refuted the allegations and said their juvenile son was innocent. “He is only 14 years old. He has nothing to do with all of this,” the family members said, adding that there must have been a mistake.⁵¹

10 March: It has been more than 48 hours and the police are yet to hand over the custody of the juvenile, who was held in Jammu bus stand bomb case, to the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), Jammu. On Friday, the selection-cum-oversight committee (SCOC), the apex body for monitoring and evaluation of the Juvenile Justice Act, had asked the police to hand over the boy to the JJB. SCOC chairperson justice Hasnain Masoodi said, “The JJB Jammu has called the police and asked them to hand over the custody of the juvenile but the

⁴⁶ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/three-jei-leaders-arrested-a-dozen-assets-sealed-in-jammu-province/314974.html>

⁴⁷ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/jail-inmates-face-shortage-of-space-inadequate-medical-care-bar-association-report/315276.html>

⁴⁸ <https://kashmirilife.net/advocate-zahid-ali-booked-under-psa-jamaat-says-203921/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/yasin-malik-booked-under-psa-being-shifted-to-jammu-jail-spokesman/315406.html>

⁵⁰ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/jammu-grenade-blast-accused-turns-out-to-be-juvenile/315519.html>

⁵¹ <https://kashmirreader.com/2019/03/09/our-son-is-innocent-family-of-juvenile-arrested-for-jammu-grenade-attack/>

police are contradicting their own statement and saying the suspected boy is not a juvenile.”⁵²

- On 9 March, Chairman Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house arrest soon after he was summoned by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to Delhi for questioning in an alleged funding case.⁵³

- On 12 March, media reported that authorities have booked a youth under Public Safety Act (PSA) from Srinagar and shifted him to Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu. An official said that Hashim Farooq Mir of Ikhrajpora, Srinagar was shifted to Kot Bhalwal jail after he was arrested by police around a fortnight ago and was later lodged in central jail Srinagar. On 11 March, Hashim was brought to police station Rajbagh and later shifted to Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu jail under PSA (vide number DMS/PSA/2019/47 dated 11/03/2019). (GNS)⁵⁴

- **[Juvenile]** March 13: The Juvenile Board of Jammu and Kashmir rejected medical reports suggesting that the teenager allegedly involved in a grenade attack in Jammu last week was in fact an "adult", officials said. The board has sought for all school records of the accused, which it suspects to be a minor. The officials said that the reports of the bone and teeth test conducted on the accused showed that his age was around 19 years and it had sought 10 days of remand which was rejected by the board.⁵⁵

- On 14 March, authorities booked the religious preacher and Jamiat Alhadees vice-president Moulvi Mushtaq Veeri under Public Safety Act (PSA) and he was shifted to Jammu Jail. Reports said that Veeri was arrested on February 23, from his residence when dozens of Jamaat leaders were also arrested.⁵⁶

- On 14 March, Government booked several Jamaat activists under PSA in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and shifted them to Jammu jails. The activists were arrested last month during a crackdown against JeI that preceded the ban of the socio-religious organization. Those detained under PSA include ameerhalqa Sangam Muhammad Shaban Dar (64) of Marhama village of Sangam, former Qaim-e-Zillah (Secretary) JeI, Islamabad, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani (67) of Tangpawa Kokernag and Ameer Halqa Soaf Shali Kokernag Nowshad Ahmad (65). All the three were shifted to Kathua Jail Jammu. 19-year-old Aqib Gulzar, son of Ameer tehsil Anantnag Gulzar Ahmad has also been booked under PSA and shifted to Hiranagar jail.⁵⁷

- On 16 March, media reported that two youth were booked under Public Safety Act in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on March 15 for allegedly disrupting the "law and order". A police official said Nasir Rashid son of Ab Rashid of Raj Pora and Ashiq Hussain Dar son of Gh Nabi Dar of Rohmoo village were slapped with PSA and were sent to Kot Bhalwal jail in

⁵² <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/police-yet-to-hand-over-juvenile-to-jjb/315682.html>

⁵³ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/mirwaiz-placed-under-house-arrest-after-nia-summon/315644.html>

⁵⁴ <https://kashmirilife.net/rajbagh-youth-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-jammu-jail-204438/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/jammu/jk-juvenile-board-rejects-medical-reports-suggesting-jammu-grenade-blast-accused-as-adult/316066.html>

⁵⁶ <https://kashmirilife.net/mushtaq-veeri-booked-under-public-safety-act-shifted-to-jammu-jail-204556/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/teenage-son-of-jama-at-leader-three-activists-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-jammu-jails/316181.html>

Jammu. Nasir was booked under PSA vide no DMP/ PSA/ 2019/15 while Ashiq was booked vide no DMP/2019/ 17, the official said.⁵⁸

- On 19 March night, government forces detained eleven persons including a prominent religious cleric from south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Reports said that Moulana Mohammad Amin was detained by the police from his residence in Dangarpura village. A police official said that ten persons were picked up by the forces from their residences during a string of overnight raids in Kakapora area.⁵⁹

- On 21 March, Sajjad Ahmed Khan was arrested by the Special Cell, Delhi Police and produced in Special NIA Court, Delhi on 22.3.2019. NIA arrested Sajjad Ahmed Khan, 26, of Handoora, J&K, in case RC number 08/2019/NIA/DLI. He was booked under section 120B and 121A of IPC and sections 17, 18, 18A, 18B, 20, 38 and 39 of UAPA. NIA spokesman said the case pertains to a “criminal conspiracy” by top leadership of JeM based in Pakistan to strengthen base of JeM in India, “by recruiting persons for carrying out terrorist acts in India”. In furtherance of this criminal conspiracy, he said, “Sajjad Ahmed Khan was specially sent to Delhi to set up hideouts in Delhi NCR. This was done to select specific targets and also to radicalize and recruit Muslim youths to further terror activities,” he added.⁶⁰

Update (22 March): Refuting the Delhi police claim that their son was nabbed on 21 March near Lal Quila red light, the family of Sajjad Ahmad Khan of Hundoora Tral alleged that he was “already in police custody for one month”. “How is it possible that my son who is in police custody in Delhi for last one month was nabbed on Thursday near Lal Quila in Delhi?” asked his father Ghulam Nabi Khan. “It is an absolute lie that my son was detained by police in Delhi on 21 March when the fact is that he is in their custody since 15 February. Police is cooking up a story to implicate my son in a fake case,” Khan told Greater Kashmir. He said on 15 February his son along with six others “was detained by police in Delhi. While six of the detainees were released Sajjad was kept under detention.”⁶¹

- On 21 March, Amir Shafi Bhat (18) of Kareemabad, Pulwama, in South Kashmir and another youth from the district were booked under Public Safety Act and shifted to Kot Bhalwal jail in Jammu. According to the family, it is the second time in three months that Amir has been booked under the controversial law, which allows detention without trial.⁶²

- On 22 March, media reported that the government has booked a 20-year old boy under Public Safety Act (PSA) for “following in the footsteps” of his father, a Jamat I Islami (JeI) member who has been evading arrest ever since a crackdown was launched against the politico-socio-religious outfit. The boy has been shifted to a Jammu jail. Aaqib Gulzar, a second-year BA student, according to his kin, was picked up by the government forces from

⁵⁸ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/two-pulwama-youth-booked-under-public-safety-act-shifted-to-jammu-jail/316403.html>

⁵⁹ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/prominent-religious-cleric-among-11-detained-in-night-raids-in-pulwama/316783.html>

⁶⁰ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/nia-takes-custody-of-pulwama-youth-from-delhi-police/317255.html>

⁶¹ <https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/our-son-was-already-in-police-custody-family-alleges/317256.html>

⁶² <https://beta.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/2-more-pulwama-youth-booked-under-psa/>

his house at Uranhall village of Bijbehara last month after they couldn't locate his father- Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Ameer e Tehsil, Jamat for Anantnag.⁶³

- On 22 March, Chairman Hurriyat (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was placed under house detention. The detention comes ahead of a protest call by Joint Resistance Leadership against custodial killing of Awantipora school principal Rizwan Pandith.⁶⁴

- On 22 March, Jammu and Kashmir police detained a man under public safety act (PSA) for his alleged involvement in "multiple theft cases as well as narcotic smuggling". Senior superintendent of police, Yougal Manhas, identified the accused as Haroon Rashid. "He has been lodged in Kot Bhalwal jail, Jammu," the officer said, adding that the accused was involved in several criminal cases.⁶⁵

- On 24 March, authorities booked two Jamaat-e-Islami activists under Public Safety Act. An official said that Hafiz Muhammad Sikander Malik, a resident of Gundpora Rampora and Sheikh Ali Muhammad, a resident of Ashtengoo village have been booked under PSA and were shifted to Kotbalwal jail in Jammu. "Sikander has been booked under PSA vide order No. DMB/PSA /2019/35 dated 18-3-2019 and Sheikh has been booked under PSA vide order No. DMB/PSA/2019/36 dated 19-3-2019 respectively," the official said.⁶⁶

- On 24 March, the principal of a Jamaat-e-Islami run private school was booked under Public Safety Act in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Reports said Mubashir Hussain, principal Shah-e-Hamdan institute was booked under PSA and sent to a jail in Kathua district of Jammu.⁶⁷

- On 25 March, media reported that government forces late on 24 March night raided a village in south Kashmir's Shopian district and picked up at least seven persons. A police official said that forces raided Arhama village, some 2.5 kms from the main town and detained seven persons. They were lodged in police station Shopian and were being quizzed for their role in militancy related activities, he said. The official identified the detainees as Ishaq Ittoo S/O Ahsan Ittoo, Mehrajuddin Mir S/ O Qadir Mir, Arshid Lone S/ O Jabbar Lone, Shabir Kulley S/ O Rashid Kulley, Gh. Nabi Mir S/ O Gh Qadir Mir, Irfan Ittoo S/ O Ab. Rashid and Fayaz Ahmad Mir S/ O Ahsan Mir.⁶⁸

- On 26 March, at least 6 youth were detained during nocturnal raids in Arampora and Janwara villages of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, reports said. The youths were detained on charges of stone pelting, reports said.⁶⁹

⁶³<https://beta.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/20-year-old-bijbehara-boy-booked-under-psa/>

⁶⁴<http://www.risingkashmir.com/news/mirwaiz-placed-under-house-detention-346479.html>

⁶⁵<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/pir-panjal/man-detained-under-psa-police/317264.html>

⁶⁶<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/jamaat-district-tehsil-prez-booked-under-psa-in-bandipora/317331.html>

⁶⁷<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/principal-of-jamaat-run-school-in-shopian-booked-under-psa-shifted-to-jammu-jail/317378.html>

⁶⁸<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/seven-youth-detained-during-night-raids-in-south-kashmir-s-shopian/317475.html>

⁶⁹<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/several-youth-detained-during-nocturnal-raids-in-sopore/317579.html>

<http://www.risingkashmir.com/news/six-youth-detained-from-sopore-village-346743.html>