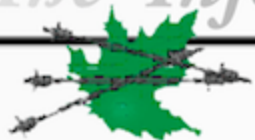


A monthly newsletter of Public Commission on Human Rights

The Informative



MISSIVE

(For Private Circulation)

VOL.167

May 2011



“Our Son Fell in Govt.’s ‘Militant Rehab’ Trap”

Editor: P. IMROZ

DEAFENING SILENCE!

Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) submitted its first list of 1,417 of enforced or involuntary disappearances (EID) persons of Jammu & Kashmir to the government. Preparing list of disappeared is a challenging task and cumbersome, when there is lack of resources, security issues and more so, little co-operation from the victims, who are obsessed with relief money. The list was submitted in response to the repeated denial on the part of the state regarding the phenomenon of EID. The state has been giving contradictory figures about what they call as “missing persons”. Like other countries where EID is a phenomenon; the alibi is used and repeatedly stated that they (disappeared) have crossed over Line of Control (LOC) to Pakistan Administered Kashmir for arms training. The list prepared is not even 1/5th of total number of EID cases which have taken place since 1990 in Jammu & Kashmir.

Repeatedly APDP has said that more than 8,000 cases of EID have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir. In other countries where less or equal numbers of cases have taken place like Chile, Thailand, Nepal and Philippines enforced disappearance became national issue. The investigations were conducted, perpetrators were booked and even some punished for systematic disappearances in these countries. In Pakistan, the Chief Justice of Supreme Court through judicial activism took *suo moto* cognizance of 300 cases of disappearances, which cost him his office, during military dictator General Musharaff’s rule. The Pakistan Military was vehemently against any such judicial activism.

Before this list, APDP and JKCCS jointly prepared a survey report “Dead But Not Forgotten” in which 337 cases of EID and 5106 killings from Baramulla district were documented and made public. It was first such report or data compilation of its kind prepared, which took 3 years of laborious work and was not easy task in an area where conflict is still on. It was also submitted to state and released to media without any response from the government. It was neither accepted nor denied.

In 2008 APDP produced its reports “Facts Under Ground” on unmarked and nameless graves in which 940 to 1000 unidentified/unmarked graves were documented from 18 graveyards of Baramulla. This startling revelation triggered a public outcry. The report invited international attention and got reported widely in international media. Nonetheless, the federal and state government chose to suppress the news. The European Parliament passed a resolution urging the government of India (GOI) to investigate into the alleged nameless and unmarked graves. The then Indian ambassador to Belgium assured that GOI will look into the matter. Even in Indian Parliament, a Kashmir parliamentarian raised the issue of unmarked and nameless graves and he was also being assured of taking up the matter but hitherto there was no official response. There was a follow up report in 2009 titled “Buried Evidence” by International Peoples’ Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Kashmir (IPTK) in collaboration with APDP in which a research was conducted on 63 graveyards in north Kashmir and 2373 unmarked graves and mass graves were discovered. Again it was widely reported by international media and suppressed by Indian media, with a few exceptions. The government as usual chose not to respond to the report.

In any other country, charges of such nature would have toppled the government and international institutions would have invaded on the plea of R2P or international humanitarian intervention but nothing happened here. Nevertheless, some appeals were made urging GOI to investigate into the phenomenon. GOI and Jammu and Kashmir government are behaving like proverbial ostrich. The outspoken, and flamboyant Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, who spoke ‘like a statesman’ in the Indian Parliament as MP and is also very presentable before the media, has observed silence and took no position on such issues where he has no answers. All he said, “we have to go through the report and study it”. It is the case with all Chief Ministers, whoever is in the power since 1996 in Jammu & Kashmir that they have no answers to the nightmarish data. They are convinced that with the passage of time matter will die down, activist will get tired and they will get away with it, as time and human memory is on their side. This seems to be the reason that the government is not willing to concede 14 years consistent demand of APDP to appoint a commission to probe the phenomenon of EID in Jammu & Kashmir. No Chief Minister can dare to appoint an inquiry commission; nevertheless, they have the powers to appoint it. They have been appointing commissions on other issues but not to on an issue which is affecting the lives of nearly 8000 families of the disappeared and they have reasons not to do so. Will they get away with it? This indifference of governments over grave issues like enforced disappearance is an evidence of crimes against humanity according to Rome Statute. Their indifference, inaction is inhuman and a message that there is no accountability and transparency in the system claiming to be democratic and duly elected by the people. What is the answer to this callousness and how to mount pressure on the state to respond and act, because finally everything changes under pressure. Whether to reach to Indian civil society? Will it be helpful that too when any issue in Kashmir is a hot-potato for them and in fact they are part of the problem by extending moral impunity to half-a-million soldiers operating in Kashmir. They have reservations to be brave on such issues, otherwise, they are doing a commendable job on other issues in India, thereby, making us skeptic. But we have to engage and push them for their moral position and also expose their contradictions on Kashmir. Strategically, international media, the global civil society is to be engaged who have already expressed shock and concern over such reports. Sustained campaign by evolving strategies is need of the hour in order to rejuvenate and inform the people in India.

ENTICE BY 'REHABILITATION POLICY' YOUTH LANGUISHING IN JAIL

In year 1999, Ashraf Jala, then 10, a 3 standard student crossed over to Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK) leaving his parents guessing about his whereabouts for about 3 months. During his absence his family made untiring efforts to reach him, but failed to break any clue. It was Ashraf himself who shot a surprise letter to his family informing his parents that he was in PAK. Ashraf's parents had no inkling that their son, at such a tender age, would cross over to PAK. His parents are yet to solve the riddle, who actually pushed him across, since he had not even a faintest of idea of PAK or any concept of militancy. However, they believe that he could have been pushed by militants to cross over to PAK to make an addition to their cadre.

According to Ashraf's father Ghulam Mohammad, 60, a resident of Branward, Chadoora district Budgam that he was in constant touch with him till January 2010. In last conversation from PAK, he informed his family about his marriage with a local girl there. Suddenly, the family lost touch with him again keeping his parents guessing. Finally, the family got a news in 2010 that he had landed in Poonch jail that too along with his wife Asima, 20, a girl from PAK from Muzaffarabad.

Ghulam Mohammad while talking to *The Informative Missive* said, "We were shocked to know that he had landed in Poonch jail. He was arrested in by army on LOC at Sabziyan Wala sector in Poonch. We had no money even to travel to Poonch. Then I mortgaged my only 4 kanals of land against petty amount of Rs. 25,000. SHO Poonch demanded and took Rs. 10,000 from me promising of my son's release soon. An amount of Rs. 14,000 I paid lawyer's fee while the rest Rs. 11,000 I spent on travelling to Poonch. I got bail order from Poonch court but he was re-arrested by police outside Poonch jail and detained at Kot Bhalwal jail where he is still languishing under Public Safety Act."

Ghulam Mohammad is a poor labourer while Haleema, a mother of six including a daughter, is a housewife. "We are illiterate and don't know what to do. Now we have no money left to travel to Kot Bhalwal jail or Poonch," Haleema grumbled.

The family had met Ashraf and his wife Asima couple of times in Poonch jail. "On first meet, Ashraf told us at Poonch jail that he took the decision of crossing back after hearing about much touted govt. rehabilitation policy. He wants to live a normal life with his wife that looks very bleak at this moment. Unfortunately, his optimism failed him," Ashraf's parents said.

The old couple maintains that they met Asima in Poonch jail and that she claimed Ashraf had indeed married her in Muzaffarabad. But Ashraf has no document, which can establish his marriage with Asima. "It was his excitement

about Rehabilitation Policy which drove him here without carrying marriage documents i.e. *Nika Nama*, which contribute to his torment. He was totally unaware about the actual situation prevailing here since he was a kid when crossed over there", Haleema said while struggling to hold back his tears.

While expressing her shock over the conditions of her daughter-in-law Haleema further said, "Asima was hale and hearty when we met her twice in Poonch jail. But when we met her last and third time, she was dump unable to utter a word. A policeman at Poonch jail, when we enquired from him about his dumbness, told us that she was taken somewhere in Amritsar for something by police and after that she didn't utter a word. We doubt some mischief had been done with her. We are very apprehensive. We are highly worried about her welfare."

While recalling the day when his son left home to graze his cattle Mohammad said, "On one fateful day in 1999, Ashraf went to nearby forest to graze his cattle. Normally by 6 pm he used to return back home but that day he didn't. We at home got highly perturbed about his absence, as the area had massive army and militant presence. It was impossible to go out that time. In the morning, we approached police, went to the forest meadow, contact his friends and met our entire relative but without breaking any clue."

Ghulam Mohammad said police was lackadaisical when approached by him and his wife Haleema. Police only filed a report but couldn't make any effort on their part, even rebuked them and told them he had gone to PAK. "Immediately after police was approached by us, army started making rounds of our house to harass and threat us. The hysteric atmosphere created by the army made our lives miserable for about a decade. We believe after army was informed by police about Ashraf's disappearance it (army) started to come to harass us," Mohammad said.

Advocate Bhatii, Ashraf's counsel is seeking quashing of Public Safety Act on Ashraf, as the Act doesn't apply on him.

While talking to *The Informative Missive* Bhatti from Poonch Bhatti said, "I filed an application, in which it has been stated that since Ashraf was a minor at the time of crossing the border, the charges leveled against him should be quashed".

Ashraf parents are optimistic about government's 'Rehabilitation Policy'. The old parents made an appeal to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to have mercy on their child so that he could live a happy life. Ashraf's case is listed in the CJM court in Poonch on June 3. "The CJM is likely to announce his final decision about the case," said Advocate Bhatii. He said there was a possibility if Ashraf was charged with the offence and awarded imprisonment; the girl may be deported pushed back" Muzaffarabad.

SCHOOL TEACHER, HIS FATHER SHOT DEAD

Manzoor Ahmad Mir (27), a government school teacher and his father Ghulam Rasool Mir, 55, a farmer, residents of Bowan, Watsar village of Zachaldara Handwara, about 115kms in the north Kashmir's district Kupwara, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen on May 27 inside their house. The killing spread panic in the area. The locals said that father and son were innocent and were not involved in any unlawful activity.

However, police said that the duo was killed by militants on the suspicion of being military informers. However, the family contested police claims that the duo had worked as informers. The family alleged that they were being often called to the military camp for questioning and other types of harassments.

After the incident a researcher of *The Informative Missive* visited the Bowan Watsar village of Handwara and talked to the victim family and locals there.

Nazir Ahmad Mir, younger brother of slain Manzoor stated, "On the fateful evening of May 27, all the family members were at home. My father and mother were sitting in the kitchen. My brother Manzoor was in TV room ironing his clothes, as he was preparing for picnic with his school children. My youngest brother Fayaz was resting in another room. In the meantime, at about 9:30 pm, there was knock on our door, my father went to see and opened the door. He found four gunmen who asked for food. He obliged and took them to kitchen and my mother offered them milk."

He added, "Three of them took the glasses of milk and drunk while as one refused to drink. The gunmen who refused the milk asked my father about Manzoor. The father replied he is upstairs in TV room. Then they forced my father to call him down. Manzoor on father's call came down. Both of them were kept together standing in the kitchen, my mother was also present. The gunmen asked my father for ration my father replied that this time only a sack of flour is available which they can take along. Then the gunmen told the duo to lie down facing the ground. My mother was pushed towards the fireplace then the gunmen without any provocation fired indiscriminately over them with AK-47 rifles. They were shot hundreds of bullets on the back. My mother was crying for help and her head was caught hold in the downward direction by a gunman. Both of them died at the spot. The gunmen without disclosing the reason killed both of them"

Nazir further stated, "My brother, Fayaz Ahmad from a room in the first floor of house tried to call his uncle for help. The gunmen also fired towards him while they were fleeing out from our house. The bullet missed the target and was hit on the wall of room. The kitchen of our house was completely perforated with bullets. The gunmen had left two explosive shells in our kitchen, among which one was exploded and one unexploded. After gunmen fled from our house we raised alarm. Due to darkness my mother could not identify the gunmen. Due to fear for life, we did not dare to come down from the first floor to see or recognize the assailants. We fail to understand as why our father and brother were killed so mercilessly."

"We had no animosity with any agency of armed forces or with militant group. But so far my father was twice arrested by SOG on the false charges of sheltering militants and stocking their funds transferred from PAK. The allegations leveled against my father were baseless. Few years before at the time of first arrest my father was released by SOG after we paid them a ransom of rupees 12000. Next time again he was released on the payment of money. Besides two arrests from last one decade our house was raided about 26 times by joint group of army and SOG. On every raid the army questioned my father about sheltering and hiding of militants, but every

APDP SUBMITS LIST OF 1417 DISAPPEARANCE CASES TO CHIEF MINISTER

On May 28, Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) today submitted 1417 cases to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. This is a preliminary list of cases of enforced disappearances documented by APDP. According to conservative estimates more than 8000 people have been

time my father pleaded for his innocence and told the army that no militants come to our house. Apart from these raids no other armed men ever came to our house except on the fateful day of this brute killing," Stated Saleema, daughter of slain Ghulam Rasool.

Instantly after the incident, a joint group of police and army visited our residence and recovered bullet shells and two big shells, one live shell one exploded. According to victim family, Police filed an FIR concerning the incident but later they did not take any further action. Next day in the morning as the news about the killing of father-son duo spread, hundreds of men and women from adjacent areas visited the victim family to express their condolences with them and performed the last rites of both the bodies.

Saleema added, "Manzoor got permanent one and a half year before. About seven years back he was recruited as a *Rehbar-e-Taleem* teacher and nowadays he had become able to feed his parents and his wife, Rafeeqa and a 2 year old daughter Sania, but before he could make our dreams come true, he was snatched away from us forever."

Muglee Begum is reeling under shock since she witnessed her husband and son being shot dead in front of her eyes. Muglee with heaving sighs, expressed, "I want to ask killers, did they kill my son for playing cricket? or they killed him for teaching students, because these were the only activities of my beloved Manzoor. I will always curse on the name of the killers as they smashed away two big hopes of our whole dynasty. I demand that the killer be identified and must be given stern punishment. We don't know how police came to know that my husband and son were killed by Lashkar militants. The ruthless gunmen did not establish their identity and did not give any reason for killing my son and husband. The point of fight between militants and my husband made in the police statement is totally false. There was not fight between gunmen and my husband over any ration issue. They gunmen at ease had glasses of milk and then shot dead both my husband and son."

POLICE VERSION

SP Handwara Choudhry Mohammad Aslam said four militants barged into the house of Ghulam Rasool Mir last evening. "After taking food, they asked the family head for ration. They started beating him saying they will not spare Mukhbirs (informers). When Manzoor objected to it, the militants opened fire and killed both of them," he said.

He said the preliminary investigations have found that the family was targeted by the Lashkar militants on the suspicion of being informers of security forces as a militant had been killed in an encounter inside the cowshed owned by the family in 2009.

"A live shell was recovered from the house. Police have registered a case and taken up investigations," added the police officer.

subjected to enforced disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir since 1989.

The process of documentation of all cases of enforced disappearances is an enormous task. Several human rights issues compete for attention in the Valley and a census survey of Valley-wide 'disappearances' has not been possible since

civil society organizations such as APDP are under-resourced. But the government would be grossly amiss to squander resources to contest mere statistics rather than providing justice to the victims of enforced disappearances.

It is clear from the data submitted to the Chief Minister that enforced disappearances in Kashmir remain unabated and unaddressed. Today we submitted 1417 cases with a demand to the government to appoint independent and impartial investigation into the cases of enforced disappearances. We urge the Jammu and Kashmir government to inform the family members of the disappeared regarding the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. The demand for appointing an independent investigation into the cases of enforced disappearances comes in the wake of total failure of judicial and administrative mechanisms for redressal. Whether in registering an FIR or seeking sanction for prosecution under Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), relatives of the disappeared have faced a hostile system at every level. Further, delay and non-compliance with court orders are the rule rather than the exception in Jammu and Kashmir.

Successive governments have been issuing contradictory statements regarding enforced disappearances in

ARMY FIRING INJURES STUDENT IN KUPWARA

TROOPER PULLED TRIGGER ACCIDENTALLY: POLICE

On May 13, a class 12th student was injured in army firing at Lolab in border district of Kupwara.

Police has said the army man accidentally pressed trigger of the gun while watching kids play.

Locals said the troopers shot at 18-year-old, Ishfaq Ahmad Ganie at Hayatpora, Lolab when he was returning home after having a bath at water storage tank.

"While he was returning home after the bath, an army patrol party stationed in the area fired at him, causing injuries to him," Ishfaq's relative Riyaz Ahmad told Rising Kashmir.

He said after hearing the gunshot, people rushed to the spot and found Ishfaq lying in pool of blood.

"We rushed him to a hospital, where he is undergoing treatment. The doctors attending on him have termed his condition as stable," Riyaz said.

The locals termed the firing incident as unprovoked. "The troops fired without any provocation and justification. It was totally an unprovoked firing," they said and demanded that the guilty troopers should be arrested and punished so that such incidents don't recur in future.

"The army has already placed restrictions on our movement during night. Now we fear they may impose

BULLET-HIT PULWAMA MAN STILL IN COMA

WIFE WANTS CASH RELIEF; COURT SEEKS GOVT RESPONSE IN 4 DAYS

May 05: Admitting a petition filed by wife of a Pulwama resident, who is in coma after sustaining bullet injury in 2010 summer unrest, High Court on May 5 asked the government and other respondents to file their responses within four days.

In the petition filed by wife of Abdul Rashid Reshi and his two minor children through their counsel Advocate Mir Shafqat Hussain, the poor family has demanded a compensation of Rs forty lakhs and urged the government to bear the expenses of his treatment.

Rashid, hailing from Samboora village of Pampore in Pulwama district fell into coma after being injured in CRPF

Jammu and Kashmir. On 18th July 2002, the then Home Minister of National Conference government, Mr. Khalid Najeeb Suharwardy said that 3184 persons were missing since 1989. On 11th June 2003, the Peoples' Democratic Party led government claimed 3744 persons are 'missing' in Jammu and Kashmir since 1989 and later on 21st June 2003 the government stated that 3931 persons are 'missing.' Mr. Omar Abdullah stated in a 2nd May 2008 press conference that 4000 persons have disappeared. This statement came when Mr. Abdullah was in the opposition.

We urge the government and its institutions to end the period of uncertainty for the family members of the disappeared. The government must clarify the identity of these 'missing persons' referred to in its various contradictory estimates. The government so far has not brought into the public domain the list of these 'missing persons' and nor has it revealed the action taken in each case.

The list of 1417 cases submitted today should not be construed by anyone as part of a blame game or propaganda against any party or agency. It is an effort to galvanize the State government and encourage it to lay out a mechanism for positive action towards justice and accountability.

restrictions on our movement during the day as well," the locals said.

They accused troops of harassing people in various parts of Lolab. "At many places like Kuligam, Charekoot, Lalpora, the troops have erected the checkpoints and force commuters to disembark from the passenger vehicles. The commuters are searched and have to show ID cards to show their Kashmir identity," they alleged.

The residents further alleged that fear psychosis has gripped the inhabitants of several areas in Lolab as the army men are moving in civvies.

SP Kupwara V K Birdi while confirming the firing incident termed it 'accidental'. "The search party of 18 RR was watching children play in the area. During this process, one of the troopers slipped and accidentally pressed trigger of his gun. The bullet hit a boy in the leg. The injured boy was hospitalized and his condition is stable," he said.

He said an inquiry has been started. "The trooper was called to a police station for investigation purpose," the police officer said.

firing on August 5, 2010. The paramilitary personnel had fired on the demonstrators in the area.

The victim's counsel told the court that Rashid was not part of the "unruly mob" and it has already been admitted by the police in their report.

"On the fateful day on August 05, 2010, some unknown miscreants after blocking the Samboora road attacked CRPF men, who were going to Kakapora in their departmental vehicle. The troopers fired in air and one of the bullets accidentally hit the head of Rashid, who was not associated with the unruly mob", read the police statement annexed with the petition.

Taking cue from the police report, which describes Rashid as innocent, the poor family has pleaded before the High Court that they are unable to bear the cost of his treatment. "Since he has sustained critical head injury, the victim is presently in comma and has been discharged from the local hospital without any recovery. There is no source of livelihood for the family as he was the lone earning member of the family. We cannot bear the medical expenses for his treatment", reads the petition.

Stating that the government has failed to provide any *ex-gratia* relief or financial assistance to the victim, Rashid's

HIT BY A STRAY BULLET CRICKET PLAYING MUNEEER TURNS INTO A SPECTATOR NOW

May15: Not only was Muneer an ambitious child, but the cracker of a sportsperson and the captain of his Mohalla cricket team. But that was only until June 2005 when Muneer was a fierce runner between the wickets.

It all changed on one June day in 2005, when this 6th standard student, resident of Abi Guzar, was playing cricket near his house and got hit by a stray bullet, apparently from a nearby encounter, Muneer and his friends were even not aware of.

This cold stray bullet, which came from nowhere, hit Muneer on his back, injuring his spinal cord, leading to paralysis of his lower limbs including his legs and hips.

Six years since, Muneer is unable to walk on his own, needs at least one person to accompany him to washroom and cricket- that is a dream impossible now.

His love for cricket has not died down though, as he says, "What if I cannot play cricket, I can still watch it."

With those sharp eyes, Muneer gazes through his window downstairs and watches his friends play now.

KASHMIRI ENGINEER RELEASED AFTER 5-YRS FROM PRISON

May 12: A Kashmir aeronautical engineer, who had been arrested in New Delhi five year back on allegations of being a militant, was released by a Delhi court.

Imran Kirmani, 28, was arrested by Special Cell of Delhi Police in November 2006 at New Delhi airport and later dubbed him as Lashker militant.

According to his family, he had dream of becoming a pilot after completing his studies. Imran joined the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial College of Aeronautics Jaipur in 2003 and graduated as a pilot after two years of intense training.

SPO KILLS WIFE, BROTHER-IN-LAW

May 10: A surrendered militant-turned- Special Police Officer (SPO) allegedly shot dead his brother-in-law and his (SPO's) wife, also an SPO herself, in Ramban district, last night.

Police said that following an altercation, Abdul Gafoor, son of Dina Bhat of Thathri fired at his SPO wife Rehmata Begum, 32, alias Rehmata and brother-in-law Farooq Ahmed Malik, son of Mohammad Sadiq Malik of Thathri at their rented house in Maitra (Ramban), injuring them critically, at 11.15 PM last night.

Hearing gunshot sounds, the villagers became panicky. They immediately informed the police about the firing and the cops rushed to the spot. The cops disarmed militant-turned-SPO Abdul Gafoor, seized the rifle used in the firing and arrested him.

family members have demanded that a relief of Rs 40 lakhs be provided to the family by the government and it should also bear the cost of treatment of the victim.

Besides, the family has also demanded action against the CRPF personnel who fired upon Rashid.

Justice Hakim Imtiyaz Hussain while admitting the petition issued notices to government and other respondents. He asked them to file their responses within four days.

The case has been listed for further hearing next week.

"It is all he can do now. Adore other people watching his favourite game. There is no way we could help him out. He even gave up his studies and does not want to study anymore. Of course, his dream was to become a cricketer, but all dreams lie shattered before his eyes," Muneer's elder brother Imtiyaz said.

Doctors have though given Muneer and his family some strings of hope by saying that though the kind of Spinal cord damage he has received is difficult to treat, however since he is too young, his paralysis might be curable.

"If money was an issue, I would have shelled out even my last penny to save my son, but that also does not seem to be the case. Now it is all hope in despair, which my son is living with," says Muhammad Tariq, Muneer's father, a shopkeeper.

His sisters, brothers and friends swear by Muneer's proficiency and adventurous nature, but all one gets to see is a dejected face and dreams embedded in those sharp eyes.

One gets to see is a dejected face and dreams lost in those sharp eyes.

He applied at various aviation service providers. One fine morning he received job offer from the Jet Airways and left for Delhi on November 16, 2006.

"After leaving for Delhi he didn't contact us for few days. We thought he must be busy and would call later. But while watching television on November 22, to our shock and disbelief, we saw Imran handcuffed. The Special Cell of Delhi Police had dubbed him as a militant," Ghulam Rasool Shah said.

Imran was released by the Delhi court on May 12 after serving almost five years in jail.

The victims were shifted to District Hospital Ramban where Farooq Ahmed Malik was pronounced as brought dead while injured Rehmata was referred to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital. Rehmata remained on life support system at GMC hospital as she suffered bullet wounds at her abdomen and stomach and she succumbed to her wounds late in the afternoon, police added.

Gafoor, who belonged to Thathri area of Doda district, had surrendered before the army as a militant. Later, he joined the police as an SPO in Ramban district and was presently posted at Police Post Ramsoo with Special Task Force (STF).

Gafoor allegedly suspected the character of his wife who was posted in District Police Lines (DPL), which led to the

altercation and shooting incident.

HR ACTIVIST GAUTAM DETAINED, DEPORTED

May 28: Noted Indian human rights activist and outspoken advocate of Kashmir's independence, Gautam Navlakha, was on May 28 detained at the Srinagar airport to deny him entry to the valley, with the police saying that 'his presence was not required here.'

A co-convenor of the International People's Tribunal on Justice and Human Rights in Kashmir (IPTK), which among other cases has strongly contested the government's investigations into the Shopian tragedy of exactly two years ago, Navlakha was barred entry when he arrived from New Delhi with a friend at around 1:50 pm, the authorities invoking section 144 of the Criminal Procedure and citing law and order reasons.

The IPTK said that he had been taken to some undisclosed location as no outgoing flights were available by

The IPTK, which has highlighted the discovery of mass graves in Kashmir and taken up cudgels with the government over the alleged double rape and murder in the southern district of Shopian in 2008, put Navlakha's detention in the context of what it described as threats, harassment and intimidation of its members whose movements and communications in India and abroad, it said, were being constantly monitored.

"Given the egregious violence that was inflicted on people by state forces in the summer of 2008, 2009, and 2010 in Kashmir, we are deeply concerned that state forces not suppress democratic activities in the summer of 2011, and not isolate Kashmiris from human rights defenders that travel to Kashmir to bear witness to atrocities and speak for peace and justice," the IPTK said.

FAROOQ SUPPORTS NAVLAKHA'S DETENTION 'LET ARUNDHATI BURN SOME OTHER PLACE IN INDIA'

Pahalgam, May 29: Defending the state government's decision to turn back human rights activist Gautam Navlakha, Farooq Abdullah asked writer Arundhati Roy to 'burn some other place in India' as Kashmir is not for burning.

Talking to reporters here on sidelines of a function, Farooq defended State government's move to deny entry to Gautam Navlakha to Valley. "It is all right. For safety of Kashmir, we will do anything. It should be done. We want tourism, we do not want tragedies," he said.

Gautam Navlakha, a frequent traveller to the Valley for the last two decades, has written extensively about human rights violations in the state and is consulting editor of a leading magazine. He was detained at Srinagar airport yesterday under section 144 Cr PC.

Asked if Arundhati Roy will be allowed to visit the Valley, Abdullah evaded a direct reply saying, "I do not know what she is coming here for. I have nothing to do with her or with her book."

"What are they coming for? What does that writer want - to burn Kashmir? Let them burn some other place in India. Kashmir is not for burning," NC president and Union minister for renewable energy told reporters here. Seeking to distance himself from the administrative matters of the State government, he said, "I will not advise my son (Omar Abdullah). He is chief minister. He decides his things."

the time authorities finalized decisions for his return, and would be allowed to go back on May 30.

Navlakha described his detention as outrageous, saying that authorities here were not willing to listen to reason.

"This shows the level of control they exercise on people," he told reporters over phone.

"The police offered to send me back in their own vehicle, but I refused, saying that I was not a criminal," he said.

A frequent visitor to Kashmir in the past two decades, Navlakha said that had come for trekking and not for work on this occasion, the first time ever he was stopped from entering the city.

The chief of police for the Budgam district, Uttam Chand, said that his entry into Srinagar had been restricted on the orders of the civil administration.

"We feel that his presence is not required here," he said.

The deputy commissioner of the district, Rafi Ahmad, said that Navlakha was stopped because of apprehensions of law and order problems.

Meanwhile, Hurriyat Conference leaders Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Shabir Ahmad Shah have reacted sharply to Navlakha's detention.

Pro-India Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has also demanded his immediate release.

Condemning the government move, a PDP spokesman said that this was an 'unprecedented action even by the standards of serious rights violations in Jammu & Kashmir.'

"Navlakha's liberty to enter the state and move freely should be restored as such draconian measures have never been adopted even in the worst phases of trouble (in Kashmir)," he said.

"Omar Abdullah has converted Kashmir into a virtual prison where freedom of expression and speech has been completely denied to all who raise their voice against atrocities," he said.

"The denial of entry to Navlakha was part of the same undemocratic strategy under which leaders like Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Mirwaiz Omar Farooq, Yaseen Malik and Shabir Shah are now routinely put under house arrest while most others

are languishing in jails along with hundreds of youth from

various parts of Kashmir," he said.

GIRL JUMPS INTO CHENAB AFTER 'HARASSMENT'

POLICE DENIES ALLEGATIONS

May 29: A 24-year girl jumped into river after she was allegedly harassed by a Police official from in Kishtwar on Sunday.

Rashida Bano daughter of Abdul Rafiq Rather resident of Bhalessa reportedly jumped into river Chenab near Pul Doda allegedly a Police official harassed her, while she was in a tea stall along with his college friend.

According to the reports, both Rahida and Najab Din were heading for home after college vacation and while reaching Pul Doda, both chose to have a cup of tea in nearby tea stall and in the mean time it was alleged that a SPO entered the hotel and started investigation about the due on some suspicious ground.

As the per the eye witnesses, the girl reportedly called her father, who tried his best to convey the erring SPO that being as a father he knows his daughter and due to some work, both stopped at Pul Doda.

It was further alleged that despite request from girl's father, police beat up Najab Din the friend of the girl accompanying her in front of the people. It was said that despite repeated request by the girl SPO along with Chowki Officer Pul Doda went on rampage and ruthlessly beat Najab Din.

The eyewitnesses said that after police detain Najab Din, the deceased girl requested the police officer not to tarnish her reputation, but as the cops refused she jumped into the river in front of the public. After the girl jumped into the river Chenab, people launched rescue operation to save the girl, but nothing could be achieved due to strong water currents.

Meanwhile police has denied the allegation leveled by the family members of Rahida Banoo. When contacted SP Headquarter Doda, Arif Rishu denied the charges of police harassment.

He said that after receiving suspicious information about Rahida Banoo and Najab Din, police went inside the tea stall and started verifying the fact. He said that before police could verify the fact, the girl jumped into the river. He also denied the charges of any ill treatment given to both.

In similar case last year' 2 teen aged girl Sangeeta Devi and Sapna Devi of Padder Tehsil of Kishtwar District also jumped into River near Gulbgard Padder.

On May 30, taking cognizance of the incident of suicide by a College girl due to alleged harassment by the cops at Pul Doda yesterday, In-charge Police Post Pul Doda has been taken into custody and a case of abetment to suicide has been registered against him Police Station Doda.

The officer was placed under suspension yesterday and today in a meeting, senior officers decided to registered an FIR against him and arrest him for further investigations.

However, the torso of the College girl Raida Bano daughter of Rafiq Rather resident of Gandoh, who jumped into

mighty Chenab remain untraced, and search operation was stretched wide upto Chanderkot.

When contacted, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Doda Arif Rishoo, he confirmed the arrest of In-charge Police Post Pul Doda Sub Inspector Mumtaz Hussain, adding that a case FIR number 123 of 2011 under section 306 RPC (abetment to suicide) has been registered against him Police Station Doda. This decision was taken in the meeting with senior officers, May 29, he added.

Rishoo said that investigation on the role of the officer in the case is still going on and further action as per findings will be taken against the cop.

ASP Doda, however, claimed that search of recovery of the body is still on and police with the help of some local professional divers has widened the area of search. The water level of Chenab had gone up with rainfall in upper reaches today and the teams were facing tough situation to trace the body. He was hopeful of early recovery of the body.

Resentment brewed up among the family and relatives of the missing girl in Gandoh.

Talking to KTNS, MA Rather, a local, said that if the body is not traced by the police in a couple of days, the villagers will come out on the roads and staged protest. He demanded to further gear up search operation and early recovery of corpse. The Gandoh villagers were irked over the behaviour of cops with a B.Ed student, who was forced to jump into Chenab waters On May 28.

As reported, a B Ed college girl Raida Bano committed suicide by jumping into river Chenab after she was allegedly insulted by the cops at Pul Doda

Eyewitness said that Raida was sitting in a restaurant near Pul Doda along with her classmate Nazam Din son of Alab Din resident of Ukhral, Banihal when few cops from Police Post Pul Doda arrived there and started questioning them. The cops also allegedly misbehaved with the duo and humiliated them publicly. The cops reportedly assaulted the boy and forcibly tried to shift both of them to Police Station Raida Bano.

As per eyewitness the girl repeatedly asked the cops to let them go as they didn't have any criminal record. She also gave phone number of her father to the cops and asked them to enquire about her. When the cops called upon the girl's father, he also asked the cops to let her go.

"Ignoring the pleas of the boy and the girl to let them go, the cops forcibly packed the duo in police vehicle as hundreds of people gathered there, to shift them to Police Station," eye witnesses said, adding that in the meantime the girl came out of the vehicle and jumped from Pul Doda into river Chenab.

SHOPIAN TWIN MURDER: SHUTDOWN OBSERVED TO MARK DEATH ANNIVERSARY

May 29: A complete shutdown was observed in Shopian in South Kashmir to mark the second anniversary of the "twin rape and murder." On May 29, 2009, two women belonging to the Shopian township Asiya Jan, 17, and her sister-in-law Neelofar Jan, 22, were allegedly "raped and murdered by the men in uniform."

The second death anniversary of the two women was marked by a complete strike in the township today. All the shops, other business establishments and private offices remained closed, while the commercial traffic also was off the roads.

General Secretary of the Majlis-i-Mashawrat, which led a 47-day agitation against the killings, Abdul Rashid Dalal says that the strike in the town on the second death anniversary was a tribute to Asiya and Neelofar.

"Though no separatist group or Majlis had called for strike but even then the people observed a complete shutdown which speaks of how their wounds are fresh in their minds," he says.

He claims the Majlis programme on the second death anniversary was sabotaged by some people. "We had finalised all the preparations for the programme to mark the second

anniversary but had to cancel it because some people sabotaged it," he says.

Dalal didn't name the people who sabotaged their programme.

However, he adds "We will soon organise a seminar in which intellectuals, human rights activists, media men, lawyers and social activists will be invited.

In 2009, after the incident, protests had erupted in the Kashmir valley, while Shopian township observed a 47-day complete shutdown on the call of Majlis which spearheaded the agitation for justice to the victims' family.

The government under pressure from people ordered judicial inquiry into the incident and appointed retired Justice Muzaffar Jan as the head of the inquiry commission.

On the recommendations of the Jan Commission few police officers including then Superintendent of Police, Shopian were arrested. However, the government later handed the case to Central BI which said that the two women had drowned to death.

The investigations were then taken by the Central Bureau of Investigation which gave a clean chit to the accused.

The CBI concluded its investigation claiming that the two women had drowned in a three feet deep stream.

TRAGIC FAMILY

A WOMAN WHO LOST 4 SONS

May 22: While the mothers' day was recently marked by seminars, rallies and speeches but nobody seems to have bothered to help this woman, who has lost all her four sons during the last 20 years.

Hailing from Sunabrari, a remote village of south Kashmir, Nabza whose four sons were allegedly killed by the troopers during last 20 years, could be seen begging not only for the survival but for the medical expenses of her husband too, who is suffering from cancer.

Nabza, whose family consists of her husband, 80-year old Lassa Khan, her daughter, son-in-law and four little grand children is living in a one storied muddy house constructed by their neighbors as two of her houses and two cowsheds were allegedly burnt by army.

Three of her sons were gunned down by the army as they were associated with various militant outfits while her younger son was killed for being the brother of militants.

Nabza's elder son, Mukhtar Ahmad, associated with Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen was killed at his home by the army in November, 1996 after he tried to flee. "With the killing of Mukhtar, army also set ablaze one of our houses and a cowshed" said Nabza.

The family was still in a state of mourning for the death of their elder son, another tragedy befell on them. "We were yet to come out of the shock for loosing our elder son, our youngest son, Muhammad Abass, aged 13 along with my husbands nephew Fareed Dar was killed by army, aged 18 was killed by army after using him as a human shield in an encounter," she said.

Nabza recalls, "It was November, 1999 when Abass and Wali were picked up by the army while they were attending the marriage ceremony of one of our neighbor. The army first used them as a human shield during the gun-battle

with the militants and then pierced a volley of bullets into their bodies for their sin of being the relatives of militants."

Nabza's another son Ajaz Ahmad, aged 25 associated with Hizb-ul-Mujahideen was also killed by the army.

"In, October, 2002 Ajaz returned home unaware that the army had been camping in our house since last two months. On seeing them, he ran away. The army asked my husband's another nephew, Habibullah to motivate Ajaz for surrender but on his refusal they fired at him killing him on the spot. After killing him they gunned down my son too," said Nabza adding that the army then set ablaze another house and cowshed.

After losing three sons in less than five years, Nabza as well as her husband, Lassa now used to pray for the safety of their lone son, Ghulam Hassan, aged 28 but he too was killed by the army. Hassan is also survived by his wife and two little kids.

Narrating her woeful tale, Nabza says, "Hassan was associated with Hizbul-Mujahideen in the early nineties but then he gave up the gun, got married and started supporting the family. In April, 2003 while he was returning home from work he was taken away by the army and the personals of Special Task Force (STF) in a nearby Hillad village. He was severely tortured and left in a state of unconsciousness. Later, he was hospitalized for three months. After returning home, Hassan was still bed ridden. As if the killing of my three sons was not enough the army on the midnight of April, 2003 barged into his house, fired at him and killed him on spot." Nabza's husband, Lassa Khan is suffering from the various ailments but has no money for his treatment. "My husband who is suffering from various severe ailments is bed ridden from last one year. Doctors have prescribed him some costly medicines, but I am not able to buy them as I can

hardly feed my grand children whose father was killed by the troops," Nabza narrates.

She says that nobody ever turned up to help her family out after her sons were killed.

"Neither the government nor any Hurriyat leader ever came to me and offered any assistance. When my husband was admitted in Srinagar hospital, two young boys whom I did not know came to me and gave me Rs 10,000 which was all spent against the medical expenses of my husband. Now his medicines too have exhausted but cannot

16 GOVT. EMPLOYEES FACE SUSPENSION FOR STONE THROWING, PROTESTS

May 13: At least 16 government employees of Kupwara who have been charged by home department for throwing stones and taking part in street protests against the civilian killings might face strict action.

However, police said that they recommended action 42 government employees of Kupwara district who according to them were part of stone throwing and street protest against the civilian killings.

The home department has forwarded the list of all government employees allegedly involved in throwing stones and has asked the respective deputy commissioners to take action.

The 16 employees are from different departments, six are teachers, one from fisheries department, three from forest protection force, one from health, two from Roads and Buildings, and two from Social Welfare Department. Two among them have returned after serving the Public Safety Act.

All the 16 employees have been put under suspension since November last after the state home department forwarded the list of these employees to the deputy

AMNESTY CASTIGATES JK GOVT

'LITTLE PROGRESS MADE ON 2010 KILLINGS PROBE'

May 13: Global human rights watchdog Amnesty International in its latest report has castigated the Jammu and Kashmir government for "little progress" in the inquiries ordered into the civilian killings which took place during 2010 unrest.

"An inquiry, instituted by the state authorities, covered 17 out of 100 deaths, despite demands by Amnesty International and other organizations for an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into all the deaths. The inquiry made little progress," the report states.

"Between June and September (2010), the police and security forces fired at protesters during pro-independence protests demanding accountability for past violations in the Kashmir valley. More than 100 people, mostly youths, were killed and 800 others, including media men, were injured," the report added.

Referring to the ongoing turmoil in the Valley for past 2-decades, the report states, "Impunity for past violations in

AI SEEKS RELEASE OF TEENAGE BOY

May 13: Amnesty International has launched a global campaign to seek release of 19-year-old Zaffar Shafi Hakeem of Anantnag, booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) by the state government.

Zaffar is the cousin of 14-year-old, Faizan Rafiq Hakeem, who was detained for 6-weeks from February to April 2011 and released after the intervention of the Amnesty International.

dare to go to the relatives again for help as I still owe the money I have borrowed from them earlier," Nabza says with moist eyes.

Nabza has lost faith in everybody but still hopes that the blood of her sons will bear fruit one day. "Many politicians many a time visited us and promised us help if we voted. But we told them straightaway that we cannot trade with the blood of our sons. I hope the blood of my martyrs will not go waste, we will see the dawn of Azadi one day," Nabza says.

commissioner for strict action against them. The home department has blamed them for taking part in street protests and throwing stones on police and other state owned forces.

Superintendent of police Kupwara VK Birdhi told media that police has recommended action against 42 employees. He said police is investigation the cases against them. "There are cases against these employees and we are investigating them," SP said adding that besides their investigation the concerned departments are investigating the allegations.

On November 28 Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Shiv Murari Sahai addressed a press conference in Srinagar claimed that government employees were involved in stone throwing and street protests.

"Some 135 government employees are under the scanner for their alleged role in fomenting trouble during the five month long unrest. Sixty of them were arrested and seven booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA)," IGP Kashmir that day said.

Kashmir, including the disappearance of thousands of people since 1989 during the armed conflict, continues."

It stated that over thousand people were killed in 'faked encounters' in India between 1993 and 2008. "Recent data disclosed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India on people killed in clashes with the police between 1993 and 2008, showed 2,560 deaths."

1224 KILLED IN FAKE ENCOUNTERS

"At least 1224 (deaths) occurred in faked encounters implying they were extra-judicial executions. By the end of the year, the NHRC had awarded compensation to the relatives of 16 victims," the report mentions.

"Convictions of those responsible for extra-judicial executions were exceptionally rare and proceedings in such cases remained slow," AI said.

Pertinently, police on January 28 had arrested Zaffar on the charges of rioting, assault and "causing grievous hurt." He was booked under PSA by the District Magistrate for his alleged affiliation with separatists.

Presently Zaffar is lodged in Kathua Jail. The AI in its recent report had stated that prisoners face lot of difficulties in Kathua Jail as they are "deprived of all basic amenities" and their rights are "trampled."

The AI in a statement has urged the Union Home Minister P Chidambaram and the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to release the teenager forthwith.

"Please send appeals before June 23, 2011 also to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country," the statement addressed to the India chapter of the AI states.

The statement said that at least 322 people were reported to have been detained without trial under the provisions of the PSA in JK from January to September 2010 alone. "A number of them, including children, have been detained on similar grounds of stone pelting and rioting during various protests against the government throughout the summer of 2010," it added.

Pertinently, the District Magistrate in the grounds of detention had said: "You are affiliated with separatists and you organize campaigns on regular basis aimed at motivating people to hold demonstrations against the Government."

The police had alleged that Zaffar led two demonstrations - in October 2009 and July 2010 - during

GALLOWS FOR COPS INVOLVED IN FAKE ENCOUNTERS: SC

'IF STAGED SHOOTOUT PROVEN AGAINST POLICEMEN, THEY MUST BE GIVEN DEATH PENALTY'

New Delhi, May 14: The Supreme Court has said that staged shootouts involving killings by policemen should be counted in the category of rarest of rare cases and those found guilty be sentenced to death.

"We are of the view that in cases where a fake encounter is proved against policemen in a trial, they must be given death sentence, treating it as the rarest of rare cases," apex court bench of Justice Markandey Katju and Justice Gyan Sudha Misra said yesterday.

Coming down harshly on staged-encounters, the Apex Court observed; "Fake encounters are nothing but cold-blooded, brutal murder by persons who are supposed to uphold the law." "The trigger-happy policemen who think they can kill people in the name of an encounter and get away with it should know that the gallows await them," Justice Katju said while speaking for the bench.

"In our opinion if crimes are committed by ordinary people, ordinary punishment should be given, but if the

which protesters pelted stones on police and forces, injuring them and damaging their vehicles.

Family members of Zaffar told media that they were not informed about his arrest. He was picked up by police from his mobile phone shop.

They said they were not given the grounds of detention or any other information related to his detention.

COURT QUASHES MURTAZA'S PSA
Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed the detention under Public Safety Act of 17-year-old, Murtaza Manzoor of Zainakadal and directed the state government to release him.

Manzoor is in jail since January this year. He was booked under PSA on charges of stone-pelting on February 8, 2011. Subsequently, the AI launched a campaign to seek his immediate release and urged state and centre government to release the boy.

Manzoor's counsel, Mir Shafaqat Hussain said Manzoor's PSA was quashed because he was a minor.

The judgement came as the court dismissed an appeal by Prakash Kadam and others who had challenged a Bombay High Court order cancelling the bail granted to the accused by a sessions court. They were accused of a contract killing.

Kadam and others are policemen and are accused of killing in a man named Ramnaryan Gupta in a staged shootout. The accused were engaged as contract killers to eliminate the deceased. The judgment warned the erring policemen that "they will not be excused for committing murder in the name of 'encounter' on the pretext that they were carrying out the orders of their superior officers or politicians, however high".

Referring to the Nuremburg trials, during which Nazi war criminals of the Second World War had taken the plea that 'orders are orders' and had to be carried out, the court said; that their plea was not accepted and they were hanged.

"If a policeman is given an illegal order by any superior to do a fake 'encounter', it is his duty to refuse to

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Fake encounters are cold-blooded, brutal murder by persons supposed to uphold the law.
- Trigger-happy policemen who think they can kill people in the name of an encounter and get away with it should know that the gallows await them.
- *Policemen won't be excused for committing murder in the name of fake encounter on the pretext that they were carrying out the orders of their superior officers or politicians
- *If a policeman is given an illegal order by any superior to do a fake encounter, it is his duty to refuse to carry out such an illegal order, otherwise he will be charged for murder
- *The 'encounter' philosophy is a criminal philosophy, and all policemen must know this.

offence is committed by policemen much harsher punishment should be given to them because they do an act totally contrary to their duties," the court said.

carry out such an illegal order, otherwise he will be charged for murder, and if found guilty, sentenced to death. The 'encounter' philosophy is a criminal philosophy, and all policemen must know this," the judgment said.

"It is imperative in our opinion to mention that our ancient thinkers were of the view that the worst state of affairs possible in society is a state of lawlessness. When the rule of law collapses, it is replaced by Matsyanyaya, which means the law of the jungle. In Sanskrit, the word 'Matsya' means fish and Matsyanyaya means a state of affairs where the big fish

SHRC FOR PROSECUTION OF SSP, SHO IN FAKE ENCOUNTER CASE

May 26: The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has recommended prosecution of a top police official for "negligence" and "inaction" in a fake encounter case in which two innocent civilians were killed in Shopian in 2005.

Member SHRC, Justice (ret'd) Javaid Kawoos recommended prosecution of then Senior Superintendent of Police Pulwama and then SHO Kulgam for remaining intentionally passive in registering FIR in the disappearance of two civilians-Rafiq Ahmad Ganai and Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat.

On Feb 16, 2005, army personnel forced Ganai and Bhat to disembark from a passenger bus at Machu Yaripora and later allegedly killed them in a fake encounter at Sharatpora Shopian. Family members approached the police but they remained unmoved and did not take any action to trace the youth.

The SHRC said the duo was labeled as Hizb militants by army for rewards.

The Commission observed that the army wrongly projected the killing of the duo on Feb 26, 2005 at Sharatpora as an operation for combing out militants, which was negated by the Director General of Police.

The family members filed complaints before a local Court and the SHRC seeking justice in the killing of the two innocents. On the next day of disappearance of the youth, the family members approached the concerned army officer, who refused to acknowledge any such incident. They said the then SHO and the then SSP did not take any notice of the occurrence.

"Nobody came to our rescue. The police even refused to register the case of disappearance of the youth," the family

SHRC INDICTS SECURITY FORCES FOR KILLING B'LA YOUTH

May 29: The Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has indicted the security forces for killing a youth of Baramulla without any provocation in 2008 and asked the DGP to conclude investigation of the case.

In his judgment, the member SHRC, Abdul Rashid Khan, stated that on the basis of findings of the magisterial inquiry, Mansoor Ali Kumar son of Ali Muhammad Kumar of Khanpora was killed without any provocation by the security forces.

The Commission had taken suo-motto cognizance of a report 'Bloodbath in Baramulla' published in media on November 2008.

The Commission had asked the DGP to file a factual report in the case.

The enquiries revealed that on November 22, 2008, a violent mob came out of highway at Khanpora Baramulla and started pelting stones on the private and security forces vehicles. In the meanwhile, some unknown security forces vehicle passing through Khanpora came under heavy stone pelting.

The security forces retaliated in self defence and fired some shots to disperse the mob resulting in injury to one

devours the smaller one," the court said. While dismissing the appeal, the court said that the trial court will decide the criminal case against the appellants uninfluenced by any observations made in this judgment, or in the impugned high court judgment.

members submitted before the court. However, later the Director General of Police admitted in his report that the duo was killed in a fake encounter by army.

Kawoos said, "I hold the two police officers (SSP and SHO) responsible under section 13(a) (ii) of the J&K Protection of Human Rights Act 1997 for their negligence in the prevention of the human rights violation."

SHRC under section 19 (i) of the JKPHR Act also recommended that the government or DGP must initiate proceedings under law for prosecution of the two police officials as they had knowingly omitted to act as per the mandate of the law.

SHRC observed: "It is evident from the facts and circumstance of the case that while on one hand army killed the two innocent youth in a fake encounter and on the other the inaction and negligence on the part of the then SSP Pulwama and then SHO have contributed to the death of these two innocent youths."

SHRC, however, said the DGP and Inspector General of Police had been honest in putting the facts forth. DGP had admitted that army 1st RR camp Bahibagh Kulgam had disembarked the youth from the public passenger bus and then killed them in a fake encounter.

The SHRC also recommended that DGP shall direct SSP Shopian to either lodge fresh FIR in the killing of two youth or direct investigation officer to have an independent and impartial investigation. SHRC also recommended that government shall sanction and pay an exgratia relief of Rs one lakh in favour of the next of kin of the deceased apart from benefit under SRO-43.

Mansoor Ali Kumar who later succumbed to his injuries," the DGP states in his report to the Commission.

The report states that a case under FIR no 206/2008 under section 147, 148, 336, 427 RPC stand registered at Police Station Bandipore and the District Magistrate had ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident.

The Commission states that the Deputy Commissioner forwarded a copy of the findings of then Additional District Development Commissioner who conducted the magisterial enquiry to the Commission.

The SHRC said that the enquiry officer has recorded the statements of three witnesses, Manzoor Ahmad Kumar, Danish Ahmad Gojri and headmistress of the Girls Middle School.

"The examination of the findings of the magisterial enquiry and other material on the file, makes it clear beyond doubt that the Mansoor Ali Kumar was innocent, playing cricket in the school premises and while coming out from the school, he was fired upon and killed by the security forces traveling in a Gypsy without any provocation," the Commission states in the judgment.

The Commission asked the DGP to conclude investigation of the case on the basis of findings of the Magisterial Inquiry. It also asked the Government through Chief Secretary to grant benefits under SRO-43 to the next of kin of the victim.

In another case, the Commission has recommended an exgratia of Rs one lakh to Muhammad Ramzan Khanday son of Abdul Gani Khanday of Mirbazar Islamabad (Anantnag) who was killed allegedly by the militants on March 31, 2005.

A MINOR LOST BOTH HIS ARMS AND EYESIGHT

May 20: A minor lost both his arms and eyesight when he stepped on a landmine in frontier district Poonch, officials said.

They said Ashiq Hussain, 10; son of Muhammad Farooq of Karmara, Poonch was playing in the fields near Maki Post along the Line of Control this morning when he accidentally stepped on a land mine.

YOUTH DIES IN EXPLOSION

May 29: A youth was killed when a mortar shell exploded in a firing range in Akhnoor border belt in Jammu province, police said.

A police officer said the incident took place last evening in Chamarki firing range.

"A youth identified as Mukesh was picking up the mortar shell when it went off and exploded with a big bang,

In his judgment, the Commission's member Abdul Rashid Khan that the deceased was an ex-militant and acquitted by the Court. "He was working as a domestic work to feed his family. But he was pressurized by the militants to rejoin after he declined he was killed. It is established by the Qazigund Police that Muhammad Ramzan was kidnapped by the militants and later killed by chopping his body into two pieces," the judgment states while asking the Government to pay relief to the deceased's family.

"The boy was rushed to District Hospital Poonch, where doctors had to amputate both his arms. He has also lost his eyesight," officials said, adding that he was later shifted to Government Medical College hospital Jammu in a critical condition.

injuring him critically. He was referred to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead," he said.

Residents of the border area generally collect exploded shells and bullet cartridges from firing ranges to extract copper and sell the metal in market.

Scores of people in Kashmir and Jammu have died after the explosion of live shells.

MILITARIZATION

62 KANALS LAND OCCUPIED BY ARMY, OWNERS WANT COMPENSATION

May 18: The inhabitants of Fakirpora Drugmulla, a hamlet alongside Srinagar-Kupwara highway have gone from pillar to post, to seek the compensation of their land extending up to 62-kanals (8-acres) which army occupied forcibly by laying a nocturnal seizure across the length and breadth of the area in January 2002.

Nine years have elapsed but the villagers have not been paid even a single penny. Authorities said that the case has been sent to defence ministry.

Javid Ahmad, a villager, said that it was January 2002 when army came to them and said that they wanted their land. They needed it for the purpose of constructing a transit camp for convoys and a helipad for landing of military helicopters. "We did not want to give our land. On this day we somehow could resist them by assembling around our land portions. In the evening we returned to our homes. When the night approached the army sealed off the whole area, a kind of de facto curfew was imposed. On the next day there were announcements from loudspeakers that no one should move out," he said.

Javid added that army had announced shoot-at-sight orders. The same situation prevailed for three days. Later after three days when the siege was lifted people found their land fenced and encircled with barricades.

The land which at present is under the occupation of army was the lone source of sustenance for most of villagers. The populace here belongs mostly to farmer class. So they used to get the meals of year by cultivating this land. But after the army took hold of it the villagers had to suffer the ensuing hard time. Abdul Majeed, a villager, who reveals the time of

sufferings after his land was snatched by army in a nocturnal operation.

"We had 19 kanals of land. Out of this only two kanals are in our possession. The rest seventeen were taken by army. We are about a dozen family members. Not a single person in our family has a government job. We were earning our meals we cultivating our land. But after we were dispossessed of it, we had to live a life full of strains," said Majeed. The villagers have gone to every concerned official, but nothing has happened.

Last year they had met chief minister Omar Abdullah who assured them full help. But till date nothing has happened. The villagers had also urged the concerned MLA Mir Saifullah, to raise this issue in Legislative Assembly, but no heed was paid to it. "We approached every official of civil administration as well as army who are linked to this case, but they have not been addressing to our grievances. Instead they evade this issue by presenting different reasons at different times. We request government to pay heed to our case," said Showkat, who has 15-kanals of land under army.

According to current market rates, one kanal of this land sells at the rate of Rs eight to ten lakh. So people here want the government to pay as per the rates. Besides, the land compensation the villagers also demanded the rental charges since the day of land was taken over Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Muhammad Shafi Rather told Kashmir Times that the farmers did not accept the rent. "We offered rent to them but they refused to take," he said. "Now the case has been sent to defence ministry and forces will acquire the land and farmers will get the money according to market rates," deputy

2 STONE PELTERS ARRESTED: POLICE

May 28: Police claimed to have arrested two stone pelters in south Kashmir's Islamabad district.

"Police arrested two "A" categorized stone pelters in case FIR No. 331/2010," a police spokesman said.

Identifying the arrested youth as Javid Ahmad Kharadi son of Ali Mohammad Kharadi and Ashiq Hussain

Kharadi son of Nazir Ahmad Kharadi, both residents of Dangerpora, Islamabad, he said the duo were stone pelters.

"They were involved in stone pelting attack on Police Post Sherbagh during summer unrest last year," he said.

PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

➤ HURRIYAT (G) ACTIVIST BOOKED UNDER PSA AGAIN

May 1: Authorities have booked the Hurriyat Conference (G) activist Muhammad Ismail Mir under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for second consecutive time in 6-months here in north Kashmir.

Jameel Jamsheed Mir son of Ismail Mir told media that his father had been booked under the PSA for the second

consecutive time in the past 6-months. "Soon after High Court quashed his detention under PSA the authorities booked him again," he said.

Mir and other two youth were booked for allegedly spearheading protests and stone pelting during last year's summer unrest.

JALEEL ANDRABI MURDER CASE

COURT DIRECTS MEA TO EXPEDITE EXTRADITION OF MAJOR AVTAR

May 30: Taking an exception to inordinate delay in delivering justice in Jaleel Andrabi murder case, a City Court directed the authorities including Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to make every endeavour to extradite the accused Major Avtar Singh reportedly residing in United States of America.

In his order May 30, the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Srinagar Yashpal Bournay has asked the Inspector General of Crime (IGP) to pursue the extradition process of

accused army Major Avtar Singh 'vigorously' and filed a complete report in this regard before the court.

"Since a lot of time has already got wasted without any fruitful results, therefore, it is impressed upon the authorities concerned to expedite the matter and make every endeavour to extradite the accused at the earliest, so that majesty of rule of law is not dented. This order should be forwarded to foreign secretary government of India Ministry of external affairs New Delhi..." reads the court order.

BUNKER REMOVAL HALTED

NO MORE PICKETS TO BE REMOVED FROM SRINAGAR: CRPF

May 28: Paramilitary CRPF on Saturday said that bunker removal process in Srinagar has ended and no more bunkers are to be removed in future.

"We have completed the process in the city. The government had decided to lift 40 small and large residential bunkers and that has been done. There are no plans to remove more bunkers in future," the Public Relations Officer (PRO) CRPF Prabhakar Tripathi told media.

"There are only 12 residential bunkers left in the Srinagar city. Remaining bunkers were dismantled. According to my reports there are only four bunkers left in uptown city," said Tripathi.

He said the decision to remove strategically located bunkers in the city would take time. "We have to hold serious deliberations as the removal of these bunkers would have

direct fall out on the security of Srinagar," he added. Referring to the CRPF men who were staying put in these bunkers, Tripathi said, "They are with their respective battalions and are still putting up in the Valley. These men won't be sent back till further orders."

Tripathi said the areas from where the bunkers were removed are still under surveillance. "Number of CRPF men patrolling these areas on foot has been increased and bunker vehicles are maintaining a tight vigil," he added.

Sources said that since last year 39 bunkers have been dismantled in Srinagar city. "In the final phase of bunker removal on March 17, this year, authorities had dismantled 12 bunkers from different areas, including Batamaloo, Karan Nagar, Zainakadal, Saraf Kadal, Babademb, Nowhatta, Rainawari, Saraf Kadal, and Aali Kadal," they said.

SECTION 144 IN SRINAGAR

May 30: District Magistrate Srinagar, Mehraj Ahmad Kakroo, has, under section 144 Cr. PC, imposed ban on the assembly of five or more persons within the territorial limits of Srinagar district.

The order, according to the official spokesman, shall come into force with immediate effect and will remain in force for a period of two months.

DM HAS LIMITED POWERS UNDER PSA: HC

'DETENTION ORDER VALID ONLY FOR 12 DAYS'

May 31: In a significant judgment, Jammu and Kashmir High Court has held that the detention order issued by a District Magistrate under Public Safety Act (PSA) is valid only for twelve days. The Court maintained that any extension in detention under PSA needs government sanction.

Quashing detention of Abdul Hamid son of Ibrahim of village Simbli in Mahore area of district Reasi, accused of being a militant sympathizer, Justice Mansoor Ahmed Mir observed that the detaining authority (District Magistrate) has

passed the detention order for a period of two years which he is not authorised to do in terms of section 8 (4) of Public Safety Act.

"The detention order passed by the District Magistrate Udhampur shall not remain in force for more than 12 days, unless in the meanwhile it has been approved by the government", the court held.

"On this ground also detention of the detainee is bad in law and is required to be quashed", the court observed

adding that the District Magistrate has no power to issue order of detention beyond his jurisdiction.

The Court held that the detention order seems to have been passed without application of mind.

SUICIDE AND FRATRICIDES OF TROOPERS

➤ CRPF MAN ENDS LIFE

May 26: A CRPF trooper ended his life by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Doda district. The deceased soldier was identified as Major Kumar of 76 BN CRPF. He was posted in a CRPF camp in Doda, Jammu.

➤ POLICEMAN COMMITS SUICIDE IN JAMMU

May 31: A policeman committed suicide last night by shooting himself with his service rifle on Jammu-Pathankote rail track in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

➤ INFILTRATION BIDS TO INCREASE: GOC

'SRINAGAR-LEH HIGHWAY WIDENED FOR T-72 TANKS'

May 2: Army's top commander in Kashmir said militants will increase their attempts to infiltrate into the Valley over the next two months but asserted that they will be in for a "surprise".

"In the coming weeks and through the month of May and June, you are going to witness large scale infiltration attempts, but at the same time, let me also reiterate that they (militants) are going to be surprised," General Officer Command (GOC) of Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lt General S A Hasnain told reporters here, 120 kms from Srinagar.

He said an estimated 700 militants were waiting at various launch-pads to infiltrate into the state.

The GOC said the Srinagar-Leh national highway has been widened to allow passage of T-72 tanks.

This, he said, was part of efforts to improve the infrastructure and resources for enhancing the capability of the army.

"Last year, an effort was made to see if we can bring in more tanks into this area. Any military force always looks at how to improve its infrastructure, which improves its capabilities," Lt Gen Hasnain said.

"From a military angle, if you find the resources in the areas opposite to you increase and the military capability enhances, it is always a case of worry for you. Therefore, you have to re-analyse your own resources, your own capabilities," he said.

The widening of the Srinagar-Leh road, which passes through Zojila pass at an altitude of 11,500 feet, has been done to facilitate the passage of T-72 tanks following several reports of Chinese incursions into Ladakh region over the past few years.

➤ WILL TAKE EVERY STEP TO MAKE POLICE MORE PEOPLE FRIENDLY: MOS HOME

Hamid was arrested in a case FIR No. 138/2009 registered at police station Mahore. As per the FIR, Hamid was accused of being an active over-ground worker of JeM and "was also having links with various other militant organizations."

Kalam Din of 4th battalion of Indian Reserve Police (IRP) fired at himself from his service rifle on duty at Basantar Bridge on Jammu-Pathankote railway track tonight, a police officer said.

He died on his way to the hospital, he said adding the policemen belonged to Kargil district of Ladakh region. The reason behind the suicide could not be ascertained immediately, he said.

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

May 4: The Minister of state for Home, Nasir Aslam Wani, during an interview said that government will take every step to make police and security forces more people friendly and maintained that there would be zero tolerance on human rights violations.

Wani said, "To make police and forces more people friendly grievances of the people are being monitored by district level officers and later action is being taken. During my recent interactions with civil society members in several parts of the state, I got the feedback and we are working accordingly."

➤ INFILTRATION MAY INCREASE UP: ARMY

May 15: Army fears that infiltration attempts by militants from across the Line of Control (LoC) may increase in the coming days.

"After the killing of Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden in US operation in Pakistan, there are fears that Pakistan might try to infiltrate more militants into Jammu and Kashmir," GOC 15 Corps Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain told a local news gathering agency KNS on sidelines of a function organized by 140 Infantry Brigade in north Kashmir's Karnah area.

Stating that the situation in the State was returning to normalcy, GoC said, "Army is carrying out different developmental works in remote areas for civilian population under operation Sadhbavana. This has helped the people in these areas a lot."

➤ COMMITTED TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS: ARMY

May 16: The General Officer Commanding of Srinagar-based Chinar Corps Lt General S A Hasnain on Monday reiterated that army was committed to uphold the promise of "zero tolerance" to human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Power does not come from the muzzle of the gun, but by upholding the dignity of the people and respecting their sentiments," The GOC said at a seminar on human rights here.

"Army will try to win over hearts and use it as a

main weapon in combating insurgency in Kashmir," he added.

Chief of Army's Northern Command Lt General K T Parnaik in his address commended the track record of Indian Army in "upholding human rights" despite challenges.

He stressed on the use of "minimum force and acting in good faith."

Spread over two sessions, several personalities including former Army Generals, High Court Judges, Vice-Chancellors, journalists and writers attended the seminar.

➤ **AFSPA ISSUE BETWEEN CENTRE, STATE: ARMY**

May 17: The General Officer Commanding Kilo Force Ravi Thogde said Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) legislation was an issue between State and Centre government.

"It (AFSPA) is an issue between State and Centre government. They have to take a political decision. I don't have to comment on it," he told reporters on the sidelines of a peace conference at SKICC, Srinagar.

Replying to query about infiltration along the Line of Control, Thogde said there are no reports of infiltration.

The GOC termed the killings of 118 youth last year as "unfortunate." This is all I can say," he added.

➤ **ARMY COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENT DEALINGS: LT GEN HASNAIN**

May 17: Army said that it was committed to "truthful and transparent" dealings in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Human rights' is the heart of our hearts theme and Army is committed to truthful and transparent dealings," General Officer Commanding of the Srinagar-based Chinari Corps Lt General Syed Atta Hasnain said in his closing remarks at a 2-day seminar on human rights in Srinagar.

The seminar conducted by the Army at BB Cantt, concluded with last day's deliberation focused on 'Challenges and Dilemma faced by the Security Forces', a spokesman of the defence ministry said in a statement.

➤ **NO INFILTRATION THIS YEAR: ARMY**

May 18: For the first time since eruption of militancy, no infiltration bid was reported from any part of the state between March and May.

A senior Army officer on May 18 told media that it is for the first time in the past 20-years that no infiltration bid had taken place from March to May from any side along line of control (LoC).

"During past 20 years infiltration bids along the LoC were noticed during the early spring, beginning from middle March. The infiltration usually used to occur during these months as militants start crossing

over with the melting of snow in the upper reaches," he said.

"We have noticed infiltration bids as early as in March when large number of militants would make attempts to cross over from different routes along LoC in north Kashmir. Mostly we used to notice such attempts in Machil, Keran and Gurez sectors," he added.

2010 INFILTRATION BIDS

While giving details about the encounters which took place last year the senior Army officer said that nearly 35 persons were killed during infiltration bids or cross LoC encounters in three months (March, April and May) in 2010.

On March 26, 2010, first infiltration bid was foiled in north Kashmir's Keran sector when Army claimed to have killed one militant near Ustad post.

Following the incident, another infiltration bid was noticed on March 27 in the same area. The army claimed that eight persons, including five militants and three soldiers were killed in the ensuing gunfights.

The Army on April 30, 2010 had claimed to have foiled another infiltration bid by killing three militants in Machil sector.

The biggest encounter last year occurred from May 7 to May 17 when Army claimed that they had intercepted a "biggest infiltrating group" of around 14 to 22 militants in Rafiabad area of north Kashmir.

The Army had said the group had infiltrated through Uri along LOC.

After 10-days of several encounters in Rafiabad forests the then GOC Kilo Force, Major General N George had said 13 persons, including 11 militants and 2 soldiers, were killed in different encounters in the area.

On May 10, paramilitary BSF had claimed to have killed an "infiltrator" in R S Pura sector of Jammu. One soldier was killed in Chowkibal area after militants opened fire on army contingents who had intercepted an infiltrating group on May 12, 2010. Further two soldiers were killed along LoC in Krishna Ghati sector of Rajouri sector.

On May 23, 2010, a Pakistani soldier was killed in cross LoC clash in Poonch district while as on May 25 a BSF personnel was injured in the clash. On May 26, 2010, the army claimed to have killed two "infiltrators" in Tanghdar district.

The senior army official had said apart from infiltration bids, the cross LOC clashes too have declined in 2011. "In Kashmir there has been no clash registered. But in Jammu sporadic shoots out do occur," he added.

➤ **'40 MILITANTS HAVE ENTERED VALLEY'**

Srinagar, May 22: Notwithstanding repeated denials by the Army, security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir have reported that nearly 35 to 40 militants have entered the Kashmir Valley but were holed up in higher reaches

only “due to extra layer of security by police and para-military forces.”

Official reports comprising HUMINT (human intelligence) and TECHINT (technical intelligence) suggest that small groups of six to seven militants mainly belonging to Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba entered the Valley through Kupwara and Gurez sectors and have entrenched themselves in Lolab and Rajwar forests in extreme north Kashmir.

While army’s top brass in Srinagar-based 15 Corps this week attempted to downplay the issue at a high-level meeting and present a picture that there was no infiltration, they were countered by central intelligence agencies with specific inputs suggesting that militants had managed to sneak in under their nose, officials’ privy to the meeting said.

The army top brass proposed to take a high-level team to the borders. This was, however, shot down saying that there was no fun in examining the Line of Control when the Lashker militants had managed to sneak in and the army should rather concentrate more on plugging infiltration routes in coordination with state and central intelligence agencies, the officials said. There have been cordon and search operations by the police and army in Sopore, periphery of Lolab, Rajwar belt and upper reaches of Bandipore—“traditional areas into which new batches of militants have come.”

In an operation in upper reaches of north Kashmir’s Haffrudah area, the army had made “huge recoveries” of new AK weapons.

“Recovery of an under-barrel grenade launcher, GPS, ammunition and other arsenal were indicative that a group has moved into this area,” the officials said.

This was followed by subsequent encounters in Lolab where the militants had come into the Valley through Machil sector and in Zaloor area of Sopore where one militant was killed while five others managed to escape.

The army officials have been trying to play down these incidents and had no replies as to why there was a sudden increase in cordon and search operations (CASO) in Sopore and adjoining Kupwara and Handwara areas.

“In the meantime, state police along with central paramilitary forces have created a fresh line to ward off militants from entering the populated areas of the Valley,” the officials said. PTI

'REPORTS INCORRECT'

An Army spokesman said the reports of infiltration were “incorrect” and the cordon and search operations in Lolab, Rajwar and Bandipore were sustained operations carried out throughout the winter.

“These are sustained operations (carried out) throughout the winter and not a recent phenomenon,”

he said. On the recovery of new weapons, he said the arms seized were of 2007-08 vintage and were used routinely by militants in the Kashmir Valley. PTI

> NO INFILTRATION FROM PAK: GOC

May 24: Rejecting media reports that 40 militants had infiltrated into Kashmir from Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK) recently, GoC 15 Corps Lt General Hasnain said it was totally false and baseless.

“It has been observed that some reporters file imaginary reports, thinking that infiltration is taking place during summer,” Hasnain told reporters during sidelines of a function in border town of Karnah.

He said reports of infiltration of militants from PaK, which had appeared in some newspapers, are totally baseless and false. He also rejected the reports that there was any encounter between militants and troops near the Line of Control (LoC). However, GoC said taking into account all intelligence reports, about 700 militants, trained in different camps in PaK, are waiting in launching pads to infiltrate this side.

“These militants are waiting for an opportunity to sneak into this side as snow had melted on upper reaches, being used by them,” he said.

> 40 MILITANTS HAVE ENTERED JK: OMAR

May 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said some 40 militants had crossed over from across the LoC into the state recently.

“As of now it (the figure of infiltrating militants) is provisional. But, there are indications anything between 30-40 militants have crossed over (to JK),” he told reporters at a function in Jammu.

“This information is independently provided both by state and central intelligence agencies,” the Chief Minister said.

“There is credible information to suggest that there have been successful attempts of infiltration last month,” Omar said.

He was replying to a question regarding media reports about some 40 militants entering Jammu and Kashmir from PaK.

> ARMY CONTRADICT CM'S INFILTRATION CLAIM

'WE STAND BY GOC'S COMMENTS ON INFILTRATION'

May 26: A day after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said some 40 militants have crossed over into the state from across the LoC this year, the army reiterated that no infiltration took place since January 2011.

“Our stand on the issue of infiltration is clear. Two days back our Corps Commander, Lt General Syed Atta Hasnain, has made a statement on infiltration. We stand by our Commander’s comments on the issue,” army spokesman, Lt Col JS Brar told media. “I can’t comment further”.

Pertinently, Lt Gen Hasnain, during his visit to the forward posts in Tanghdar sector on May 24 while rebutting the reports of infiltration had said that there was no incident of infiltration and “neither there was any gunfight on Line of Control this year so far.”

“These reports are concocted and baseless. This kind of baseless stuff appears in media in May and June every year,” the GOC had told reporters.

➤ **258 BOOKED UNDER PSA IN 3 MONTHS: IGP**
‘175 LODGED IN DIFFERENT JAILS’

Srinagar, May 31: Police on Tuesday revealed that 258 persons were booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) since March this year out of which 175 are lodged in different jails across the state.

“Nearly 258 persons were booked under PSA from March till May 12 this year. They were charged with creating law and order problem in 2010,” the Inspector General of Police Kashmir zone S M Sahai told media.

“Out of this number we have released 83 persons. There are 175 persons currently lodged in different jails,” he said.

Giving the break up the IGP said 175 persons include 48 persons affiliated with separatist organizations while as the rest 127 accused are mainly “habitual stone-pelters, instigators and other hardcore miscreants. There are also some timber smugglers also.”

The IGP said a total of 5,078 persons were detained for taking part in last year’s unrest. “Most of them have been released,” Sahai said. “This figure does

not include the people who have been held for militancy related activities. That (militant cases) figure is being prepared. It would take some time,” he added.

The IGP however, refused to divulge the details about the number of militants who are currently undergoing detention in various jails.

322 BOOKED UNDER PSA IN 2010: AMNESTY

Pertinently, the human rights Watch Dog Amnesty International had recently said that at least 322 persons were booked under PSA in Jammu and Kashmir from January 2010 to September 2010 alone. The Amnesty said a number of them, including children, were detained on grounds of “stone pelting and rioting” during various protests against the government throughout the summer of 2010.

1465 DETAINED: HURRIYAT (G)

However, the Hurriyat Conference (G) said that at least 1465 persons have been detained across the Valley.

“We have a list of 1465 people who have been detained. It includes the list of prominent political leaders, protesters and other people who have been arrested due to their affiliation with the ongoing movement,” the Hurriyat spokesman Ayaz Akbar said.

“They are living under harsh conditions in jails. Many among them are under age, and some are ill,” Akbar said. “The police are still looking for the wanted persons for their alleged role in 2010 unrest.”

DATE	TROOPS	MILITANTS	CIVILIANS	OTHERS
May 1	-	-	-	-
May 2	-	-	1	-
May 3	1	-	1	-
May 4	-	-	-	-
May 5	1 (Major)	-	-	-
May 6	1	-	1	-
May 7	-	-	-	-
May 8	-	-	-	-
May 9	-	-	-	-
May10	1	-	1	-
May11	-	-	-	-
May12	-	-	-	-
May13	1	-	-	-
May14	1	-	-	-
May15	-	-	-	-
May16	-	1	-	1 (Congress activist)
May17	1	-	-	-
May18	-	-	-	-
May19	-	-	-	-

May20	-	-	-	-
May21	-	-	-	-
May22	-	-	-	-
May23	-	-	-	-
May24	-	1	-	-
May25	-	2	-	-
May26	1	2	-	-
May27	-	2	-	-
May28	-	-	-	2 informers
May29	-	-	1	-
May30	-	1	-	-
May 31	1	-	-	-
Total	9	9	5	3

CHRONOLOGY OF INCIDENTS

May 1: No incident of violence reported.

May 2: One person was killed and 10 others injured while a senior Army officer escaped unhurt in a car-bomb blast triggered by suspected militants on Jammu- Srinagar highway in Udhampur district, police said.

May 3: A youth was killed when he was hit by splinters of motor explosion during a firing practice by BSF troopers in Kanara Garhi, Rajouri. The deceased was identified as Mohinder Singh. In another incident an army soldier of 19 Raj Rifles died while a cooler in arms maintenance in an army camp in Kharian when some explosive device went off.

May 4: No incident of violence reported.

May 5: An army Major was killed in an accidental grenade explosion in Rajouri district. The deceased Major was identified as PK Jindal of 25 Rajput Regiment.

May 6: An army trooper injured in an encounter with militants on April 30 succumbed to his injuries. He was identified as Sepoy Shayam Singh. In a bizarre incident a Village Defence Committee (VDC) member Inder Singh shot dead his son in Rajouri district of Jammu province. The deceased was identified as Mintu, 22.

May 7: Two incident of killing reported from any part of the state.

May 8: No incident of violence reported from any part of state.

May 9: No violence incident occur in any part of the state.

May 10: A surrendered militant-turned- Special Police Officer (SPO) allegedly shot dead his brother-in-law and his wife, also an SPO herself, in Ramban district. The deceased were identified as Rehmata Begum, 32, alias Rehmati, Farooq Ahmed Malik, son of Mohammad Sadiq Malik of Thathri.

May 11: Two persons including a CPI (M) worker escaped bid on life in separate attacks by unknown gunmen in Hangal-Buch area in Yaripora in Kulgam district South Kashmir. In another incident, unidentified gunmen fired few rounds towards the residence of Mohammad Yousuf Dar son of Ghulam Nabi Dar at Thieran Treen. No injury or loss of life was reported in the incident.

May 12: No violence incident occur in any part of the state.

May 13: A youth was injured allegedly in army firing at Hayatpora Lolab in Kupwara. The injured youth was identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Ganie s/o Abdul Rashid. In a separate incident a soldier of 28 RR died when militants attacked a army patrol in Dursa Lolab

May 14: A Border Security Force trooper died in an exchange of fire between Pakistani Rangers and Indian troopers in Jammu sector along the International Border.

May 15: No incident of violence occurred at any place in J&K state.

May 16: One Lashker-e-Taiba militant was killed and an army soldier injured in an encounter with troops in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. In a separate incident suspected militants killed a Congress leader Abdul Gani son of Aziz Ahmed Rather of Kwath, Kishtwar. He was kidnapped by militants before being killed.

May 17: Unidentified militants allegedly killed a police man at Tujjar Sharief in Sopore, while a candidate in Panchayat elections was shot at in the neighbouring area of Wadoora. The slain cop was identified as Mohammad Shafi Dar while the unidentified militants shot at and injured a *sarpanch* candidate, Mohammad Maqbool Bhat.

May 18: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

May 19: No incident of violence reported from any part of the state.

May 20: A minor lost both his arms and eyesight when he stepped on a landmine in frontier district Poonch, officials said. They said Asliq Hussain, 10, son of Mubarrad Farooq of Karmara, Poonch was playing in the fields near Madi Post along the Line of Control this morning when he accidentally stepped on a land mine.

May 21: Violence incident free.

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

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

May 24: One militant of LeT identified as Nazir Ali alias Abu Omar of Pakistan was killed while his associates injured during an encounter with 18 Rashtriya Rifles at Baflaiz-Dera-ki-Gali in Poonch district.

May 25: Two Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militant was killed in a fierce gunfight with the joint team of Army and police in Laribal village in Handwara of frontier Kupwara district. The identity of the deceased was not ascertained.

May 26: Two Jash-e-Mohammad militants including a top commander were killed in fierce firefight with troops of 44 RR in South Kashmir's Shopian district. The deceased militants were identified as identified as Qari Zubair and Mohammad Imran Khan. In a separate incident a CRPF trooper ended his life by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Doda district. The deceased soldier was identified as Major Kumar of 76 BN CRPF.

May 27: Two foreign LeT militants were killed in an encounter with troops in Kalan village, Nowpora in north Kashmir's Sopore area. The deceased were identified by police as Omais and Qadri.

May 28: Unidentified gunmen shot dead father-son duo at Handwara in border district of Kupwara. Police report said the preliminary investigations have found that the family was targeted on suspicion of being informers.

The deceased were identified as Ghulam Rasool Mir, 55, son of Ghulam Mohammad Mir and his son Manzoor Ahmad Mir, 28, in Bawan village of Handwara the on spot.

May 29: A youth was killed when a mortar shell exploded in a firing range in Akhnoor border belt in Jammu province, police said. The deceased was identified as identified as Mukesh of Akhnoor Jammu.

May 30: BSF claimed that it had foiled an infiltration bid on the International Border killing an intruder while his associates managed to escape back to after an exchange of fire at Samba sector in Jammu province.

May 31: A policeman committed suicide last night by shooting himself with his service rifle on Jammu-Pathankote rail track in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir. The deceased was identified as Kalam Din of 4th battalion of Indian Reserve Police (IRP).

