

## **REDEFINING LIVES**

Death, it seems inspires the living. However, the deathly silence enshrouding the valley is broken frequently by staccato gunfire or burst of Kalashnikov. Each day brings another confrontation, another ambush, a few more dead, a lot more hatred and the shadows of death and despair lengthen menacingly. Thousands of Kashmiri youth have died leaving behind wailing mothers, sisters or wives. Rapes and molestation have become the order of the day. Each day passes and brings in more fears of what is going to happen. There is so much uncertainty that thinking of a future seems a luxury, which we cannot afford.

Nevertheless, all this is no threat to the struggle of the women who continue to fight. That is the reason that they struggle, at times sacrificing their lives for the just cause i.e. to live with dignity and peace. Burdened with the irony of gross human rights violations, their miseries are more than enough to appeal to the conscience of the world community. Yet, these frail figures resonate a spark of liberal devotion.

Kashmiri women fighting against all odds have come up more resolute and stanch in their efforts for justice. Marginalizing their inadequacy of being illiterate, having no information on their rights and options in the conflict area and enshrouded by a largely conservative society, these women have shown immense courage and strength. Fighting for justice in their own ways and within their own limitations each of these women epitomize hope. Hope for other women to shed their inhibitions and act.

Be it Fatima, Hasina Shamli or Saja, their names hardly do matter. What matters is that they are the women who victimized in one way or another at the hands of state or non state actors have fought and continue their fight for justice. In there, struggle springs hope, courage and support for other women who most of times in spite of being victims refuse to a seek justice or hardly acknowledge the misshapeness in their lives.

On 20<sup>th</sup>April, The Jammu and Kashmir coalition of civil society organized a solidarity day in remembrance of Aasia Jeelani – a human right activist who died on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2004 en route Kupwara for an election monitoring campaign. Her death came not just as a blow to her family, relatives and friends but to all those sufferers of violence in Kashmir for whom she stood like a sentinel enduring their pain and misery. Asia was a part of that hope that transgressed the drab norms and re-conceptualise the definition of the lives of women in Kashmir. Aasia took initiative and choose her own way of life to help the suffering people of Kashmir. She died for a cause- a sacrifice that never will be forgotten. With the conviction of a soldier, the calming voice of the saffron under the full October moon and the familiar Kashmiri eyes drenched with clarity and promise, Aasia dedicated her life to reporting and defending human rights in her homeland. She traveled far-flung areas, documenting the woeful tales of women suffering and at times helping them. Breaking the shackles of fallacy, she emerged as a voice to the thousands of voiceless victims who were too weak and defeated to tell their own story. She listened to the people with an endless capacity for their pain and needs and she sought way and means to help them.

Throughout the history of conflict, the face of war has been masculine. Men have predominantly declared wars and fought wars, while wives and daughters fought their war to raise families and maintain a home amid tragedy loss and uncertainty. This separation of roles can be attributed to human psyche, gender differences and the conditioning of society, but nonetheless when a women crosses over and raises her fist against the oncoming fire, her face becomes an emblem and inspiration to a movement to a movement that perhaps teaches the biggest lesson: Be not what you are defined as, but what you are made of.

Over the years of unending trauma, women have turned more resilient and firm. They have started taking part in protests and demonstrations. In their struggle for justice, they have to face the brunt of family repulsion, social humiliation and sheer embarrassment but this has least deterred their spirits and they bounce back more vehemently.

**Srinagar, Apr 20:** To mark the death anniversary of the human right activists Aasia Jeelani who died during election monitoring in a landmine explosion in Kupwara district on April 20, 2004, JKCCS decided to commemorate the day as Solidarity day. Solidarity with all the martyrs and disappeared.

Prominent human rights activists, media persons and professionals hailing within and across the state including many women activists had gathered under the banner of Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) at Srinagar, to pay tribute to Aasia on her first death anniversary.

In memory of all those who lost their lives, their dignity, people who got disappeared and those who continue to be suffering, in the past 15 years of the movement for self-determination, the JKCCS observed 20<sup>th</sup> April as a day of solidarity to all these sufferings leashed by the forces against a movement that opposed injustice and subjugation.

Talking on the occasion all the eminent speakers applauded Aasia's role who choose not to suffer and stood for women rights.

The tribute began by paying homage to the martyrs of Kashmiri struggle at *Mazar-e-Shohda* (Martyrs graveyard) and at Aasia's grave early on the 20<sup>th</sup> April morning, where all activists vowed of their support to the movement. It was followed by a daylong public programme session at Broadway hotel and Candle light vigil as a tribute to all sufferers of violence.

Mr. Imroz - president of JKCCS on the occasion while acknowledging the role of Aasia and the contributions she made asserted that only peaceful democratic solution is to recognize the inalienable right of the people of J&K i.e. the right of self- determination. "Remembering and honoring Aasia by initiating the day of solidarity is a powerful way to continue her work and ideas" added Mr. Imroz. Her tireless efforts are an example for many, in Kashmir and abroad he added.

The draft position passed at the end of "solidarity day" condemned any infraction of rules of war by the conflicting parties; we would be remiss if we do not understand it in its social and historical context. Violence did not enter Indian held territory in 1988-89 when armed militants emerged. Violence has been used by Indian state since 1947 to deny the people what was pledged to them. Let us recall that hundreds of people lost their lives on August 9, 1953. Subsequent history highlights how the Indian government through manipulation and machination rode rough shod over every peaceful political manifestation, including of fighting elections, which attempted to force the Indian government to live up to its promises".

The draft also demanded the repealing of Public Safety Act and withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and other draconian laws to create a climate for peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute.

Demands were also made for lifting of section 144 of the Cr PC to allow the people the right of democratic dissent and setting up of an independent commission to look into the enforced disappearances, rapes, custodial executions, torture and other human rights abuses. A plea was made to the conflicting parties to abide by international humanitarian laws.

Referring to the recent Indo-Pak confidence building measures (CBMs), the draft adopted by human rights activists said, "We are aware that some CBMs between Indian and Pakistan are taking place and we welcome these. But just as ceasefire being observed by the armies of India and Pakistan along the Line of Control has not resulted in rollback of suppression in J&K. Similarly renewing a bus service that existed until 1953 cannot be considered something meant to solve the core issue of peoples aspirations".

The human rights activists stated that heavy security force presence remains and new recruitment to various armed battalions point towards further militarisation. Draconian laws remain in force. Atrocities in shape of custodial killings as well as enforced disappearances continue to afflict the lives of people. Rape and molestation occur all too frequently. Moreover even elementary protests against violations of peoples rights are proscribed through the 15-year long uninterrupted invocation of Section 144.

"On April 20, 2004, one of our members Aasia Jeelani, who was part of a team monitoring elections to the 14th parliament of India, died in a landmine explosion at Sogam in the border district of Kupwara. She became like thousands of others who have lost their lives in the past 15 years just another statistic. Among

those who died are many who were active in open politics as human rights activists/ social workers/ journalists/ lawyers as well as those who were but victims of cross firing or grenade blasts, etc. For us, therefore, this day is to commemorate the memory of all those who lost their lives because of violence first introduced by the Indian armed forces against a movement that raised the democratic demand that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are the principal party to the dispute and their wishes have to be ascertained for any solution to emerge and to be considered legitimate", the draft said.

According to the draft each of these political movements was suppressed, outlawed or simply ignored. Throughout these five decades Indian Army maintained heavy presence and laws were enacted to jail people without charge or to prosecute leaders on flimsy grounds to destroy the struggle. It was then that some people took to arms. But for Indian government violence would not have entered the state.

"Therefore, while we do not condone every act by militant groups it would be wrong if the main cause of violence inflicted on people of J&K by the Indian government is not recognized. It was the decision of Indian government to suppress a movement brutally, instead of addressing the assertion of the demand for right to self-determination that took violence to a new height. Fact of the matter is that cities and villages remain under siege by Indian armed forces whose numbers have remained high. Accompanied by draconian laws especially preventive detention and denial of even normal political activities by enforcing Section 144, all possibilities of a democratic solution have been aborted", the draft adopted by the human rights activists said.

The participants from India were Citizens Initiative for peace, all India people's resistance forum; committee of relatives of martyrs Andhra Pradesh, peoples union for democratic rights, New Delhi and Pakistan India people's forum for democracy (West Bengal chapter). Some "Solidarity Day" commenced with the activists visit to martyrs graveyard at Eidgah where they paid homage to the people who died in the past 15 years of conflict.

The activists expressed solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and supported the right of self-determination of the people.

The speakers included Varvara Roa, Carlina, Nawkrin Singh, Main Abdul Qayoom, Parvez Imroz, Gurmeet Singh, Sampat Prakash, Dr. Altaf and Zahir-ud-Din expressed their views about the Kashmir issue and the challenges faced by the human right activists.

Many lawyers, journalists, students, doctors and human right activists were present on the occasion. The day concluded with the visitors forming a human chain and lighting candles, which they said was a tribute to the people of Kashmir, which have been the victims of oppression and suppression.

Different individuals, groups and institutions from all across the world expressed their solidarity for the cause. In their letters of solidarity, Amnesty International Wageningen, Netherlands, Helsinki Citizens Assembly Vanadzor office, Amnesty International London, Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), FEDEFAM, Humanist committee on Human rights (HOM) Netherlands, Mumbai Civil society groups and individuals, Nilo Valerio foundation, Gender Concerns International, IKV Netherlands, Peace Movement Aotearoa New Zealand, South Asian Peoples Forum Sri Lanka, Civil Initiative Belarus all expressed their commonality to the Kashmir cause, to all those sufferers of injustice and inhumanity and to the martyrs.

**In their letter of solidarity, Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM) wrote " Asia was a human right defender working to protect democracy in a country that has been caught in the middle of an ongoing power struggle. Her tireless efforts are an example for many, in Kashmir and abroad. We have the plight to continue where she sorrowfully could no longer, to honor her work and to help end the suffering of the people of Kashmir,"**

**IKV**

**"As European NGO's of civil society and individual civil society activists, we hereby want to express, on 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2005, our solidarity with all Kashmiri who struggle for peace and justice, for a self-determined, democratic future and to all those who laid their lives for it".**

**Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal, Executive editor, Kashmir Times**

**"I along with my colleagues at The Kashmir Times and Dainik Kashmir Times express our solidarity with your struggle for peace with justice, dignity and democracy. Both as champions of human rights issue and as people of this state we affirm our faith in a peaceful resolution of the**

**Kashmir dispute with the participation of its people. The JKCCS has shown the courage and it is hoped this movement grows stronger and more meaningful”.**

Apart from their letters of solidarity, there were also solidarity manifestations all across the globe. Filipino Human Rights Advocates in Manila Philippines commemorated First Year Death Anniversary of Kashmiri Martyr Aasia Jeelani and driver Ghulam Nabi in which around 50 Filipino human rights advocates gathered together on 20 April 2005, to commemorate the first year anniversary of death and martyrdom of Kashmiri freedom-fighter Aasia Jeelani. Aasia, who was killed in a land mine blast on 20 April 2004, died along with driver Ghulam Nabi in the village of Chandigam during an election monitoring inspection.

The Filipino activists brought flowers and photos of Aasia and started an afternoon program of remembrance at the *Balay Bayani* (Heroes' House) at the *Bantayog ng mga Bayani* (Monument of Heroes). The gathering began with a short prayer calling for the eternal repose of the souls of Aasia, Ghulam Nabi and all the martyrs of Kashmir and throughout the world.

AFAD Secretary General then gave a short testimony to the life and heroism of Aasia, reading a few sections from an article that she wrote after her visit to Kashmir which appeared in the book *Aasia: Martyr of Peace*.

The film documentary entitled *Aasia: A Quest for Justice* was then shown. After which, Tony Villasor from the Asian Forum for Food and Development (ACFOD) gave his acoustic rendition of the Beatles song *Till There was You* dedicating it to Aasia. A Poetry reading session then followed, reading lines from Pablo Neruda, Mary Shelley, William Ernest Henley and other literary giants as a further of tribute to Aasia.

A wreath-laying ceremony then followed at the Wall of Remembrance where the names of all the martyrs during the Martial Law regime are etched.

Before formally closing the event, all those who gathered sang the popular Filipino protest song *Bayan Ko* (My Motherland).

The event was organized by the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and was attended by the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), Bantayog n mga Bayani Foundation, ACFOD, Bubby Dacer Foundation, Claimants 1081, CLRD, Committee for the ICC (CICC), ESCR-Asia, Institute for Electoral and Political Reform (IPER), Partido ng Manggagawa (Workers' Party), and the *Samahan ng mga Anak ng mga Desaparecidos* (SAD / Association of the Children of the Disappeared).

#### IN INDIAN EMBASSY JAKARTA, INDONESIA

“At 11.30 – 12.00 Indonesian time, on April 20, 2005, thirty people representing victims of human rights violation in Indonesia conducted a picket in front of Indian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. The picket was organized by the Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared (IKOHI) and the Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence (KONTRAS) in solidarity with the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP), and Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) that carried out series of activities starting today in Srinagar, Kashmir. During the picket, about 15 posters were displayed saying: “Justice for Aasia Jeelani”, “Indonesian People Support Kashmiri People”, “Indian Government Responsible for the 8.000 Disappeared in Kashmir”, “Stop Violence in Kashmir”, “Indian Record in Kashmir: 34.709 Killing, 20.000 Widowing, 8000 Disappearing”, and many others. Three of the posters were with the pictures of Aasia Jeelani.

#### **LISTEN BUT NOT JUST HEAR- PLEAS A MOTHER**

**By: Tabasum Ishtiaq**

In a corner of the dingy room of the Chest disease hospital, lies Fatima whose body reduced to bony frame crumbles and couches in the hospital blanket. Wrinkled, with eyes half-close and lips stammering, Fatima struggles each time to get words out of her mouth. It has been for a week that after her condition severed, she was admitted in the hospital. Bedridden, Fatima is on oxygen striving to exist.

Suffering from asthma, just one glance at her being is all to tell the agony and mental affliction that she has gone through. Tired and feeble, Fatima's life each moment is a struggle within herself, a struggle to survive for the lives attached to her, a struggle to fight for justice and above all a fight to be heard.

Despite her critical condition compounded by her age problems, Fatima, 82, of Zandfaran Baramulla forces herself up, leaning against her daughter just to tell her woes. She does this against the strict instructions of the doctors and her family. Holding her daughter's hand, she seems to burst out her feelings, which for long remained inside her, like the hot molten dormant volcanic emission.

On the third day, "Voices Unheard" team went to meet her. Interrupting her daughter, Fatima speaks loud so as to haul our attention. She seems keen on expressing her thoughts and now suffocated and strangulated by their burden she speaks to give vent to her self. Frail and breathless in the feeblest tone, Fatima narrated her pathetic condition "My condition is not for physical disturbances but psychological one". Living along with four grandchildren in a two room begrimed house, she has no one to shoulder the responsibilities. Narrating her woes, damp eyed, Fatima whose whole body snivels and shivers, says, " All my miseries began after my husband Abdul Rashid Waza a govt. employee in secrete department died. His death came as a major blow with none of our children self-sufficient to shroud the household responsibilities. For some financial constraints earlier, he sold the entire land asset we had". After his death, Fatima was left literally bankrupt. It was Fatima's eldest son Ali Muhammad (40) working as a cleaner who shouldered all family burden. A year later Fatima's second son Nunda got a job on his fathers SRO. Getting job, he moved out to Srinagar along with his family. Since then he has no virtual contact with them. Fatima's third son Abdul Ahad working as a cleaner also resides separately.

**" My hope were my other children, whom I faith would never dessert me. But I was proven wrong" grieves Fatima. In 1989, Fatima's fourth son went for arms training to Pakistan but disappeared midway. Since then nothing is known of him. According to the local version, he has been killed near LOC by the security forces. Two years later, Fatima's fifth son Muhammad Arif Waza in June went to Pak for acquiring arms training and returned back in Nov 1991to be an active cadre of Hizbullah. Seven months later, he was arrested and imprisoned for two years. In 1995, during an interrogation, Muhammad Arif was tortured to death. In 1997, Fatima's sixth son Abdul Rehman died in a cross firing at Sumbal. Three years back Fatima's last hope extinguished when Ali Muhammad died of Cancer. Within months her wife left for heavenly abode. All these major events taking place have left Fatima half-blind and crooked. " How can a mother who has lost four sons, deserted by others continue to strive? The cruelty of fate is such that in spite of being mother of seven sons, I am lost and vague" stumbles Fatima.**

**Fatima's youngest handicap son who also works, as a cleaner lives separately. For five years he has been pleading a SRO case in DC Baramulla's office for government job.**

Fatima left alone with Ali Muhammad's two sons and two daughters has no other support besides the local help. Taking pity on her condition, the locals arrange edibles and other items for her. Moving from nook to corner, Fatima has left no stone unturned to get some financial help. A year back her attempts bore fruit, when she was able to fetch donations of Rupees 500 per month from social welfare department. However after six months, the donations were stopped altogether. Since then she has no source to depend upon.

With four children to take care off, the local help was not sufficient enough to satiate the empty stomachs.

Fatima could not bear to see them pang with hunger and it was for this reason that she began to beg. Early morning she would leave and move to villages for begging, while her eldest granddaughter would look after the household.

Wandering from one place to another, compounded by the tragic incidents that her life shrouds, Fatima began to show disturbed health as well mental state. It was for this continuous struggle that has landed her into the hospital room. Although Fatima has no source yet she is conscious of her responsibilities towards the children. For this reason, She sought their admission in a government school under "Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan Scheme"- a government scheme pertaining to education for all. Although under this scheme, education is provided free to all, along with books and necessary items. Fatima is yet to be benefited by that. It is through local help that she manages their study.

**Earlier Fatima's two daughters were married by the support of a local militant organization. On replying to a question put forth by the "Voices Unheard" team regarding her condition, Fatima**

whispers, “ This condition of mine is for what I have experienced all these years. Nothing is so horrifying as recalling those events”.

Anguished over media, Fatima complaint’s “ Media comes and publicizes my story for their own benefits. Had they ever looked beyond their interests, they would have done something for those orphan children. How I am managing the lives is hard to understand and here they are putting questions before me; falsely assuring of some benefit”.

After Abdul Rehman died in cross firing, Fatima received an ex-gratia relief of rupees one lakh which she utilized for construction of her house as it was a mud house and would leak in rainy and winter season. An equal amount of rupees 10,000 each has been deposited in bank in favour of all the four children. The meager amount left was used for household purpose. However the support didn’t last long and she was left to depend on the local help and begging.

Today Fatima is on a deathbed struggling for life, which she needs to support her grand children. Wheezing, amidst forceful speech expulsions, Fatima is hopeful that at least there might be one amongst all those spectators who would not just hear but listen to her.

## UNHEARD THEY CRY

By: Afsana Rashid

For long, Kashmiris have been experiencing unenviable conditions of life. However for the last decade, life in valley has become a trauma and an unending nightmare characterized by agony, despair, desperation and fear. Presently there seems to be no end to these sufferings.

The extremely deplorable and agonizing condition of more than 25000 orphans and widows is no secret and needs no explanation. Seeing their plight leaves a person mute and stunt.

In the ensuing conflict in Kashmir, children are at the receiving end and prove to be worst sufferers as result children go through immense trauma. In the past fifteen years, while some bear the brunt of family distortions, educational disturbances, falling health and behavioral changes others have been orphaned, disabled and left homeless. However luckily or unluckily, while some of them have been able to find a place in orphanages, others suffer silently. Orphanages however could not be a compensation of home. It is true that no riches can purchase parental love, which these children of ill fate need most badly. Plight of an orphan, especially the psychological trauma can never be put in black and white. Nor words can explain their exact conditions and feelings.

Among such numerous faces of dejection is one Tahir Ahmed who hails from Doda but presently resides at a local NGO in Srinagar. His face reflects pain and agony of a horrific past. Recalling past memories is a bitter thing for this seven-year-old boy, which is evident from his body language and gestures. Being in NGO for four years, the imprints of tormented life have not faded but got deeper.

Couched in a corner, he gazes at the earth beneath to hide his tears, which seem to gush out any moment. Slowly he lifts his eyelids, move his eyes all around the room before looking down again while his mind roll down the incident. A strange silence seems to prevail. Moments later, he hesitatingly stretches out his right leg forward and points towards it with trembling fingers “ *Oon logoon nay mujay yahan mara*” (They shot me here). After a brief lull, he stutters, “ I was in the lap of my father. He was a militant and had come to see us after a long time. Meanwhile, the security forces cordoned our house and the entire area. On seeing my father, they fired unwarrantedly. I felt something hit my leg and I fell unconscious”.

Narrating this to Voices Unheard team, Tahir’s eyes narrow down as if the whole incident recapitulated in life before him. It was all silence once again. With a deep pause, he started, “ when I woke up, I was in the hospital. It was only after returning home that I came to know father is no more. He had died on spot”.

After the incident, Tahir started living with his uncle as his mother went for second marriage. It was his uncle who enrolled him with the NGO in the Srinagar. Since that day, he has been here. Occasionally, Tahir’s uncle visits him and sometimes takes him along for few days. However since the incident, he has never seen his mother nor she ever came to see him in the orphanage.

Psychologically, Tahir is disturbed owing to plethora of factors. Although time may fade up the haunting memories but they can never be erased.

With orphan number unending, their cries and sigh's may go unheard but in the long run, they are sure to influence the society in one or the other way, if they are left unadhered.

Strangled in the chains of immense misery, these unfortunate citizens ought to be taken extra care of, so that their childhood is not hijacked and their future is not made bleak. An initiative needs to be taken in this direction so that their lives encompassing multiple talents and potential are not lost. One such initiative could be scholarships, which no doubt can prove miracles in their life. These little initiatives can give big boost in their lives. So, let them realize the utility of their existence, which they otherwise think to be useless.

Unheard they cry  
Unseen they suffer  
In agony they linger  
In silence they die

Is it nothing to those who pass by?

They have fallen a victim to the ravages of time and chance. We have a duty to lend a hand to shore these onerous responsibilities.

## **VICTIM OF UPROAR AND INJUSTICE**

**By: Asma Dhar**

Widowed at a tender age of 23, with two minors to support without any back up, life has been a hard and devastating experience for Hasina.

Six years back at the age of 18, Hasina was married to Muhammad Ayub s/o Abdul Khaliq a resident of Tarzoo, Sopore. After marriage, Ayub a painter by profession migrated to the Srinagar and was living as tenant at Fruit Market near JVC at Bemina in Srinagar. On the fateful day of September 9, 2003 Ayub left for work, never to return back. He was killed in the mine blast at Fruit mandi.

"I was busy with my daily routine, when I came to know that he was no more. I felt like earth skipping below my feet and the whole universe spinning around. After that I don't remember a thing as I lay unconscious for hours" stutters Hasina with tears un-intermittently flowing from her eyes. Ayub's death created not just a vacuum in Hasina's life but changed its meaning altogether. The reality of life started unveiling before her. She could not bear the callous response of her dear ones. Hasina could not tolerate this trauma, and tried to end her life by committing suicide with a sharp edged knife. However with the timely intervention, the relatives managed to save her life. She was admitted in the hospital for 5 days. "I had no desire to live. So I was in dilemma what to do," contemplated Hasina. However, this was not all that destiny had in store for her. The real suffering started when her In-laws disown her only 40 days after Ayub's death. Since then Hasina has been putting up with her parents who being old are living on the support of their son. A year later, the government issued her an ex-gratia relief of Rupees 1lakh in favor of the victim's children. However, out of 1 Lakh her in-laws took thirty thousand. The rest of the money has been put in the bank and can be only availed after Hasina's children attain adulthood (after 16 years) as per rule.

For Hasina's old aged parents who depend on their only son for sustenance, it was quite impossible to carry the burden of their daughter and her children. A meager earner, Hasina's brother was already having trouble putting up his family to two children, one spinster sister and aged parents and now his troubles multiplied after he took Hasina and his children home. Since that day, it had been virtually hell for Hasina and her children to stay there. "Everyday began with loads of work and abuses. I would do all the household chores still my sister-in-law would make a point to taunt me, abuse me and at times tried to be physical with me. But I bore it all silently. For I knew I had no one to look back upon and as such had to stay at their mercy what so ever. But this didn't soothe her nerves. Each day she would deplore on new tactics to somehow insult me and would frequently complain to my brother. This continuously strained our family relations," sobs Hasina.

It was the same time that Hasina began showing disturbed psyche. She would get angry over pity issues and would lose her temperament quite frequently. "Few days back she beat her 4 years old nephew while he quarreled with Hasina's son Bilal. But we understand her situation and do sympathize with her. But we are helpless. Our only son makes every possible way to support us. Besides work pressure, he has heaps of

family pressures hanging over him. Even he's confused," laments Hasina's father. The frustration all showed it off when Hasina once again attempted to end her life. However luckily even this time she was saved by the passer by's who stopped her from jumping into the Jehlum along with his youngest son. It was only with the help of local persons who brought her to the KWIPD office, that she disclosed her trauma.

"I tried to do all that I could so as not to be a burden on my family. Even the monthly installment of Rs 1000 that government paid, I gave it to my family. Besides I once told them that I would work as a housemaid but they refused. In spite they awaited when would I leave them. In all this I neglected my children for whom I did it all," says Hasina.

Hasina's youngest son Bilal (3) for the mal-nutrition is suffering from Asthma. With no option left, Hasina had to sold her 1 ½ Marla land that Ayub had purchased before death to get medical treatment for her son.

Desperate over the worsening situation and deteriorating condition of Bilal, Hasina on May 2, 2005 attempted suicide as she feels that her life is a burden on all. " No one can understand what I have been going through. But I realize that no one can as they all shroud one or another responsibility. So I had no option but to kill my self and Bilal. But again destiny wants me to live and suffer" says Hasina whose heart pulsates faster and louder than before. Her whole being drenched in sweat shivers and snivel as she clutch Bilal hard and tears streamlining down conspicuously.

A day before she attempted to suicide, her sister-in-law had threatened her to leave her home. " I just want a job even if it is a menial one I want to support my children and provide them their own shelter. I spend my entire dower on my son's medical treatment. Now I have been left with 70 thousand, which I can spend only after 16 years".

On questioning about re-marriage, which her family has been forcing her for a long time, Hasina replied, " I wont marry for I have promised Ayub that If I die before him, he wont marry and vice versa. I will live for my children," says Hasina.

## **GIRL SHOT DEAD, FAMILY SEEKS JUSTICE**

**Jammu, Apr 15:** Special operation Group (SOG) of police and Village Defense committee (VDC) allegedly shot dead a teenage girl in Challad village of Mahore area in Udhampur district on April 6.

The body of the murdered girl, Irshad Bano, 18, was handed over to her family after two days. "The local police station has refused to file FIR to shield the killers, the family said adding it has been camping in the winter capital for the past week to "seek justice".

Ali Muhammad Mir f/o Irshad said the girl was getting married this month. Tearful, Mir said, " The SOG men led by ASI Ashok Kumar and some VDC members of the Handa village cordoned the village on the night of April 5 and started a search operation in the early morning. The 40 SOG and VDC members asked us to prepare tea and breakfast. Irshad went to the market to fetch milk and tea from the shop of Khalil (A local shopkeeper). But She didn't turn up and after two days they handed over to us her bullet riddled body".

According to the family and local residents, Irshad Bano tried to stop SOG and VDC men who were mercilessly beating Manzoor Ahmed s/o Khalil Muhammad, the owner of the grocery shop.

Irshad was pushed aside and beaten by SOG men. To give an impression that a gunfight had broken out between militants and them, the SOG men fired aimlessly wounding the minor daughter of Khalil Muhammad named Naseema Bano. Panic gripped the area.

The father said that Irshad Ahmed hammered by SOG men and seeing little Naseema hit by bullet and her brother beaten ran towards her house. A government gunman Riyaz Ahmed s/o Sadiq fired a volley of bullets at her wounding her critically. Few minutes later she breathed her last.

"In an attempt to hide their folly, the SOG men took her body to Mahore town and later they handed it to us after two days," Ali Muhammad said.

The villagers after performing last rites went to register FIR against the accused SOG and VDC party. The police station while refusing to register FIR, in fact registered a case against the villagers.

The villagers then approached IGP Jammu who directed to first brief the matter to DIG Doda - Udhampur range. The family even approached the local political leader.

The father of deceased said that the very idea of hushing up the case by police was evident from the fact that SOG men took his signature on the blank paper.

Director inspector general (DIG) Doda-Udhampur, on being contacted said that he has received complaints against some police officials operating in the area and one of the police officials is being transferred from the area.

## **STUDENT'S ARREST SPARKS PROTEST**

Srinagar: The residents of a village in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on April 15 staged a demonstration against the arrest of a 10<sup>th</sup> class student by a govt. sponsored gunmen reports said.

Belonging to Kuller village in Shopian area, the people gathered outside the DC's office at Pulwama to protest the arrest of Shabir Ahmed Ganai of Abdul Kabir who was picked up from his house on Thursday night by the gunmen in civvies. The protestors, demanding the release of the student, expressed the apprehensions about his safety, reports said.

## **HC QUASHES GIRL'S DETENTION**

**Srinagar, Apr 11:** The High Court quashed the detention order of a girl directing the State to release her forthwith.

According to sources, the District Magistrate Baramulla on July 7, 2004 vide DMS/163/2004 passed the detention order against Khalida (20) d/o Habibullah Dar of Palharan Shree, Baramulla. Police had accused her of helping militants and subsequently detained her.

The detainee challenged the order in the High Court through her counsel Nazir Ahmed Baig. Baig argued the detainee was illiterate and the grounds of detention were not read out to her. He argued despite being illiterate she was handed over a copy of detention order, which was in English language. " They accused her of keeping militants and not have mentioned the name of any militant", he argued. He said she was falsely implicated and kept at central jail Srinagar.

However, the counsel for state argued two FIR's were registered against the girl in police station Baramulla under 91/2002 and 168/2004. He said a police sub-inspector had read out details of detention order to her.

After hearing the arguments, Justice Mansoor Ahmed Mir quashed the detention order and directed the state to release the detainee forthwith provided she is not involved in any case.

## **PROTEST IN KUPWARA**

**Srinagar, Apr 12:** Hundreds of men and women in Manigah and its adjacent villages of Kupwara district of North Kashmir on April 12, demonstrated in front of Deputy Commissioner's office in Kupwara town against the alleged atrocities committed upon them by a government gunman.

Quoting the residents, sources said a government gunman; Daulat War play havoc with the lives of people in Manigah and its adjacent areas. War, carries gun and terrorizes people in the night, molest women and extorts money from the villagers, the sources said.

After demonstrating, the villagers marched towards Kupwara police station and filed a report against the government gunman.

The protestors accused Daulat War s/o Syed Rehman War of Manigah of spreading a reign of loot and terror in the area. Married twice, he keeps on forcing young village girls to ride pillion, the villagers added. The villagers also alleged that Daulat War tried to hang an 18-year-old dumb girl, Shamima some days ago but the villagers saved her. Patronized by army and government, War has gained a free license to enter houses mid night and harass people.

According to sources, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Abdul Majid Khanday and SP Kupwara assured the villagers of a swift inquiry in this regard.

## **SISTERS ARRESTED ON SUSPICION**

**April 13:** Police and security forces arrested two daughters of a government official allegedly with a number of mobile and satellite phones of a militant organization in a search operation in Khansahib area of Budgam district.

According to informed sources, the troops of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) 35 BN and Special operation group (SOG) of Budgam police launched a search operation at Takiya Farooq Shah in Khansahib area of upper Budgam on the intervening night of April 12-13. When the residents were called out for an identification parade, forces developed suspicion about two young women who were both in urban outfits. Initially, the women described themselves as the residents of the same village but their sustained questioning by lady constables revealed that they were residents of Shamswari Khankah-e-Moula, Srinagar. They identified as Tabassum Manzoor Naqashbandi and Tehmina Manzoor Naqashbandi, daughters of Syed Manzoor Naqashbandi.

The female duo revealed that their father was a government official, working at government Psychiatry Hospital while, as their mother was an employee with Bone and Joint hospital Barzulla. They told police that their family had acquired a house at Dangarpora, Wathora on Srinagar- Chadoura road. Police and security forces had raided their house last week after receiving information that some militants were present in the village. Two militants had quickly jumped out of their house and taken shelter in one Ali Kumar's cowshed, where security forces killed both of them. Their mobile and satellite phones were concealed by the family. The women divulged that the slain militants associates called them to one Baha-ud-din's house at Takiya Farooq Shah for taking back the telephone sets.

Police and security forces swooped on the village and arrested both the women from Bah-ud-din's house. After questioning, one Air Tel cell phone, one cell one phone, one Nokia set without SIM, one Dictaphone and one Thuraya satellite Phone were recovered from the women.

## **PAK WOMAN HELD FOR TRESPASS**

**April 8:** Police arrested a Pakistani woman after she walked into a designated area by showing her used air ticket at the Indira Gandhi International Airport to receive a carton from a just arrived fellow countryman. Rafiqan, 50 who arrived in India on March 30, has been staying at a guesthouse in the capital.

"She dodged her way to the customs' section at the airport by showing her used tickets to the guards, but was caught while she was receiving a carton of medicines and some other miscellaneous articles from Pakistan National Abdul Hafiz," a police official said.

Police detained both Hafiz and Rafiqan and lodged a case of criminal trespass against the Pakistani woman. Thirty suit-lengths were also recovered from Rafiqan's guesthouse, police said.

## **SOG MAN, BROTHER HELD FOR KILLING POONCH GIRL**

**Jammu, April 29:** A member of Special Operations Group (SOG) of Police and his brother have been arrested for allegedly killing a 21- year- old girl in Poonch district of Jammu provision.

According to reports, Mehmood Ahmed, a resident of Surankote, fell in love with one Shabnam (21) of Behrote village in Thanamandi. Mehmood had promised to marry her. However, trouble started when Shabnam came to know that Mehmood was reluctant to marry her.

Frustrated and disturbed over it, Shabnum threatened Mehmood of telling his parents about their relation and also to the girl with whom Mehmood was going to be married. Finding himself in a difficult position Mehmood allegedly planned the murder of the girl with his brother Muhammad Shabir who works with Special Operation Group (SOG) of Rajouri Police.

According to police, Shabir took Shabnum from Rajouri along with her two friends from Surankote saying that the matter would be settled with Mehmood. He took all the three girls to Surankote and reportedly

held them in captivity. On third night Shabnam raised an alarm, praying to let her meet Mehmood whose marrying was scheduled on the next day.

Shabir is alleged to have fired several shots killing the girl instantly died on the spot. He packed up the body in a bag and threw it near Surankote hospital. Next morning, when police came to know about gruesome murder, acting immediately, the police reached at Mehmood's house but by then the marriage party had left for Thanamandi. Midway, Surankote police arrested the groom along with his other relatives and was taken back to Surankote police station.

Director Inspector General (DIG) Rajouri, SM Sahia when contacted said that both the accused brother had been arrested US 302 RPC.

However, Sahai said that the matter is being investigated. He also informed that the rest of the two girls accompanying the deceased are also in police custody for questioning.

## **7-YR BUDGAM GIRL DIES IN POLICE FIRING**

**Budgam May 8:** Police on Sunday shot dead a seven-year-old girl in Dardpora village during a land dispute between two villages.

Reports said the old dispute between the residents of Dardpora and Razwan villages on May 8 took an ugly turn when the villagers fought with each other, forcing the police to rush to the spot.

Villagers told reporters, who had visited the village soon after the incident that the police party headed by an SHO opened fire indiscriminately when the villagers were engaged in the fight.

The police firing killed seven-year-old Aasia and injured two other persons. The police according to reports, fired hundreds of rounds and tear smoke shells to disperse the villagers who protested the firing. The terrified villagers told reporters that police allegedly beat up people in the area and assaulted some women.

The deputy commissioner Budgam RK Thusu said he has ordered an inquiry into the incident. "It will be premature to blame anyone," Thusu told Greater Kashmir -a local daily when asked as to why police fired upon villagers. "We have ordered (an) inquiry, let us see what comes out," he added.

## **MOLESTATION OF HANDWARA WOMEN SPARKS VIOLENT CRASHES**

**Handwara, May 18:** Alleged molestation of some women by the Rashtriya Rifles troops sparked off massive protest demonstrations here Wednesday with some police opening fire on the protestors. Ten civilians and ten policemen, including a Deputy superintendent, were injured in the violent clashes.

Witnesses said the residents of the five villages of Rajwar and Zachaldar, 20 Km from this border town, took to streets this morning alleging that the troops of 21 RR tore off the clothes of the women who had gone to the RR camp seeking release of three youth arrested on May 15.

"See my condition," said Akbar Jan Begum, 45, mother of Muhammad Amin one of the arrested youth, pointing to her torn off Phirin.

As the news spread, witnesses said announcements were made on the loud speakers at the five villages of Yamhar, Draiyar, Wader, Chamulla and Wader Payeen urging the people to rush to the main town to register their protest.

According to Current News Services (CNS) police immediately swung into action and used batons and fired in air to disperse the agitators who replied with stones. The deputy superintendent and the station house officer were injured in the stone pelting.

The protestors chanted slogans like "Down with PDP" and "Down with Mehbooba Mufti," the witnesses added.

Later the commanding officer of 21 RR, superintendent police and other top civil and police officials held a meeting with the representatives of the protesting people.

The Assistant commissioner Kupwara, Abdul Jabbar told a local daily that he would order an inquiry into the incident.

SP Kupwara Nitish Kumar said, “ I have been ordered a discrete inquiry. These will not be tolerated in future”.

The CO of 21 RR, SK Nandal, said, “ I came to know about the thing. Incase there is anything wrong after investigation I will take steps for its remedy.

### **POLICE CLUELESS ABOUT HARWAN GIRL**

**Srinagar 24:** Police is still clueless about the girl abducted by unidentified gunmen along with five persons eight days back from Harwan area. Police recovered the bodies of the four of the abducted but the fate of the girl is not known. According to reports the resident of the area have expressed resentment over the failure of the law enforcing agencies in tracking down Parvena Akhter daughter of Ghulam Muhammad Khanday of Khour Harwan. The troops and police personnel according to CNS failed to achieve any break through in the case despite launching a massive search operation in the area. The family members of the abducted girl have expressed grave concern over the disappearances of the girl.

### **BLAST CLAIMING 2 LIVES AND INJURING 60 PERSONS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY**

**Srinagar, May 12:** Two women were killed and dozens including students were injured in a powerful grenade explosion outside a school at Lal Chowk Srinagar on the May 12 afternoon.

Unidentified persons hurled a grenade outside the Tyndale Biscoe School when large numbers of students were coming out of its main gate at 2.45pm. A local news agency sources reported 60 persons including 25 students, 13 women and two BSF personnel were injured in the blast of which no organization has taken responsibility. However, police said 44 persons including 14 children and two BSF men were wounded in the incident. They were immediately admitted in various hospitals here. The two women who were seriously injured in the blast succumbed to their injuries at Shere-Kashmir-Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS). “ After battling for life for three hours, two women breathed their last”, Dr. Dara Singh, a doctor at SKIMS told sources on phone adding their identity is yet to be established.

Panic gripped the entire city after the news about the incident spread. The relatives of the students thronged the school premises to know their wards’ fate. Many school bags and Tiffin’s were scattered on the spot.

The blast triggered massive demonstrations with people, mostly women, shouting slogans particularly against Chief Minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed. The cops, after the incidents went berserk and prevented the people from coming near the spot. However, the people offered stiff resistance and consoled the students who were crying inside the school premises.

### **GIRL ABDUCTED BY MILITANTS IN GOOL**

**Jammu, May 25:** Two militants, disguised as army personnel, abducted a girl at Mahakund near Gool in Udhampur district on May 24.

Official sources said a village youth opposed to Aisha’s marriage as he himself wanted to marry her went to her house on May 24 and told her father Abdul Sheikh that some army personnel wanted to question his daughter for her links with militants.

As soon as Aisha came out of her house, two unidentified militants camouflaged as armed personnel sources added abducted her.

Sources said though the police had launched an operation in Mahakund forests, they were yet to get any clue to the whereabouts of the girl and her abductors.

## **MARRIAGE FUNCTION TARGETED**

**May 5:** Showing their in the remote village Matah, 12 km from Pouni in tehsil Reasi, militants late evening lobbed grenades, and then opened indiscriminate firing at the marriage function of village defence Committee (VDC) members daughter. Two girls were killed and fourteen persons including three children and eight women were wounded in an attack.

The bride and bridegroom who were inside the house had narrow escape in an attack. The grenades exploded.

## **FAMILY LIVES A MISERABLE LIFE IN HANDWARA ACCUSES GOVT OF INDIFFERENCE**

**Handwara, May 29:** A mother of three children whose husband was allegedly killed in a fake encounter by the security forces is living a miserable life at Phalmarg.

Forty-three-year old Heemal Begum's ordeal began when her husband Ghulam Rasool was killed by the troops in 1992 and later branded as a militant guide. Having no resources to feed her children, she strives on begging for sustenance.

"My husband had no affiliation with any militant organization. On the ill-fated day he left for his routine work never to return back. He was a laborer and only breadwinner of the family," Heemal said. On average she earns 30-50 rupees a day by begging, "How can I feed my little children with this meager amount," she said.

Her three children Sumeera 13, Kulsooma 11, and Shoaib, 9, aspire to make a career after studying. "I want my children to become something in life so that they should not be dependent on anybody and serve the society," she added.

"Shoiaib recently fell ill because of typhoid. My children usually fall ill due to cold, as they don't have enough clothes and bedding. "I work in the homes of rich people and in the fields to earn more money for the education of my children," she said and broke down. She further accused the PDP led Government of indifference.

"While Government is claiming that they are working for the welfare of the destitute and orphans, I am not getting any relief," she said adding police didn't register a case against army for killing her husband.

## **PARCEL BOMB KILLS THREE OF FAMILY**

**May 13:** A powerful parcel bomb took place at the house of one Abdul Gafoor Wagay s/o Razaq Wagay at Goriwan in Bijbehara town at 2215 hours killing three members of the family including a woman.

Mohammad Sayeed Kakroo, who had been living as a tenant at Wagay's house while constructing his own, got killed along with his son, Mohammad Rafeeq Kakroo, 30, and daughter, namely, Shehzada, 25. As the father and the son died on spot, Shehzada succumbed to injuries when she was on way to a Srinagar hospital.

## **PEOPLE PROTEST AGAINST MOLESTATION**

**June 4:** Thousands of people staged huge demonstration and blocked the Srinagar-Jammu national highway for hours against the molestation of a woman by unidentified gunmen at Manzmoo Bachan in Dooru Islamabad on June 3.

According to media sources, the gunmen Thursday night barged into the residences and molested many woman. The family members however resisted forcing the gunmen to flee from the area.

The agitated people of the area protested against the molestation and accused the troops of a nearby camp for being involved in the incident. The protestors blocked the Srinagar Jammu highway for hours suspending vehicular movement. The protestors raised slogans against the troops and demanded an inquiry into the incident.

## **SISTERS RAPED BY BSF TROOPERS**

Srinagar: On 25<sup>th</sup> June, the troopers of BSF 80 battalion raided the house of Abdul Jabbar Malik son of Abdul Wahid Malik of Wailu village in Kokernag, Islamabad and raped his two sisters.

In pretext of a routine checking, a party of BSF entered Abdul Wahid's house. After searching the household, BSF personnel separated male inmates of the family and kept them in different room, while raping his sisters. After committing the crime, they instructed them not to file any report against the incident.

Divulging the incident to The Informative Missive team Abdul Jabbar said, " committing this heinous crime, they threatened us of dire consequences if ever we will report this. Nevertheless, what ever they will do wont be more than this. Our dignity and honour is lost for all " .

"It was not an attack only on the chastity of my sisters but against the whole society particularly on our honour", he expressed with tears rolling down from his eyes.

Hundreds of people came out of their houses and protested against the incident by shouting pro-freedom, anti-BSF and anti-government slogans. They were demanding probe into the matter and culprits to be punished severely. "Indian forces are using rape as a weapon of war and by this they are strengthening our determination to destroy them", said one of the protesters.

The incident has evoked widespread condemnation with people coming out on streets demanding the probe into the incident. The protesters produced the girls in front of police who have started investigation into the case. The victims are unable to express the tale of their agony as they are still under severe shock of the incident as well as that of the grave loss of their honour and chastity.

The victims have been shifted to the hospital for the medical checkup. Meanwhile, the protesters intensified their demands of probe into the matter and shifting of the BSF camp from the area as they claim that the presence of camp has made their life insecure.

When all the weapons in Indian arsenal failed to bear the fruit, the Indian security 36.12.forces have resorted to rape as the weapon against the common Kashmiris but nobody among the inmates could have imagined that they had some other thing in mind. While Committing the crime, "They threatened us of dire consequences if ever we will report this but what ever they will do wont be more than this", said Abdul Jabbar Malik.

## **TWO SISTERS RAPED BY BSF TROOPERS**

**June 25:** Hundreds of people protested against Border security force accusing the trooper of raping two sisters in a village in Kokernag Islamabad.

Protestors shouting anti BSF and anti PDP slogans blocked Wailu Kokernag road seeking punishment to some BSF troopers who allegedly raped the sisters.

The KNS said troopers of BSF 80 battalion raided the house of Abdul Jabbar Malik son of Abdul Wahid Malik of Wailu and raped the two sisters. The BSF had separated male members of the family from Women, kept them in different rooms, and then raped the sisters.

The incident evoked widespread condemnation with people coming out on road demanding the probe into the incident.

The protestors produced the girls before the police that started investigation into the case. Both the sisters have been shifted for medical check up hospital. The protestors were demanding action against the troopers involved and they have also asked for shifting of BSF camp from the area. They said the present camp has made their lives miserable.

## **GIRL MISSING**

**June 12:** Twenty one year old Shazia went missing after she left her home at Karan Nagar for some work on June 5. Despite searching at all possible places, her whereabouts could not be established. Police has registered a case 27/2005 and launched a manhunt.

## **9 YEAR OLD HANGS HIMSELF TO DEATH**

**Srinagar June 21:** A nine-year-old boy was hanged to death after abduction in a remote village of Pattan area.

Javid Ahmad son of Abdul Majeed Lone, a student of 3<sup>rd</sup> standard went missing last evening. Witnesses said he was last seen while playing with other children. When Javid did not return home, the family and the villagers started searching for him. However, a pall of gloom gripped the entire area of Gul Muhammad Pora village when this morning his body was found hanging on a tree. Police reached the spot and recovered the body.

## **RAPIST TROOPER CAUGHT**

**June 21:** Police Tuesday arrested a former trooper Nazir Ahmed Khan of Vialgam in Kupwara on charges of having raped wife of a trooper Muhammad Shafi Khan on June 20. The accused has been absconding since incident.

## **RAPIST HELD**

**June 23:** Police detained government gunmen for allegedly raping a woman at Wanghat Kangan on Tuesday.

According to sources, the accused Abdul Majeed Khatana of Waniaram Wanghat barged into the residence of Abdul Lateef Khan son of Muhammad Abdullah at Peth Khan Wanghat and raped his wife. The victim lodged a compliant against the government gunmen in the police station. The police took swift action and detained the rapist with the help of troops. Police has registered an FIR.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

April 6	An employee in Tourist department Roshan Ara w/o Muhammad Aslam Liagaroo was among 8 persons injured in a fidayeen attack at the highly fortified Tourist Reception Center Srinagar in which the Muzaffard bus bound passengers were lodged due to security reasons.
April 7	Rubina and Meena daughters of Abdul Ahad Sofi were injured when suspected militants lobbed a grenade at Pattan market injuring 6 persons including a policeman.
April 9	Irshad Bano d/o Ali Muhammad of Challad was killed; while Hasina was injured in crossfire at village Challad Arnas Udampur.
April 10	Two women identified as Gulshan w/o Bashir Ahmed and Amina w/o Mushtaq Ahmed were injured when militants lobbed a grenade on a petrol party of 44 RR troops at Gole Chakri near Jamia Masjid Shopian on Sunday April 10 afternoon after it missed the target and exploded injuring 21 persons including two women.
April 13	Some unidentified gunmen shot dead a woman Maroofa after she was abducted at Bohrihalan Shopian. An employee of Tehsil office Shopian, she was returning to her home when the incident occurred. Maroofa's husband a pro- government militant; Mukhtar was killed by militants three years back. After his killing, she got a job in Tehsil office under SRO 43.
April 20	One woman got killed and two injured when unidentified militants lobbed a grenade on the road opening party (RoP) of 113 Bn BSF that missed the intended target and exploded on the roadside at Ashpeer Sopore. The deceased woman were identified as Raja Begum w/o Ghulam Muhammad Bhat of Ashpeer Pattan while the injured were identified as Parveena Akhter w/o Manzoor Ahmad Bhat and Yasmeena w/o Khazar Muhammad Mir

May 8	A 12-year-old girl was killed and her father seriously injured in a powerful explosion on May 7. Identified as Yasmeena d/o Ali Muhammad Naikoo r/o Kuligam Lolab.
May 8	Police recovered a decayed body of a 25-year-old woman from river Jehlum at Majugund Sumbal Saturday. However her identity couldn't be established.
May 11	Two women identified as Noora Begum of Bohri Kadal and Shamima Begum of Satrushahi were injured in a powerful car bomb explosion at Jawhar Nagar area in Srinagar.
May 14	A child was killed in a parcel bomb explosion at Bijbehara on Thursday evening.
May 19	A woman who was critically injured in a grenade explosion at Lower Moha on May 5 succumbed to her injuries in the GMC hospital Jammu on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Shakuntala Devi w/o MV Chand of Matab Pouni. Sixteen persons were injured in the grenade blast.
May 24	Unidentified gunmen killed a mother-son duo at Sumer in Doda on Monday May 23 <sup>rd</sup> night. The deceased have been identified as Fatima Begum and his son Irshad Ahmed.
May 29	Unidentified gunmen Friday evening abducted and later shot dead, Zarifa Akhter daughter of Ghulam Muhammad Hajam at Kralgund, Handwara in Kupwara district. Police has filed a case.
May 31	Suspected militants shot and critically injured the woman councilor Fatima Begum at her residence Tachloo Kulangam on Monday. She was taken to hospital in critical condition.
June 8	Unidentified gunmen killed three members of a family including a woman at Gool Ramban Udampur on 6 May. The gunmen forced their entry into the house of Bashir Ahmed Bohra s/o Akbar Bohra and killed him along with his son and wife Jero Begum.
June 11	A girl identified as Munira Begum daughter of Nazir Ahmed Gujjar of Wangam sustained injuries in a cross fire in Doda
June 14	Two children were killed and dozens injured in a powerful explosion outside the Boys High school at Washibugh Pulwama on June 13.
June 16	Unidentified gunmen torched the residential house of Bashir Ahmed son of Sadr-ud-din at Chaklas village in Gool killing his 8-month-old baby girl on Tuesday night of June 14.
June 17	Unidentified persons lobbed a grenade on the roadside near Khara Mod Awantipora injuring a woman Mamla wife of Ghulam Qadir Bhat apart from injuring 15 others.
June 17	A woman was seriously injured when a mine planted in a forest at Uri exploded on June 12 after she stepped over the mine planted by the army. She was admitted in the hospital where her leg was amputated.
June 19	Mother and daughter of a Hizb militant were injured apart from three other family members when the soldiers of RR allegedly detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in his house at Pulwama. Identified as Nooran Begum mother of militant and his sister Nigeena Akhtar, while the condition of mother is said to be stable, Nigeena is in critical condition.
June 20	Unidentified gunmen fired indiscriminately on the residence of Fateh Mohammad son of Haleem Gujjar of Dachan Gool Udampur causing death to his 14-year-old daughter Safiya Bano and injuries to his wife Gulla Begum on Sunday.
June 22	Two children were injured, one of them critically in a grenade blast triggered by unidentified persons at Gorivan, Bijbehara in South Kashmir.
June 25	Police said militants shot dead a teacher in an army school in South Kashmir's Islamabad district on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Rubi Akhtar daughter of Mohammed Abdullah Ahangar of Kulgam. According to a local news agency, the deceased was teaching at a school ran by 17 JAK Rifles under operation Sadhbhavna.
June 25	According to the police sources, two boys were injured when a grenade exploded in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Identified as Farooq Ahmad lone, 14, son of Mohammed Maqbool and Zahid Ahmad son of Ghulam Mohammad, they received injuries while fiddling with grenade when they were playing in a field in Saloosa, Kreeri Pattan.

June 25	Unidentified gunmen sprayed a volley of bullets on Naseema Akhtar daughter of Ghulam Hassan Dar injuring her at Barnal Qazigund on Thursday the injured Woman has been hospitalized.
June 26	A SPO shot dead a girl at Chijai, 3 Kms from Atholi in Kishtwar district of J&K's summer capital Jammu and later committed suicide by jumping into river Chenab. The SPO was identified as Irshad Ahmad son of Ghulam Muhammad Dev, while girl has been identified as Shamshada Bano daughter of Ghulam Mustafa. Both of them were from same village, Chijai. The reason however, behind the killing is not known.
June 27	Unidentified gunmen abducted 35-year-old Taja wife of Ghulam Hassan Mir at Kralpora Kupwara and later on shot her dead. Three children survive the deceased according to police.
June 27	Locals of Uri Salamabad recovered body of unidentified women on Sunday from river Jehlum in Salamabad. They informed the police which has started investigation in the case.
June 28	Two women were injured in crossfire between militants and troops in Madwara area of Doda. According to CNS, Saja Begum and Indu were injured in the gunbattle when troops cordoned off the whole area and started a combing operation. Both of them were later hospitalized where their condition is said to be stable.
June 29	Unidentified persons Wednesday lobbed a grenade near Pratap Park Lal Chowk, which exploded on the footpath injuring 15 persons including a woman namely Fahmida wife of Muhammad Shafi of Habba Kadal.
June 29	An eight-year-old child Kamran Bali of Rehari Jammu received severe injury on his hand on Tuesday when the gun of a police guard accidentally went off in Rajbagh in Srinagar.
June 30	Unidentified gunmen stormed into the residence of Abdul Aziz Mughal and shot dead three persons of a family including owners wife Fatima Begum (40), daughter Shagufta (20) and a guest in Mahukund Gool area of Ramban on Wednesday night.

### Women – Children killed

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WOMEN KILLED</b>	<b>WOMEN INJURED</b>	<b>CHILDREN KILLED</b>
<b>April 6</b>	1	1	-
<b>April 7</b>	-	2	-
<b>April 9</b>	1	1	-
<b>April 10</b>	-	2	-
<b>April 13</b>	1	-	-
<b>April 20</b>	1	2	-
<b>April 29</b>	1	-	-
<b>May 8</b>	1	-	3
<b>May 11</b>	-	2	-
<b>May 12</b>	2	13W and 25 C	-

<b>May 14</b>		-	1
<b>May 19</b>	1	-	-
<b>May 24</b>	1	-	-
<b>May 29</b>	1	-	-
<b>May 31</b>	-	1	-
<b>June 8</b>	1	-	-
<b>June 11</b>	-	1	-
<b>June 14</b>	-	-	2
<b>June 16</b>	-	-	1
<b>June 17</b>	-	2	-
<b>June 18</b>	-	2	-
<b>June 19</b>	-	2	-
<b>June 20</b>	-	1	1
<b>June 21</b>	-	-	1
<b>June 22</b>	-	2C	-
<b>June 25</b>	1	1W+2C	-
<b>June 26</b>	1	-	-
<b>June 27</b>	2	2	-
<b>June 28</b>	-	2	-
<b>June 29</b>	-	1W+1 C	-
<b>June 30</b>	2	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>38W + 30C</b>	<b>9</b>

## **Oh! Apple Trees!**

By: Grace Jajo (Naga Activist)

My heart bleeds to watch this race  
Who can compare with their glow and grace?  
Eyes in every hues;  
Shy smiles in every face.

Maiden hairs, thick, straight and long;  
Slender and tall, babies of dolls;  
Skins of fairness with coloured blush,  
Beautiful like the fruit of paradise!

Chilled to your marrows, such undeserving fate..  
Uncertain existence of unending prayers;  
Cruel storm invading your lives  
Will the cycle of pain ever end?

Weary, crushed: weighted the scorn;  
Some struggle to go on.  
Destined fate hopes for spring,  
Bud to leaves, despite the wind.

Then, almost like an answered prayer,  
Suddenly you are weighted with prosperity!  
But only to wake up to a bare plant  
Where has the fruit rolled across?

Decayed in the stuffy packing,  
Can they ever be traced?  
Constant in remembrance and yearn;  
Though the tide will never turn again.

And the trees look dead and barren,  
All life form decays.  
Oblivious to any weather  
A mere breathing frame!

Lost to destiny,  
All that it bore and created.  
Alone in silence, submerge in woes;  
Immune by its own pain.

For all the young branches trimmed,  
A thousand stronger ones will regrow.  
Heroes for life; spirit of liberation;  
Never to be suppressed or beaten.

Defeating the murder  
Bearing fruits anew,  
Patient voices far and near;  
Move the world with forces few!

## **Kashmiri Women's Initiative for Peace and Disarmament**

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