

Appendices to SUBMISSION on Human Rights in South Asia: A Focus on India-administered Kashmir

To:

Congressman Eliot L. Engel, Chairman
Hearing on Human Rights in South Asia of October 22, 2019
House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee On Asia, the Pacific and Nonproliferation

From:

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Appendices

1. Kashmir Lockdown: A Partial Timeline; August 2-October 18, 2019

Date	Lockdown Component	Details	Quotes from Official Statements
Jul-Aug	Additional soldiers deployed in the region	Additional deployment of tens of thousands more soldiers in the region: one figure placed the additional deployment at 46,000 soldiers, according to the European Parliament. ^{1, 2} Another news source reported that Government of India deployed 10,000 to Jammu and Kashmir as of July 27, in addition to the 40,000 already deployed earlier in connection with the Amarnath Yatra (an annual pilgrimage). ^{3, 4, 5}	"It was unanimously resolved that all the parties would be united in their resolve to protect and defend identity, autonomy and special status of J-K against all attacks and onslaughts whatsoever. That modification, abrogation of Articles 35A and 370, unconstitutional delimitation or trifurcation of the state would be an aggression against the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh." Farooq Abdullah, National Conference president. ^{6, 7}
Aug-Sep	Physical and Psychological Torture	Associated Press interviewed at least 200 persons in Kashmir since August 5 and reported that government forces were carrying out night raids; beating civilians with gun butts, chains, and sticks; using electric shocks; destroying food items; forcing Kashmiris to eat dust and drink dirty water; killing livestock; or threatening to "marry" (read: sexually assault) Kashmiri women; and have arrested approximately 3,000 persons. ^{8, 9} As reported by The Hindu, a magistrate speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity said at least 4,000 people were arrested. ¹⁰	
Aug	United Nations experts expressed concern regarding multiple rights violations reported	Five United Nations rights experts issued a statement on August 22 calling the Kashmir communications blockade a "collective punishment" and expressed concern at the information they have received on night raids, arrests of journalists and human rights defenders, disappearances of detained persons, the use of excessive force against protesters. ^{11, 12}	"The shutdown of the internet and telecommunication networks, without justification from the Government, are inconsistent with the fundamental norms of necessity and proportionality. ... We remind the Indian authorities that the restrictions imposed by the Indian Government are intrinsically disproportionate, because they preclude considerations of the specific circumstances of each proposed assembly." UN Statement. ¹³
Aug-Sep	Press restrictions	Due to communication restrictions, some journalists had to file their stories with USB sticks carried onto airplanes. ^{14, 15}	
Aug-Oct	Communications shutdown restricting state services	The Hindu reported that the functions of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation was impacted by the internet blackout, and "official record showed no deaths or births registered between August 5 and August 26," impacting especially families dependent on government entitlements, such as	

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		those who need a death certificate to claim pension benefits. ¹⁶	
Aug-Oct	Shutdown of public transportation	October 1 reportedly marked the 58 th consecutive day where markets and public transport continued to be shut for at least part of the day, impacting daily life and livelihoods. ^{17, 18}	
Aug-Oct	Clampdown on freedom of expression	Kashmiris expressed apprehension of speaking to press, concerned about mistreatment by government forces if they speak out. They also reported incidents of police and BJP members posing as journalists to gather information, which is then used to “punish the community.” ^{19, 20}	
2 Aug	Cancelling Amarnath pilgrimage and ordering tourists to depart	Government of Jammu and Kashmir ordered the cancellation of the Amarnath pilgrimage and ordered tourists to leave, an “unprecedented” order that contributed to panic among Kashmiris, “who began to stockpile essential supplies, including food, medicines and fuel.” ^{21, 22}	
2 Aug	Deployment of more soldiers	The Hindu reported an additional 25,000 troops were directed to Jammu and Kashmir. ^{23, 24}	
4 Aug	Shutting down communications technologies	United Nations received reports describing a “near total communications blackout” in the state, calling the shutdown of cell phone networks, cable, internet connectivity, and Kashmiri TV channels a form of “collective punishment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, without even a pretext of a precipitating offence.” ^{25, 26}	
5 Aug	Banned meetings and restricted movement	Human Rights Watch reported that the government “imposed broad restrictions on freedom of movement and banned public meetings.” ^{27, 28}	
5 Aug	Closure of educational institutions	On 5 August, the “government ordered closure of all education institutions including colleges, universities and engineering institutions.” ^{29, 30} Approximately 200 primary schools re-opened on August 19, though some parents expressed safety concerns and kept their children home after that time. ^{31, 32}	
5 Aug	Announcement of predatory investments summit (tactics of land / labor alienation)	Government of India announced, “a major investment summit in Jammu and Kashmir in October,” claiming that Article 370 was an “impediment” to external investments. ^{33, 34}	
8-9 Aug	Warrantless detention and removal of Kashmiri civil society leaders with no due process	On Thursday (August 8), the Indian authorities warrantlessly detained and airlifted 25 Kashmiri leaders to a jail in Uttar Pradesh, including President of the Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Mian Qayoom, and Mubin Shah of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce. On Friday, the government authorities airlifted another 20 Kashmiri leaders as “potential troublemakers” to be incarcerated in Uttar Pradesh. ^{35, 36}	
9 Aug	Shooting at peaceful protesters	Tens of thousands of peaceful protesters marched in Srinagar when Indian soldiers open fired on them, resulting in at least 5-6 persons injured, some with eye wounds. ^{37, 38}	
9 Aug	Curfew like conditions	The <i>New York Times</i> reported that in some areas, residents are required to have curfew passes to	

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		be outside of their homes, even for medical emergencies. ^{39, 40}	
9 Aug	Psycho-social effects	New York Times has reported that anxiety has driven people from being able to sleep. ^{41, 42}	
9 Aug	Impacts on the practice of religion (Islam)	Due to the restrictions on communication and mobility, and the shortage of supplies, people who wished to celebrate Eid (Monday, August 12) were hampered. ^{43, 44}	
9 Aug	Unprovoked pellet shooting of minors	A youth (aged 16) was near his home, where there was no protest, when Indian troops shot tear gas and pellets at him, injuring him in the head. Medical personnel reported that the youth is likely to lose sight in both eyes, if he lives. Another minor from Bemina was also struck by a pellet shell. ^{45, 46}	
10 Aug	Night raids & torture	On August 10, Indian troops forcibly entered the home of Bahir Ahmed Dar looking for his brother. Indian soldiers subjected Dar to two rounds of beatings in the next two days, including one round where he was beaten with sticks until he was unconscious. ^{47, 48}	
10 Aug	Food, medicine, and gasoline shortages, and ATMs running low on cash	The Times (UK) reported on food, medicine, and gasoline shortages, and ATMs running low on cash, as well as disarray at the Srinagar airport as Kashmiris arrived in large numbers and waited for hours to book a flight out of the region. ^{49, 50}	
12 Aug	Religious Freedom restrictions on Eid	The government allowed people to walk to mosques in ones or twos for Eid al-Adha festival. At least one government official reported that some mosques had been closed “for security reasons.” ⁵¹	
16 Aug	Police firing teargas and pellets at protesters in Srinagar	Police shot teargas at protesters who marched after Friday prayers in Srinagar, and there were reports of clashes in other parts of the Valley. ^{52, 53}	
16 Aug	Restrictions on assembly and practice of religion	Most mosques reportedly had to close and large gatherings were not allowed for a second consecutive Friday. ⁵⁴	
13 Aug	Government forces shooting civilians, including minors	A government soldier shot a marble into a 6-year old’s eye with a slingshot. Associated Press reported that slingshots and marbles have been used in the past against protesters. ^{55, 56}	
16 Aug	Supreme Court delays on Kashmir-related cases	The Supreme Court of India “prescribed patience” in response to executive editor of Kashmir Times Anuradha Bhasin’s petition against curfew and press restrictions imposed by the Indian government. ^{57, 58}	
19 Aug	Government renting private buildings as detention centers	According to an intelligence official, due to the large number of persons detained, the government was starting to “rent guesthouses and vacant private houses and turn them into makeshift detention centers.” ^{59, 60}	
19 Aug	Government shifting detained persons far outside of the region	Many detained persons, including political prisoners and protesters, have been transferred far outside of the region, in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, making it difficult for family and legal aid to reach them. ^{61, 62}	

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23 Aug	Shooting protestors with pellets and tear gas	By mid-August, news media were reporting at least 150 persons injured by tear gas and pellet gun shootings. ^{63, 64}	
26 Aug	Kashmiri police disarmed and dispirited	Thirty (30) Kashmiri police officers in Srinagar reported to The Associated Press that they “were sidelined” in relation to the change in the status of Kashmir, “leading officers to feel spiritless, caught between the federal security forces they now report to and the friends and neighbors who question their loyalties like never before.” ⁶⁵	
30 Aug	Delayed Assembly elections	In late August, sources from the Election Commission stated that the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections will take place in 2021. ^{66, 67}	
30 Aug	Restrictions on access to healthcare	Human Rights Watch expressed concerns that the lockdown was “preventing people from getting proper health care,” and reported that the British Medical Journal and Lancet both contained articles also expressing concern over “health and safety of Kashmiris under the lockdown.” ^{68, 69}	<p>“In the aftermath of India’s move to modify the legal status of its Jammu and Kashmir State, reports indicate that at least 4,000 Kashmiris have been placed in detention, including politicians, journalists, human rights defenders, protestors, and scholars. Since the evening of August 4, telecommunication networks and the internet in Jammu and Kashmir have been partially or completely shut down, creating what appears to be an attempt to cut off potential critique of Prime Minister Modi’s government. This is unacceptable. At this time of heightened tension, it is critical that the Indian government abides by international human rights law and upholds democratic freedoms for its citizens.” U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (MD).⁷⁰</p> <p>““We continue to be very concerned by reports of detentions and the continued restrictions on the residents of the region. We urge respect for human rights, compliance with legal procedures, and inclusive dialogue with those affected.” US State Department spokesperson.^{71, 72}</p>
1 Sep	“Revolving door” warrantless detention of youths	The Hindu reported on a new policing tactic in Srinagar to hamper protests: warrantlessly detaining youths for short periods of time (one day to two weeks) in a “revolving door” fashion. Reportedly, a youth that can prove he had no connections to any clashes is ordered to report to a police station in the morning and leave at 7pm, without a warrant. This tactic reportedly has been used on 1,500 youths. ^{73, 74}	
1 Sep	Detentions	According to official records, 3,200 persons have been arrested since August 5, and 1,185 remained in detention. Many have been transported out of state to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. ^{75, 76}	

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2 Sep	Kashmiri author denied freedom of movement	Indian Express reported that, due to an Intelligence Bureau request, Kashmiri author and journalist Gowhar Geelani was denied the permission to travel to Germany for a conference. The immigration officer refused to present Geelani a written statement giving the reason why he was not allowed to travel to Germany. ^{77, 78}	
3 Sep	Medical issues	During August 2019, almost 700,000 patients received care from outpatient departments Kashmiri hospitals, and 46,449 from “indoor patient departments (IPDs).” ^{79, 80}	
4 Sep	Transportation restrictions	Since August 5, 50,000 public transport vehicles were off the streets. Trains to and from the region were non-functioning up to September 4. The Passport Office was unable to receive new application nor provide over 2,000 passports since August 5. ^{81, 82}	
6 Sep	Poor reporting of civilian injuries by police: police incompetence or disinformation	Police reported that a youth had died from stone-related injuries during a clash, but his medical records showed that the youth had injuries to his skull and eye from pellets. ^{83, 84}	
7 Sep	More warrantless detention and removal of civilians from Kashmir	29 more prisoners, detained under the Public Safety Act, were airlifted from Kashmir to Agra Central Jail in Uttar Pradesh, bringing the count of prisoners in Agra Central Jail to 85. ⁸⁵	
10 Sep	Online businesses lose clients and income	E-commerce portals based in Kashmir were detrimentally impacted by the internet blockade; businesses were losing clients, revenue, and assets. ^{86, 87}	
10 Sep	Elder care facility closed (right to life and health impacted)	Due to the lockdown, the Government Day Care Centre for Senior Citizens, at Primary Health Center (PHC), in Chanapora has largely been closed. The government center provided care to elderly persons who cannot afford private clinics. ⁸⁸	
10 Sep	Curfew-like restrictions re-imposed, impacting practice of religious freedom	Freedom of movement restrictions were re-imposed in the Kashmir Valley to prevent Muharram processions. ^{89, 90}	
13 Sep	Internet and phones cut off in hospitals	Dr. Sameer Kaul and Salim Jahangeer Kirmani filed a petition before the Supreme Court of India to restore landline and internet connectivity to hospitals in Kashmir. ^{91, 92}	“These unacceptable actions strip Kashmiris of their human dignity, put millions of people in danger, and seriously undermine democracy in India and Kashmir. People should not have to fear unjust detention, rape, or torture because of who they are and what they believe. I have met with residents in Michigan who cannot even call their families in Kashmir to ensure they are safe – a truly unimaginable situation as violence, militarization, and occupation continues. Jammu and Kashmir is already one of the most militarized

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			regions on Earth, and India's recent actions create more instability and heighten the potential for accelerating violence." Statement from U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib. ⁹³
13 Sep	State disinformation	In contradiction to other reports from the region, the Ministry of External Affairs representative Raveesh Kumar announced at a press conference that only 11 out of 199 Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh's police stations have day time restrictions, that there were no shortage of medicine, and services such as water, electricity, healthcare and education "are being ensured." ^{94, 95}	
14 Sept	Detention and beating of Kashmiri minors by government forces	Reports out of Kashmir regarding detention and beatings of minors by government forces prompted a Public Interest Litigation petition to be filed before the Supreme Court of India by two child rights advocates, Enakshi Ganguly and Shanta Sinha. ^{96, 97}	
16 Sep	Detentions of civilians and political leaders	As of September 16, Human Rights Watch reported that the government had detained an estimated 400 elected officials and politicians, out of almost 4,000 civilians. ^{98, 99} Political leaders and leaders included: former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah ¹⁰⁰ and Mehbooba Mufti, ¹⁰¹ Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement's Shah Faesal, Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). ^{102, 103} Human Rights Watch reported that "authorities have detained thousands of Kashmiris under the Public Safety Act." ^{104, 105} Telegraph (India) reported that at least 700 political prisoners were detained as of mid-August ¹⁰⁶	"I am deeply concerned regarding the recent activity in Kashmir. The increasing militarization of the region has created a situation in which a miscalculation can have devastating repercussions. The reports that the Kashmiri freedom of expression, assembly and movement have been restricted are troubling, and these rights must be restored immediately. I urge the governments of India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and to engage with the United States to deescalate the situation." — Congressman Anthony Brown (MD) ¹⁰⁷
22 Sep	Alleged beating of minor by soldiers, reportedly leading of suicide of minor	A 15-year old youth from Pulwama was allegedly beaten at an Army camp, after which he took poison on September 17 and died shortly after. ^{108, 109}	
22 Sep	Detriments to agricultural livelihoods	The Washington Post reported on apple farmers caught between government pressure to harvest and continue business as normal and militant threats against harvesting. Militants beat and shot the legs of the members of an apple-farming family. ^{110, 111}	

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25 Sep	No change to exam schedule in relation to lockdown	On September 25, the state government announced that annual exams would be held according to the “academic schedule in the valley,” giving no schedule accommodations to students for the unstable situation. ^{112, 113}	
27 Sep	Suicide of armed forces personnel	Border Security Force personnel Vinod Kumar (aged 28) committed suicide via shooting himself in Doda district. ^{114, 115}	
29 Sep	State disinformation	Indian Home Minister Amit Shah stated at a public event that there were no curfew in Kashmir, “no restrictions... [all] landlines are functioning... media is moving around freely” in contradiction to civil society and media reports. ^{116, 117}	
2 Oct	Detention of minors	A 16-year-old was detained warrantlessly under the Public Safety Act. His family challenged the detention with paperwork indicating his true age, and the youth was freed after two months of imprisonment. Al Jazeera reported on other minors detained, confirming their ages by reviewing school certificates. An unknown number of detained minors have been transferred out of state. ^{118, 119} Between August 5 and September 23, at least 144 minors were arrested, and 46 minors were in detention in “observation homes” since August 5. ^{120, 121}	
2 Oct	Psycho-social impacts	Parents of a 16-year-old Kashmiri minor detained for two months reported that their child was locked in a small cell, had only one set of clothes for two months, lost 7 kg, had body aches, and wept and could not sleep during his incarceration. Back with his family, he continued to be depressed and afraid. ¹²²	
2 Oct	News media disinformation / Indian media prioritizing narrative of state	Newspaper reporting on the findings of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Juvenile Justice Committee (the fact-finding team assigned by the Supreme Court to verify whether minors had been illegally detained by police) highlighted talking points from the police (that no minors were being kept or taken into illegal detention) and included no quotes from parents, activists, or youths. ¹²³	
3 Oct	Continued media blockade	Close to 100 journalists held a protest in central Srinagar to demand an end to press restrictions by the government. Several reporters stated they have not been allowed to journey to certain areas in the region or report on certain topics. Journalists also expressed apprehension for their own privacy and security at using the government-established “media facilitation center”—where there is internet connectivity—to file their stories. ^{124, 125}	
3 Oct	Reporters losing livelihood	“Dozens” of online newspapers could not update their websites since August 5, and several	