



**LEGAL FORUM FOR KASHMIR - LFK**  
INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY GROUP



## ***Family Testimonies***

# **PROFILE OF THE PEOPLE KILLED IN 2016 BY INDIAN OCCUPYING FORCES**

*Cover Image*

**Riyaz Ahmed Shah:** An ATM Guard was killed by the CRPF with Pellet Shot Gun, his body was found on the street with more than **360 Pellets** inside his body.

LEFK

*Family Testimonies*

**The Profile of the people killed in 2016 by the Indian  
Occupying Forces**

Desire for Justice



*Family Testimonies*

## **The Profile of the people killed in 2016 by the Indian Occupying Forces**

**Published By:** Legal Forum for Kashmir - LFK

**Date of Publication:** September 2022

**Research Team:** Muhammad Umar Bhat, Musaib Manzoor, Naeem Hurrah, Mansur Naqshbandi and Zain Ul Abideen

**Cover Image:** Riyaz Ahmad Shah [Case 9] ATM Guard, from Srinagar, was killed by the CRPF with Pellet Short Gun; his body had more than 360 pellets inside which have damaged his stomach and vital organs.



## About Legal Forum for Kashmir - LFK

The Legal Forum for Kashmir - LFK is an international legal Advocacy group working on the conflict in Kashmir. Its members are indigenous people of the occupied territory in Jammu and Kashmir. The aim of the organisation is to defend the political, social and human rights of Kashmiris and to promote the UN sanctioned Right of Self-Determination.

In today's world, the notion of conflict resolution necessitates that those who continue to be denied their rights or remain excluded be given an opportunity to present their case. Unfortunately, it remains the case that Kashmiris themselves continue to be marginalised, even invisibilised, in most discussions or narratives on the conflict. LFK has, therefore, been established to fill the gap, providing an international forum through which its members can become effective participants and contributors in the international community.

LFK works to address the consequences of marginalisation, working with its members. As an independent organisation, LFK advocates, nationally and internationally, the Right of Self-Determination and respect for human rights in Occupied Kashmir through legal research, documentation and capacity-building to address, under international law, the violations of individual and collective rights of Kashmiris.

## What we do

LFK is an independent organization that advocates, nationally and internationally, the Right of Self-determination and highlight the violations of Human Rights and Humanitarian laws in Occupied Kashmir through legal research, documentation, and capacity building to address, under international law, the violations of individual and collective rights of Kashmiris.

Conducts research, documentation, and collection of data on Human Rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

LFK engages, invoke and seek involvement of, global legal and civil organisations to address the growing injustice in Occupied Kashmir.

LFK also publishes extensive and exclusive reports on the latest developments in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

We also organize seminars, conferences, and webinars and invite academics, journalists, researchers and political commentators to discuss and deliberate on the colonization and possible resolution of Kashmir issue.

We also moved towards publishing books on the key dimensions of conflict, armed conflict, and conflict resolution with a specified focus on Kashmir.

## Table of Content

About

Executive Summary

Introduction

Profiles

1. *Junaid Ahmad Akhoon, 12, Saidpora, Eidgah, Srinagar*
2. *Danish Sultan Haroo, 14, New Colony, Noorbagh, Srinagar*
3. *Irfan Fayaz Wani, 18, Malik Angan, Fateh Kadal, Srinagar*
4. *Shabir Ahmad Mir, 26, Tengpora, Srinagar*
5. *Nasir Shafti Qazi, 11, New Theed, Harwan, Hazratbal, Srinagar*
6. *Yasir Salam Sheikh, 16, SD colony, Batamaloo, Srinagar*
7. *Sameer Ahmad Wani, 19, Khonmoh, Srinagar*
8. *Shabir Ahmad Mangoo, 31, Shar-Shali, Khrew Pampore, Srinagar*
9. *Riyaz Ahmad Shah, 21, Chattabal Srinagar*
10. *Farooq Ahmad Kuchey, 26, Lethpora, Pulwama*
11. *Amir Gul Wani, 18, Ratnipora, Pulwama*
12. *Suhail Ahmad Wani, 20, Lethpora, Pulwama Mysser*
13. *Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, 22, Charsoo, Awantipora, Pulwama*
14. *Amir Nazir Latoo, 21, Ahangar Mohalla, Bijbehara, Islamabad*
15. *Jehangir Ahmad Ganaie, 24, Hassanpora, Bijbehara, Islamabad*
16. *Abdul Hameed Mochi, 22, Arwani, Bijbehara, Islamabad*
17. *Showkat Ahmad Mir, 32, Hassanpora, Bijbehara, Islamabad*
18. *Sajad Ahmad Thoker, 22, Uttersoo, Achabal, Islamabad*
19. *Neelofar, 41, Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund, Islamabad*
20. *Showkat Ahmad Yatoo, 31, Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund, Islamabad*
21. *Mohammad Ashraf Dar, Halpora, Kokernag, Islamabad*
22. *Fayaz Ahmad Waza, 28, Nikloora, Litter, Pulwama*
23. *Safeer Ahmad Bhat, 21, Charigam, Aishmuqam, Islamabad*
24. *Shahnawaz Ahmad Khatana, 23, Dadoo, Marhama, Sangam, Islamabad*
25. *Zubair Ahmad Bhat, 15, Kathsoo, Sallar, Pahalgam, Islamabad*
26. *Yawar Mushtaq Dar, 19, Betengoo, Islamabad*
27. *Imtiyaz Ahmad Mandoo, 32, Nandpora, Khanabal, Islamabad*
28. *Hilal Ahmad Dar, 18, Sofipora, Harnag, Bijbehara, Islamabad*
29. *Saqib Manzoor Mir, 15, Khundru, Achabal, Islamabad*
30. *Amir Bashir Khan, 24, Verinag, Dooru, Islamabad*
31. *Basit Mukhtar Bhat, 13, Dalipora, Pulwama*
32. *Irfan Ahmad Malik, 15, Urwan, Newa, Pulwama*
33. *Zahoor Ahmad Mantoo, 25, Kisrigam, Kakapora, Pulwama*
34. *Syeda Banu, 62, Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund, Islamabad*
35. *Basit Ahmad Ahangar, 20, Vessu, Qazigund, Islamabad*
36. *Ghulam Muhammad Khan, 75, Ellahi Bagh, Soura, Srinagar*

37. *Neelofar Shah*
38. *Saida Mir*
39. *Mashooq Ahmed Shiekh*
40. *Mushtaq Ahmed Dar*
41. *Irfan Ahmed Dar*
42. *Zubair Ahmed Khanday*
43. *Feroz Ahmed Mir*
44. *Khursheed Ahmed Mir*
45. *Yasmeena Jan Wani*
46. *Abdul Rasheed Kumar*
47. *Javid Ahmed Shiekh*
48. *Javid Ahmed Najar*
49. *Manzoor Ahmed Lone*
50. *Mohammad Ashraf Wani*
51. *Mohammad Maqbool Wagay*
52. *Sameer Ahmed Wani*
53. *Abdul Ahad Ganie*
54. *Javid Ahmed Dar*
55. *Muzafar Ahmed Pandith*
56. *Mohamamd Yousuf Khanday*
57. *Javid Ahmed Mir*
58. *Azad Ahmed Thokar*
59. *Shahid Hussain Ganie*
60. *Sayar Ahmed Shiekh*
61. *Khushboo Jan*
62. *Jahangir Ahmed Pandit*
63. *Muzaffar Hussain Bhat*
64. *Asif Ahmed Bhat*
65. *Amir Bashir Lone*
66. *Shahid Ahmed Seh*
67. *Zahoor Ahmed Shiekh*
68. *Hajira Begum*
69. *Mushtaq Ahmed Ganie*
70. *Showket Ahmed Malik*
71. *Bilal Ahmed Dentoo*
72. *Ghulam Mohiddin Mir*
73. *Fayaz Ahmed Rather*
74. *Ishfaq Ahmed Dar*
75. *Danish Rasool Mir*
76. *Ishfaq Ahmed*
77. *Danish Manzoor Lone*
78. *Musaib Majeed Nagoo*



- 79. *Mustafa Mir*
- 80. *Mansoor Ahmed Lone*
- 81. *Wasim Ahmed Lone*
- 82. *Showket Ahmed Yatoo*



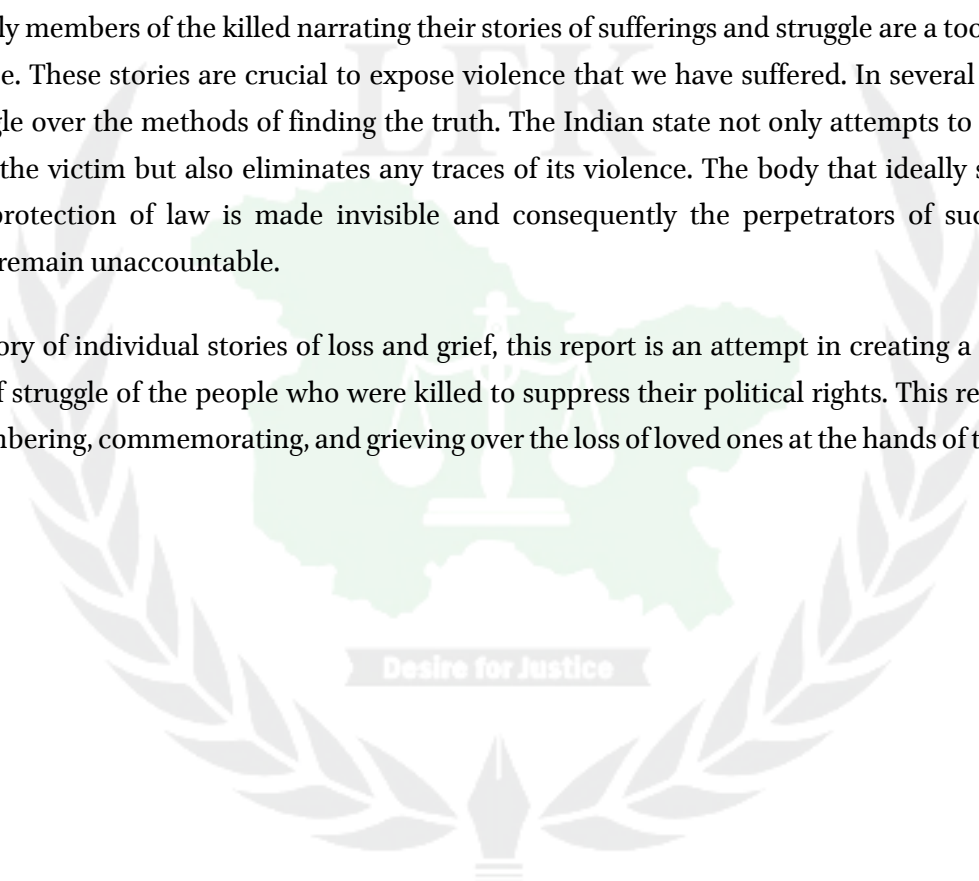


## About

This report is aimed to play an important role in keeping alive the memory of loss and resistance that is being erased systematically from the public domain in Kashmir. As Milan Kundera says, "the struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetfulness". Our existence is our resistance.

For the family members of the killed narrating their stories of sufferings and struggle are a tool to reach out to people. These stories are crucial to expose violence that we have suffered. In several ways it is also a struggle over the methods of finding the truth. The Indian state not only attempts to eliminate the body of the victim but also eliminates any traces of its violence. The body that ideally should be under the protection of law is made invisible and consequently the perpetrators of such crimes continue to remain unaccountable.

As a repository of individual stories of loss and grief, this report is an attempt in creating a collective biography of struggle of the people who were killed to suppress their political rights. This report is an act of remembering, commemorating, and grieving over the loss of loved ones at the hands of the Indian state.



## Executive Summary

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016, Burhan Wani, the 22-year-old armed rebel of the local armed group, Hizbul Mujahadeen was killed by Indian security forces during an encounter in the southern part of Kashmir. His killing triggered protests against Indian armed forces on large scale in the entire region of Jammu Kashmir. Indian security forces responded with unbridled force, which led to huge number of casualties and a wide range of human rights violation, which continues in the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Administered Kashmir has experienced large number of protests in the past. In this round of protest more people especially the youngsters were seen participating in the protests.

This report covers civilian killings perpetrated by the Indian security forces who have been given free hand to kill the Kashmiri people who are carrying the mission of right of self-determination in Indian-Administered Kashmir. The focus of this report is on the absolute impunity given to Indian security forces who are violating human rights and international standards with impunity and without any accountability.

The Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) in its report released on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 has also enunciated that Impunity for human rights violation and lack of access to justice are key right challenges in the Indian administered state of Jammu Kashmir. Special laws in the state, the Armed Forces special powers Act, 1990 (AFSPA) and the Jammu Kashmir Public safety Act 1978 (PSA) have created structures that obstruct the normal course of law, impede accountability, and jeopardize the right to remedy for victims of human rights violations. The government enacted acts such as Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), in force in Jammu and Kashmir which gives soldiers who commit violations effective immunity from prosecution. At time of writing, the government had yet to comply with a Supreme Court ruling civilian authorities should investigate all allegations of violations by troops.

This report records 82 cases of civilian that were killed by Indian security forces in the year 2016 without any provocation, the research team has recorded the statement of family member and perused the medical report knowing the actual cause of death. The state authorities as of now have failed to independently investigate and prosecute the security personnel involved in such killings.

This report also reveals the nature of the weapons used by Indian security force during the civilian protest, these 81 recorded killing have been perpetrated by the security force after using live cartridges (bullets), Pellet Short gun, Pepper grenades and other lethal weapons.

## Introduction

The Himalayan territory of Kashmir is located at the crossroads of India, Pakistan, and China. By the end of the British paramountcy and subsequent partitioning of the Indian subcontinent the erstwhile Princely State of Jammu and Kashmir, popularly known as the princely state of Kashmir did not accede to either of the two newly created dominions of India and Pakistan. As early as 1930s the common masses within the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah, demanded political and economic rights; historically denied by the monarchy. As decolonization approached in 1947, the princely states in the subcontinent had three options to decide their political destiny to join either of the two dominions or declare Independence. In the aftermath of partitioning of the Indian subcontinent and revolt within the state the Kashmiri monarch decided to accede to the Indian dominion conditionally and provisionally. Thus, the erstwhile princely state of Kashmir emerged as bone of contention between the two dominions of India and Pakistan (Bose, 2003). Both dominions laid claim over the territory of Kashmir resulting into a full-fledged war from 1947-48.

The people of Kashmir under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah envisaged a self-governing Kashmir, its autonomous status and relationship with India being guaranteed by the Constitution of India. After the war the erstwhile territory of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two-one part being controlled by India and the

other by Pakistan. In response to the complaint by India against Pakistan in the United Nations that Pakistan had invaded the territory 'legally' acceded to India. The United Nations Security Council established a United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan (UNCIP). In 1948 the Commission urged India and Pakistan to reach a ceasefire agreement. It also urged both the countries to nominate a 'plebiscite administrator' to hold a plebiscite to decide the political future of Kashmir (Lamb, 1997).

Over the years both countries continue to control the two parts of Jammu and Kashmir. In the Indian controlled Kashmir regular elections have been held since 1957. However, India has been subverting democratic institutions and processes within the region as the elections have largely been fixed 'through a crude combination of fraud and intimidation to ensure the overwhelming victory of politicians favored by India' (Bose, 2007).

In 1987 the region witnessed an uprising triggered by the election in the state. In response to the uprising the region witnessed increasing militarization. According to one estimate in the year 2004 there were around 500,000 to 700,000 Indian armed forces in Kashmir representing 'just under half of or 44 percent of total Indian army strength' with almost a soldier for every ten Kashmiris, with approximately fifty-seven soldiers per square mile making Kashmir the most heavily militarized place in the world (Bhinda, 1994), (Jaudel, 1993) (D'Costa, 2016). The year 2008

witnessed mass mobilization in Kashmir against the land grab to administer the annual Hindu pilgrimage to Kashmir, as an intrusion to the vestiges of self-governance accorded to the region by the Indian Constitution.

After the murder and rape of two young women by armed forces in 2009 the region has witnessed cyclic mass protests involving large presence of young men and women. Since 2010 Indian armed forces have been

using pump-action shotguns. These inherently inaccurate shotguns fire hundreds of metal pellets which spread over a wide area and have been used to control crowds in Kashmir. In 2016 after the killing of a rebel commander Burhan Wani aged 22, Kashmir witnessed another cycle of mass protests. According to one estimate close to hundred people were killed by the armed forces, to quell the uprising. (Amnesty, 2016)





## Junaid Ahmad Akhoon, 12, Saidpora, Eidgah, Srinagar

*Srinagar:* On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Junaid Ahmad Akhoon, a 12-year-old boy from Saidpora area of Srinagar, offered his Friday congregational prayers at a local mosque and returned home along with his father, Ghulam Mohammad Akhoon. That day, he had planned to meet his friends post Friday prayers.

Scared of untoward situations and events that Valley witnessed during summer agitation of 2016, Junaid, a 7<sup>th</sup> standard student, would hardly go out to play with friends or if at all, he wished anytime, he would ask any of the family members to accompany him to the spot where he could meet his friends to play cricket for an hour or two. Most of the time he would sit indoors and study.

On that fateful Friday, Junaid stood just beside his house on the entrance counting seconds when would his father finish his meals and accompany him to nearby field, when a trooper directly shot a pellet fire at Junaid, the lone person standing on a narrow lane leading to his house and injured him critically.

He fell on the ground exactly where he stood with blood oozing out from his body. The trooper was so quick to fire pellet shot that Junaid didn't get a chance to hide himself behind the gate or to attempt to escape from the spot.

Junaid was rushed to the nearby Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura, which is at a distance of around 3 kilometers, where after battling life for around 12 hours in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital, he succumbed to his injuries at midnight.

As per the family and local witnesses, there were no protests or stone-pelting on that day. As usual, locals offered Friday prayers and were about to scatter to their homes. However, a contingent of forces from the forces camp situated on the main road, which was later removed from area, entered the locality along with patrolling vehicle on the other side and fired tear smoke canisters to disperse the crowd outside the local mosque.

"They wanted to disperse off people from the mosque premises so that no demonstration is carried out from the area against the killings that followed the killing of Hizb commander, Burhan Wani (along with his two associates on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016). Moreover, few boys had pelted forces' camp with stones that enraged them, and they made their way into the locality," a group of local witnesses said.

### Victim's Profile

- Junaid Ahmad Akhoon - 12 years old
- Class 7<sup>th</sup> Student
- R/o: Saidpora, Eidgah, Srinagar
- S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Akhoon
- Died on October 9, 2016
- Died due to pellets
- Father, a pashmina shawl weaver
- Mother, a housewife
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income would be under 1 lakh
- Family or victim has no political or militant affiliation
- He was not part of any protest or stone-pelting neither has been in the past, say witnesses and family
- Family tried to lodge an FIR against the alleged killers, but police refused
- Family didn't approach any court of law or a legal body
- Police filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Case is one among very few cases that government is probing to ascertain the facts
- Government approached the family with compensation offer but the family refused

lane, and one must cross three curves from the forces camp before reaching the spot. "Whenever locality would witness intense stone-pelting, the forces would enter the area to chase youth away. But they would hardly enter by-lanes like the one of Junaid's," they said.

Junaid's father, Ghulam Muhammad Akhoon,

says that sudden presence of a soldier took Junaid by surprise as just as him, his mother who was on the other side of main gate had no idea that troops have entered their by-lane and that his son might get hurt in forces action.

“It was only after a bang of pellet fire and cries of Junaid that my wife realized that the calamity has struck on us and she rushed outside, only to see her son’s pellet-ridden body lying on the ground,” says Akhoon, a pashmina shawl weaver.

The house of Akhoon is no more the buzzing one just like it used to be when Junaid was alive and loved most among three siblings of Akhoon family. The gloom and despair that followed the Junaid’s killing has overshadowed their happy and joyful life.

They struggle, every day, to dispel the trauma of

the tragedy and try to live for the sake of each other. “The void that Junaid’s killing created hasn’t been filled by any nor it seems anything will, in near future,” says the dejected family.

Having no faith in justice system, they say, it pains them the most after their “son’s murder” whenever they are asked to fight for and bring culprits to justice, as they believe it is nearly impossible that those “who give free license to forces to kill innocents” like Junaid would ever punish the same machinery.

Police station Safa Kadal under the jurisdiction of which Saidpora falls refused to share any details about the case or investigation of Junaid’s killings on the grounds that “they have been directed to not reveal such details to anyone including the media persons”. “Only victim’s family would be provided any such information,” they said.





## Danish Sultan Haroo, 14, New Colony, Noorbagh, Srinagar

*Srinagar:* “We are witness to the murder of a 14-year-old child”- reply to locals in Pamposh colony of Noorbagh in Srinagar, when one asks them about the killing of Danish Sultan Haroo who was drowned to death after being chased by police and paramilitary forces during summer agitation of 2016.

### Victim's Profile

- Danish Sultan Haroo - 14 years old
- 9th class student
- Part-time salesman at a medical shop
- S/o: Mohammad Sultan Haroo
- R/o: New Colony, Palpora, Noorbagh, Srinagar
- Drowned to death
- Died on September 1, 2016
- Father, a class IV government employee
- Mother, a housewife
- Six siblings
- Family or victim and no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income would be 2 lakhs to 2.40 lakhs
- Witness say he was part of the stone-pelting but has no previous record of stone-pelting, family has no knowledge about his participation
- Family didn't file any case against alleged killers
- Family didn't approach any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared any FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation offer
- Family claimed Hurriyat Conference offered them some monetary assistance which they refused
- They don't want compensation from the government
- Police refused the request to reveal details about the case of Danish

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, Danish played carom, till late afternoon, with his friends at few meters from his house in New Colony, Noorbagh in Srinagar. At around 4pm, a forces' vehicle passed through the nearby locality that created panic in the area.

Danish along with three of his friends crossed a footbridge where youth were pelting stones at forces' party belonging to the Parimpora police station. Police and paramilitary forces laid a trap from three possible escape routes that minimized the chances of youth including Danish to cross back to point he crossed the footbridge and escape the trap safely.

Finding no alternative to escape from the trap and, as per family, knowing the art of swimming, Danish along with three of his friends jumped into the river Jhelum and tried to cross over to other side.

“However, policemen chasing Danish and others threw bricks and stones when he was swimming to cross over. Few of the bricks hit Danish in head in the backside that left him nearly unconscious. He couldn't swim and ultimately drowned in the river,” say witnesses and father of Danish, Mohammad Sultan Haroon who works as a driver with Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

As per the witnesses, on the other side of river Jhelum where Danish tried to move across, hundreds of people on the Jhelum bank were helplessly watching Danish crying for help but no one could do anything except requesting forces to stop throwing brick and stone at Danish.

“Police had pointed their pellet gun at Danish and if a person would try to save him police would fire pellets at them. His three friends tried to save him but police by throwing stones and firing pellets stopped them from doing so,” he said.

The body was later retrieved on next day morning by local volunteers at around 50 meters away from the spot where Danish jumped into the river. His family and witnesses say that the blood was



oozing out from his head even at the time when he was laid to the rest at martyrs' graveyard in Srinagar.

"It indicated that either bricks that policemen hurled at Danish or pellets fired by them had hit him and probably were the reasons for his drowning. Otherwise, he (Danish) would have been safe like his friends because he knew swimming and could have easily crossed over," alleges family.

Today when Danish is no more, family, relatives and neighbors remember him as a hardworking and humble soul who would offer his helping hand to known and unknown and would perform

multiple tasks to support his family.

Towards his family, Danish had realized his responsibilities when even he was in his adolescence and yet to attain the adulthood. After coming from school, he used to work as a salesman at a medical shop owned by his uncle to earn and meet the extra needs of his family.

"He was a child but was gifted with the art of managing family affairs very well. Among the siblings, he was the one loved and respected the most. All because of his humble personality and urge to forward helping hand to the needy. More than us, the locals and relatives miss Danish most today," recall the family.



## Irfan Fayaz Wani, 18, Malik Angan, Fateh Kadal, Srinagar

*Srinagar:* A son of a poor family, Irfan Fayaz Wani, an 18-year-old boy from Fateh Kadal area of Downtown, dreamt of not luxuries or to become a rich person one day but all he yearned during his short life he lived was to see his two sisters married off and the “Kashmiris living a dignified life”.

But before he could see his dreams becoming a reality, he was shot dead by government forces at Malaratta, a place just two kilometers away from his house in Downtown, on August 21, 2016, when the entire Valley witnessed civil uprising.

Irfan, as per his widow mother, Rafiq, had pro-freedom sentiments in his genes and would always be ready for any sacrifice he could offer for the resistance struggle of Kashmir.

“Perhaps, that was the only reason he, like hundreds of our sons, lived for such a short span of time. Though, he didn’t resort to extreme means to achieve what he aspired for, he was target fired by policemen who had already warned us that they will kill him (Irfan), wherever and whenever they find an opportunity,” she says.

Before turning 18, Irfan had more than a dozen cases registered against him by police for his alleged involvement in stone-pelting and “disturbing law and order”. Police even claims that he was a chronic stone-pelter and the day he was killed, he participated in the stone-pelting as well.

The relatives and family, however, blame police for Irfan’s participation in stone-pelting. “He (Irfan) was slapped with an FIR even when he was a minor. Police would raid our house to arrest him even for the stone-pelting miles away from our house. It became routine and left deep marks on the psyche of Irfan,” says the family.

The father of Irfan, Fayaz Ahmad Wani, used to drive an auto-rickshaw. But he too became victim of police harassment. “He developed severe health complications and died of heart attack in 2015, nearly a year before Wani was shot dead,”

they say. Following his death, the entire responsibility came on the shoulders of Irfan.

### Victim’s Profile

- Irfan Fayaz Wani - 18 years old
- Left studies when he was in 6th standard
- Worked as an auto-rickshaw driver
- S/o: Fayaz Ahmad Wani
- R/o: Malik Angan, Fateh Kadal
- Died on August 21, 2016
- Died after he was hit by a teargas shell at Malaratta, Srinagar
- Orphan (late father’s occupation: auto-rickshaw driver)
- Mother, a housewife
- 4 siblings
- Family or victim had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be around 70k
- Witnesses and police say he was part of the protest/stone-pelting, family has no knowledge
- Victim had a history of being an active stone-pelter
- Family didn’t file any case against the alleged killers (forces)
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police hasn’t shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with monetary compensation and job offer
- Family has refused, saying that they will not sell the blood of their son

Irfan tried many jobs to save earning to support his family but police, family alleges, didn’t stop hounding him and his family. Sometimes, they say, police would detain father in place of Irfan. To escape the harassment, he went to Shimla, Himachal Pradesh and worked there for a brief

time. “He eventually came back when his father died in 2015,” said the family.

“It (police harassment) had agitated him such that at times he would say he would join militancy and fight those cops that were hounding him. But then he would think about his family which stopped him from taking such extreme steps,” says one of his friends who wished not to be named.

In the year Irfan was killed, his younger brother, Aijaz Ahmad Wani met with an accident in which his right hand suffered severe damages. Though

he struggles to carry out normal work, he is now driving the same auto-rickshaw and supporting the distressed family.

“We can’t change what destiny had written for Irfan. Though, my (another) son is earning to arrange day’s meal but the life is tough to live after two back-to-back tragedies. But then it’s what the reality is, and we have to face it,” says despaired Rafiqa as she gathers courage to forget gloomy past and prepare herself to face challenges that her family would likely witness due to bleak financial conditions.



## Shabir Ahmad Mir, 26, Tengpora, Srinagar

*Srinagar:* On July 10, Shabir Ahmad Mir, a 26-year-old man from Tengpora sat with his local friends on the banks of nearby Tengpora flood channel and discussing turmoil in Kashmir triggered by the killing of Hizb commander Burhan Wani in an encounter along with his two associates on July, 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Victim's Profile

- Shabir Ahmad Mir - 26 years old
- Left studies when he in class 10th
- Mason by profession
- S/o: Abdul Rehman Mir
- R/o: Tengpora, Srinagar
- Died on July 10, 2016
- Died due to pellet fire
- Father, a labor by profession
- Mother, a housewife
- Five siblings
- Family or victim had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income is between 1 to 1.50 lakhs
- He was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Victim used to earn between 10,000 to 15,000 thousand
- Family tried to register an FIR against the alleged killers, but police refused the request
- Family has approached the court to pursue case legally
- Police has filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation offer

Then, the entire Valley was mourning the killing of 19 civilians killed by government forces in just three days after Wani's killing. Spontaneous protests and clashes were reported from every nook and corner as one more public uprising had

just begun in Kashmir.

Shabir, a mason by profession, would rarely engage in such discussions and would quickly run away from the spots where protests or stone-pelting were going-on he was too scared of such violent scenes.

And perhaps he had no idea that by tomorrow evening, he will be one among being mourned in Kashmir and that a tragedy is waiting ahead for him.

At around 6:30 in the evening on July 10, when Shabir and his friends were about to leave for their home, witnesses say, a heavy contingent of police passed through interiors of Tengpora, where Shabir lived, and allegedly smashed glasses of windowpanes of several houses. Though there were no protests and stone-pelting in the area.

It created panic in the locality and people including Shabir ran for their safety. A narrow lane that has a blind end leads to his house. Noticing that a sizable number of youths have escaped through this lane, forces party chased them and reached Shabir's house at the dead end.

"They (forces) saw him (Shabir) going inside the house and ran after him. It looked like they had come with an intention to cause heavy damages and it turned out to be true. Forces party barged into the house (of Shabir) and even went upstairs on first floor to look for Shabir. Scared, Shabir remained there for a while with his father," a local who was one among the chased by forces' party, said.

As soon as few forces personnel barged into the house, they fired several tea smoke canisters and that flooded the entire house with dense smoke, says father of Shabir, Abdul Rehman Mir.

"I was watching television. Suddenly, I heard cries and loud noises. While I could decipher what has happened, my son hurriedly rushed to me and said police is following him. Within no time,

forces barged into my room and clutched his (Shabir's) collar and dragged him out of the house," says Mir, a labor by profession.

When family resisted the forces action, he alleged, police misbehaved with them and beat-up inmates including Shabir's sister and mother. "They physically assaulted me and pushed my daughter away when we resisted their dragging him (Shabir) out of the house. They again fired tear smoke canisters. The terrifying atmosphere left all of us almost fainted. After a while one among them fired a pellet shot at Shabir and he fell," says father.

For next several minutes, family says, police didn't allow them to take their injured son to hospital for treatment while blood was oozing out from his body. "He died subsequently," they said.

Shabir was the eldest among five siblings and had the entire responsibility of his family on him. He left studies when he was in class 10th and learned the skill of masonry to support his family of seven.

He would earn a handsome amount by working as bricklayer and had been supporting the education of his two younger brothers, one of whom has now joined a private company following the death of

Shabir and is earning a meager amount of 6,000 per month.

Police station Batamaloo has said that Shabir died during protests in Tengpora. News reports have quoted a petition filed allegedly by father of the deceased wherein he has said that a police official, Yasir Qadri fired two shots at his son from point-blank range resulting into on-spot death of Shabir.

However, the autopsy conducted on the body of Shabir after its exhumation revealed that he died of pellets and not due to bullets. Supreme Court where this case was being heard, ruled that the report of autopsy conducted on the body of Shabir has found that "the fired lead pellets correspond to the shot from a standard shotgun cartridge" and "the CFSL report also established recovery of pellets from the dead body, which rules out the use of pistol as alleged" by the victim's father. Supreme Court even exonerated the two top police officers alleged with the murder of Shabir.

But the father is claiming that he never said nor wrote anywhere that his son was killed after being shot with bullets. "He was killed by pellet fire," claimed the father, echoing the demand for justice.

Desire for Justice

## Nasir Shafi Qazi, 11, New Theed, Harwan, Hazratbal, Srinagar

*Srinagar:* A fresh and neatly ironed soccer jersey stays placed inside a locker in a position same as it was two years ago in 2016- when Muhammad Shafi Qazi had bought it for his son Nasir Shafi, a 7th standard student, an avid soccer lover.

Excited Nasir didn't wear it even once and are untouched since then. He was supposed to wear it for a soccer event outside state but before he could do that, he was killed, allegedly by government forces during summer agitation of 2016.

At an age when Nasir had just started realizing his dreams, his life came to an end. Just 11 years, eight months and three days, destiny had it for Nasir in this world.

A resident of New Theed in Harwan, Nasir's body was recovered from Dachigam National Park by locals on the night of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, with hundreds of pellets pumped into his body.

As per the eyewitnesses and family members, Nasir's body bore marks that indicated he was "brutally tortured" before he died and his body dumped into the national park.

"The torture was so severe that many of his body parts were gravely damaged. When I held his right arm after we recovered his body, I felt as if the arm was boneless (as bones had been crushed due to severe beating). Blood kept oozing out from his mouth for several hours before he was laid to rest, directing to severe internal damages," says Masroor Ahmad, brother of Nasir.

A local boy, wishing not to be named, who met Nasir after Friday congregational prayers and before he went missing on that fateful day, recalled the incident and said: "It was Friday. After offering congregational prayers, a forces vehicle stationed at the lane leading to Nasir's locality, was pelted with stones and bricks by a group of youth. Forces retaliated with pellet firing and teargas shelling".

This clash between youth and government forces, he said, intensified so were the pellet and teargas shelling from forces. "When more youth joined in, forces were overpowered and were chased to several meters away from bus stand where they (forces) initially stood to restrict the civilian moment," he said.

Chaos, however, engulfed entire locality when a forces' vehicle made a surprise entry via new route from the backside of stone-pelters to scatter them. The forces shot dozens of rounds of pellet fires and tear smoke canisters at stone-pelting youth and managed to scatter them.

"Several sustained injuries due to intense pellet firing. Amid chaos, forces chased youth to nab few but all of them including injured, tried to escape from being caught by the forces," says another local, witness to the incident, believing that Nasir could have been one among the injured and fallen prey to "forces brutality".

As per the family, the body of Nasir was placed in such a position inside national park, to pass it off as a case of "man-animal conflict".

"He lay upside down and a stone was placed on his neck. Leaves were spread all over his body. Police even later told us that it might be a case of man-animal conflict but the pellets that almost were 400 in number, on his backside revealed who the murderers were," says the family.

Police, however, refused such allegations and blamed the family for not handing over the body of Nasir for autopsy to ascertain the reason of death.

"All police could do was to lodge an FIR. Had the body been handed over to us, we could have had ascertained the reason of death. But the family refused. We have registered a general FIR about the incident," a police official from Harwan Police Station said.

### Victim's Profile

- Nasir Shafi Qazi - 11-years old
- A 7th standard student
- S/o: Mohammad Shafi Qazi
- R/o" New Theed Harwan, Hazratbal
- Died on September 16, 2016
- Died due to pellets and alleged police torture
- Father, a driver
- Mother, a housewife
- Three siblings
- Family or victim had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income of family would be around 1 lakh
- Witnesses say he was part of the protest/stone-pelting; family has no knowledge
- Family hasn't registered any case against the alleged killers
- Family hasn't approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation offer

A bright mind among the three siblings, Nasir dreamt of becoming a successful engineer besides, a skilled footballer. "His academic interest as well as brilliant performance, and the spirit of sportsmanship had given him a

sense of realization of his dreams very early. He was to touch many feats at very young age. Signs of his prosperous future, at least for us, were visible since from the beginning," recalls the family.

The sudden departure has, however, shocked the entire Qazi family. They were waiting to cherish the success and achievements of Nasir but were left to mourn his death for life.

"The tragedy has overshadowed rest of the things in our lives. Hope is very little in front of gloominess of the past. Nevertheless, life given must be lived but it won't be as good as it was before the tragedy stuck our family," tells despaired mother of Nasir, Jamila.



## Yasir Salam Sheikh, 16, SD colony, Batamaloo, Srinaga

*Srinagar:* Asr prayers were about to be held in a mosque in SD colony Batamaloo. In a modest house in the same locality, Yasir Salam Sheikh, a 16-year-old boy, engages in a verbal altercation with his elder sister. Abdul Salam Sheikh, Yasir's father, intervenes and orders son to leave for the mosque and offer prayers as they were just to begin.

Obedient son follows, apologizes to sister, and goes to the mosque to offer prayers. After coming out, Yasir meets his mohalla friends, chats with them for few minutes and takes a stroll to nearby later. Within one hour or so, father is informed that his son has been shot dead in heart by government forces.

Numb and shocked, father utters these words: "Inna lillahe wa inna illaihi raaj'oon (Verily from God we have come and towards Him we shall have to return). God is pleased with what we love most and sacrifice in His way".

"The daily killings (in Kashmir during summer agitation of 2016) had left Yasir restless," says grief-stricken family. He would go out often and participate in demonstrations held in the locality against the killings.

"His sister would at times, ask him to concentrate on studies but we knew that timeline of killings were flashing in his mind," Salam says, talking about the moments and events before his son was shot dead by government forces.

On August 15, 2016, when Indians were celebrating their 70th Independence Day in Jammu & Kashmir, nearly all the people in Valley were on roads and part of raging anti-India uprising triggered by the killing of militant commander, Burhan Wani, and his associates.

The celebrations were held after 58 civilians had been killed by government forces in street clashes during the span of five weeks. Many thousands had been injured due to pellets and tear smoke canisters.

"Since from the day my son gained consciousness about happenings around, the only thing that has dominated his overall life is his commitment to raise voice against any kind of injustice. He would fight against it even if he had to go to any extent to seek justice. Rampant killings (in 2016) were the trigger and flash point of his fight against injustice," says the father.

### Victim's Profile

- Mohammad Yasir Sheikh - 16-year-old
- 10th standard student
- S/o: Abdul Salam Sheikh
- R/o: Sheikh Dawood colony, Batamaloo, Srinagar
- Died on August 15, 2016
- Died after being shot with a bullet in heart
- Father, a carpenter
- Mother, a housewife
- Four siblings
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be between 1 lakh to 1.5 lakhs
- Witnesses say he was part of the protest; Family has no knowledge about it
- Family has not registered any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police claims they have shared FIR copy, but the family denied
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer, family refused to accept.

Yasir would, every day, discuss with his father, a carpenter by profession, about killings and situation in Kashmir, mostly when both played chess during the free time. The discussions would, at times, stretch to hours and end up leaving issues for discussion to very next day. Now, shouts



and cries no more resonate in the room they played chess in.

As per the witnesses, a minor stone-pelting was going-on in Batamaloo area near Baqaa mosque on August 15. Yasir, they said, after offering Asr prayers joined the youth that hurled the forces' party stationed at the entry point of the main entrance, with stones and bricks.

"It (stone-pelting) was a routine those days. On that particular day, situation (stone-pelting) could have been easily tackled with tear smoke canisters and chilly grenades. But it seemed forces had well-planned intentions. The nature of injury where Yasir was shot reveals what the intentions were," say the witnesses.

Yasir was rushed to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. Yasir was the 60th killed in summer agitation of 2016.

Police station Batamaloo has registered a case in connection with the killing of Yasir. They refuse the allegation that Yasir was target fired. "He died during stone-pelting, and we are investigating that in what circumstances he was killed," a police official concerned with the case said.

## Sameer Ahmad Wani, 19, Khonmoh, Srinagar

*Srinagar:* Day after the Bamdoora encounter on July 8<sup>th</sup> which had a 'ripple effect' on entire Valley, Mohammad Ashraf Wani counseled his younger brother, Sameer Ahmad Wani to "learn to control anger and emotions" and not get swayed away by events of time.

### Victim's Profile

- Sameer Ahmad Wani - 19-year old
- Left studies when he was in 8th standard
- He would assist his brother who drives a truck
- S/o: Bashir Ahmad Wani
- R/o: Khonmoh, Srinagar
- Hit by a bullet in chest on July 10, 2016 and succumbed to injuries on July, 25, 2016
- Father, a contractor
- Mother, a housewife
- Seven siblings
- Family and victim had no political and militant affiliations
- Family belongs to an upper-middle class income group
- Annual income would be between 2 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs
- Family as well as witnesses say he was part of the protest/stone-pelting
- Family has not registered any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer.

Ashraf told Sameer that he had many other priorities to focus on first, and that he should approach life with "utmost care and discipline". He also reminded Sameer about responsibilities that his family expects him to fulfill.

The senior Wani was hinting Sameer to "either limit or modify" his external activities, the pro-freedom actions, because he had apprehensions that his brother, a fervent pro-freedom supporter, might become another victim of "forces' terror".

"He (Sameer) gave patient hearing to my advice and nodded in agreement. It relieved me. Next day, when he went to nearby locality (Pampore) to meet his friends, we didn't stop him believing that he would not indulge in any such activity which will endanger his life," says Ashraf, a truck driver by profession.

But at the same, Ashraf says, he had feelings inside that his advice to Sameer would prove of no effect on him and that he would only listen to his mind and heart. "This was how he lived. He would obey whatever he was told but wherever it clashed with his beliefs, he would humbly disobey," says the elder brother.

At around 11 in the morning on July 10<sup>th</sup>, two hours after Sameer left his house in Khonmoh, Ashraf received an unknown call. The caller informed Ashraf that his brother, Sameer, has been shot with a bullet in

Pampore area and rushed to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, in a critical condition.

"I knew it would be him (Sameer). That was what I feared and counseled him for. My apprehensions were turned true by him. Though, it is in the hands of Almighty and already written in the destiny. We can't change it. But sudden disappearance of someone who has been very close to you, makes hard to live rest of the life," Ashraf says.

A group of youth witness to the incident says that there were intense stone-pelting during morning hours near Pampore chowk. Sameer, who would often come to Pampore and meet his old friends there, was with his friends inside a nearby ground.

After stone-pelters were chased by forces, the intensity of clashes decreased. "A good number of youths had left for their houses and very few were present and hurling stones at forces. Suddenly, we heard gun shots and we rushed to the spot," a local resident and witness to the incident said. A bullet had been hit Sameer in chest and left him

critically injured.

Sameer was rushed to the nearby health center by local youth where from after initial treatment, he was referred to SKIMS Soura. Inside Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of SKIMS, he battled the life for 15 days and succumbed to injuries on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

A case has been registered at police station Pampore in connection with the case, the details of which police refused to share with this reporter.

Sameer loved and lived his life according to his own philosophy which, according to his friends and family, was to face the reality whatever the circumstances and situations. "He wasn't the one who would be scared or fear the extremes. He would challenge and face the opponent, strong or weak, and hardly care for the results," say his friends in Pampore town.



## **Shabir Ahmad Mangoo, 31, Shar-Shali, Khrew Pampore, Srinagar**

*Srinagar:* Shabir Ahmad Mangoo, a 31-year-old lecturer at a college in Srinagar, trimmed his beard and dressed his hair, after several weeks, only when his younger sister, Masrat, insisted, on August 17, 2016.

“He (Shabir) would avoid and delay it saying that he is not going to office soon as situation is violent and that he will do it coming days. But as fate has it, he did it on the day he left for journey to the heaven,” says sister, recalling the terrifying scenes of August 17, 2016, when the entire area witnessed one of scariest night.

On the night of August 17, more than two dozen vehicles with several hundred soldiers onboard believed to be of ‘50 Rashtriya Rifles’ that have a camp set-up nearby, made their way towards

Shar-Shali, a locality in Khrew area of Pampore, and laid a siege around half of the area.

This was the second time that, locals say, 50 RR passed through the area. Earlier in the day, few of their vehicles were pelted with stones when their convoy passed through the locality and were forced to leave the area but not before a “warning” message were delivered to locals by them.

“We will watch you in the night. Be ready,” few soldiers were heard shouting loud at locals, particularly at youth that hurled stones and bricks at their vehicles. Many among the locals took warning messages nothing but verbal reaction believing that forces are venting out their anger.

Shabir Ahmad Mangoo, a 30-year-old lecturer at Amar Singh College in Srinagar, remained well present at home and relaxed. He participated in stone-pelting neither on that day nor before at any point of time.

“Why would they hurt or arrest me when I didn’t harm them,” with these words, Shabir pacified his family members that had expressed apprehensions about the intent of army soldiers and continued with his preparations for his

upcoming National Eligibility Test (NET) exam.

When night approached, local youth decided to remain awake throughout the night to avoid any attempt of forces to avenge the day’s act. “We decided to have dinner and block the entrance point as early as possible,” a group of local youth said.

But before they could execute their plans, within minutes several areas of Shar locality were surrounded by hundreds of army soldiers who barged into almost every household. After severely beating inmates including women and children, they dragged young men out of their houses and beat them up mercilessly.

Recalling the dreadful night and how the lecturer was killed, a victim who is in thirties and wishes to remain anonymous, says that after dragging him out of house, around a dozen of army men smashed him with jackboots and gun butts.

“I was not alone. There were dozens of locals who had been beaten to pulp. While I was being beaten, I saw two brothers (Shabir Ahmad Mangoo and his younger brother Zahoor Ahmad Mangoo) being dragged out from their house,” he says, and that Shabir’s condition had already worsened due to severe beating.

In half-conscious condition, Shabir was being heard screaming just one sentence- “What is my fault...! Tell me?” And the army men that were pulling him out were heard shouting abuses back at the lecturer.

Around 60 locals, mostly young including Shabir, that army had beaten to pulp and wanted them to torture more at their camp, were directed to walk a distance of about a half-a-kilometer when even, the witness says, very few of them were able to stand-up on their feet for even a minute.

“Shabir was grievously injured. He needed immediate treatment, but army refused our repeated requests. Rather, they (army) trampled

him underfoot and smashed him with rods. He was crying and bleeding, so were we,” says the witness.

Between 2 to 3am, army left the area only after dozens of houses were heavily damaged, people including women, child and old, severely tortured. But the mayhem was not over yet.

Among around 60 civilians, army picked up four civilians including the lecturer, and were taken to Pampore camp. “Around 3am, we reached Pampore chowk. Shabir was almost dead. Sensing the trouble, army took the four to Pampore police station instead, and handed them over to the police,” the witness said.

Pampore police, however, refused to accept Shabir as they didn’t want to take the responsibility of killing. “Three civilians were taken to Pampore hospital by police and Shabir was taken to an unknown location by army,” he said.

At around 6 in the morning, a Tavera car reached the hospital carrying the dead body of Shabir. “He was not brought for any treatment, but army sought it as means to hand-over body of the family,” he added.

Shabir had a dream to teach at any of the universities in Valley, he had been putting in tiresome efforts despite having limited resources available. He would study till late night and most of the day when at home.

In Hudpora mohalla in Shar, he was the pride and one among the only two lecturers. “He would guide youth about academics and career options. He was an asset lost to the forces’ brutality,” echo elders in Hudpora.

Wali Mohammad Mangoo, his father, leads prayers in a local mosque and on odd days, he works as a laborer to arrange day’s meal for the family of three. Wali’s younger son, Zahoor Ahmad Mangoo who too sustained serious injuries during the forces’ raid, now works as a driver to support the family.

“We had invested all our resources on him (Shabir) with a hope that he would accomplish his dreams and take the family out of bleak financial conditions. His efforts made it look like true. But never had we any idea that he would leave us midway at crossroads,” says Masrat, and sighs off.

### Victim’s Profile

- Shabir Ahmad Mangoo - 31-year-old
- Worked as lecturer in a college in Srinagar,
- Victim had completed B.Ed., M. Phil and was pursuing PhD in a university in Gwalior, India
- S/o: Wali Mohammad Mangoo
- R/o: Shar-Shali, Khrew Pampore, Srinagar
- Died on August 18, 2016
- Died due to torture by army during a night raid, internal damage to organs
- Father, a laborer
- Mother died at early age
- Three siblings from second wife of Wali and a son from first wife, both wives died at early age
- Victim and family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be under 70k
- He was not part of any protest or stone-pelting or any such activity, neither in the past nor at the time he was killed
- Family has registered a case against army at police station Pampore
- Family has not approached to any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with a job and cash compensation offer

## Riyaz Ahmad Shah, 21, Chattabal Srinagar

*Srinagar:* Late night on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, Riyaz Ahmad Shah, a 21-year old boy from Chattabal Srinagar who worked as an ATM guard with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, finished his work-shift and headed for his home which is at a distance of not more than five kilometers.

On way, while driving his two- wheeler, he received two phone calls from his brother enquiring that at what time would he reach home. Riyaz would usually finish his work- shift at 10 in the evening and reach his home back within 15 minutes or most in 30 minutes.

That day, Riyaz got late a little that worried family. He replied both the calls and said he is on way and will be at home in next few minutes.

### Victim's Profile

- Riyaz Ahmad Shah - 22-years old
- ATM security guard, salesman of a crockery shop
- S/o: Late Abdul Majid Shah
- R/o: Chattabal Srinagar
- Died due to pellets
- Died on August 2, 2016
- He was an orphan
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income would between 1.40 to 1.80 lakhs
- He was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Family has not registered any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached to any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with a compensation offer

"We had a dinner ready when we called him second time. When he (Riyaz) didn't reach home even after we were done with dinner, we called him again. But this time, the call went unanswered," says Riyaz's brother, Shakeel Ahmad.

No response from Riyaz's mobile to repeat phone calls left family restless. They enquired around, but to no avail. There were no traces of him in the vicinity.

After nearly an hour later, Shakeel received a phone call from unknown person and asked him to immediately reach Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital in Karan Nagar, along with few more male members.

"We initially thought he has met with an accident. When we reached hospital, Riyaz was dead. He had an entire cartridge in his abdomen. The nature of injury indicated that he was shot at very close range and an entire cartridge of pellets was emptied on his abdomen," says the brother.

After being shot with pellets, Riyaz in bleeding condition was picked-up by some volunteers and admitted him in the hospital.

As per the family, an autopsy carried by the police, revealed that Riyaz had more 360 pellets inside his body that had severally damaged his stomach and other internal organs. Family alleges Central Reserve Police Force's personnel near Government Medical College with a "cold-blooded murder" of Riyaz.

Humble and hardworking, Riyaz has never been a stone-pelter in the past. "Even a sound of a fire-cracker would rattle him, so much was he scared of violence particularly the bullet and pellet fires," says the family.

Riyaz was working in two shifts. During the day, he would work as salesman at a crockery shop in Nowhatta and in the night, he would guard the ATM machine in Habba Kadal.

“When markets remained closed following the July encounter, he (Riyaz) would stay at home all day and leave for work in evening,” says the family.

Shocked by the sudden “murder” of the family member, family cries for justice and punishment to those who killed the guard. CRPF has, however, refused all such allegations.





## Farooq Ahmad Kuchey, 26, Lethpora, Pulwama

*Pulwama:* Farooq Ahmad Kuchey, a 26-year-old truck driver was engaged with a girl from Magam in central Kashmir's Budgam district. He was getting married in September 2016. Overjoyed, he was enthusiastically waiting for, possibly, his 'happiest day' of his life.

Fortunes were raining on Farooq. All the preparations were going-on as per the plan, but not for too long. Farooq fell to the bullets a month before what could have been the start of his new life with his better-half.

On August 2, 2016, he was shot dead few meters away from his home on Srinagar-Jammu national highway by a personal security officer of one of a bureaucrats during the summer agitation of 2016. In the evening of that fateful day, Farooq had been told by mother to bring some household stuff from shopkeeper falling along national highway.

Back home, when Farooq's family were waiting for him to return with stuff, one of the three elder brothers of Farooq, who is not mentally stable, heard Farooq's name being shouted outside his home. He went inside and somehow hinted family about the tragedy.

Firdous, another brother of Farooq, rushed to outside to enquire but stopped midway. He was informed by a local that his brother was shot dead by government forces on highway. "I stopped and couldn't move an inch. My legs had gone numb," says Firdous.

"We were busy with wedding preparations. Little did we know that a ready to-be fired bullet would turn our celebrations into mourning. We never had any such apprehension because Farooq would never indulge in stone-pelting or demonstrations," says Firdous.

This was the second jolt to the family as in 1991, Farooq's elder brother, Riyaz Ahmad Kuchey, a Hizb militant was killed by forces allegedly during the interrogation.

### Victim's Profile

- Farooq Ahmad Kuchey - 26-years old
- Left studies when he was in class 10th
- Worked as a truck driver
- S/o: Ghulam Nabi Kuchey
- R/o: Lethpora, Pulwama
- Died on August 2, 2016
- Died after being shot with a bullet in head
- Father died during 90's
- Mother, a housewife
- Six siblings
- Victim and family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be between 50k to 80k
- Family says he was not part of any protest; witnesses say he was one among the demonstrators
- Family has registered a case at Police station Awantipora against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached to any court of law or a legal body
- Police has shared the FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer Family has accepted the cash compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

As per the witnesses, the Srinagar-Jammu national highway was blocked by locals of Lethpora after government forces ransacked a mosque and a few residential houses in the locality. They were protesting the "high-handedness" of soldiers and demanding action against the same.

At around 8pm, when hundreds of locals were on highway protesting the excesses by forces, a Scorpio with Additional District Commissioner Ramban, Babu Ram on board, tried to cut-through the demonstrators but failed.

He was somehow stopped by people. While witnesses say, people could enquire who is inside



and why didn't he stop initially, a security guard of ADC, opened fire directly at people that left Farooq dead on spot and many others critically injured.

"The firing created panic and chaos around the locality, and everyone tried to escape the spot. When firing stopped, we rushed to the spot and found Farooq dead and several others bleeding in pain," say the witnesses.

The injured were rushed to nearby health centers by people. ADC along with his guards and driver fled from the spot and took refuge in nearby CRPF camp. The protesters later set vehicle of official afire.

A case is registered at police station awantipora in connection with incident and, as per the police, "matter is under investigation".



## Amir Gul Wani, 18, Ratnipora, Pulwama

*Pulwama:* Life had taken an ugly turn for Amir Gul Wani, a 12th class student from Ratnipora village of Pulwama, after an incident in February 2016, when his spleen got removed after it was ruptured due to teargas shell that hit Amir at Lelhar area in Pulwama.

As per the family, Amir had gone to Lelhar to play cricket with his friends and got stuck in ensuing clashes between youth and government forces. “Amir tried to escape to a safe place but got hit by a teargas shell in abdomen,” his sister said.

### Victim's Profile

- Amir Gul Mir - 18-year-old
- Class 12th student
- S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Mir
- R/o: Ratnipora Pulwama
- Died on August 24, 2016
- Died due to pellets
- Father, a laborer
- Mother, a housewife
- Five siblings
- Victim and family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family as well as witnesses say he was part of the protest/stone-pelting
- Family belongs to a lower-middle class income group
- Annual income would be under 1 lakh
- Family has not filed any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with a compensation offer
- Family has received cash compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

Since then, Amir had been living a restricted life. Doctors had advised him to not move outside

much to avoid getting infected. He had to reschedule his eating behavior as well. For him, it had become very difficult to manage his daily social and academic life, says family.

“Despite all odds, he (Amir) followed the schedule well. Six months after the incident, he had recovered almost fully. He had adapted to living a new schedule (of living),” says sister.

However, after summer agitation of 2016 broke out in Valley, she says, it became very hard for Amir to follow the schedule, especially his outside activities. He would participate in protest rallies in his locality and in nearby areas. For the family, restricting Amir within four walls of house was nearly impossible.

“Once, I told him (Amir) that going outside often and participating in demonstrations would affect his health. He replied: ‘this is what life is meant for’,” says the sister, adding that, Amir talked a lot about fighting for the sake of Islam citing sacrifices of militants, both active and killed in the past.

On August 24, 2016, local witnesses say, a pro-freedom rally was being organized in Prichoo area of Pulwama district by locals. A stage was prepared, and tents were erected for the same. Amir, his father, Ghulam Mohammad Mir says, had also planned to participate in the rally.

But before rally would start, witnesses say, contingents of army, police, and special operations group (SOG) of police raided the rally venue and vandalized the property during night hours.

“As soon as news of forces’ raid spread in the locality and nearby areas, large gathering of enraged people from several areas marched towards the venue. Forces tried to stop people from marching towards, but failed to contain large gatherings,” witnesses said.

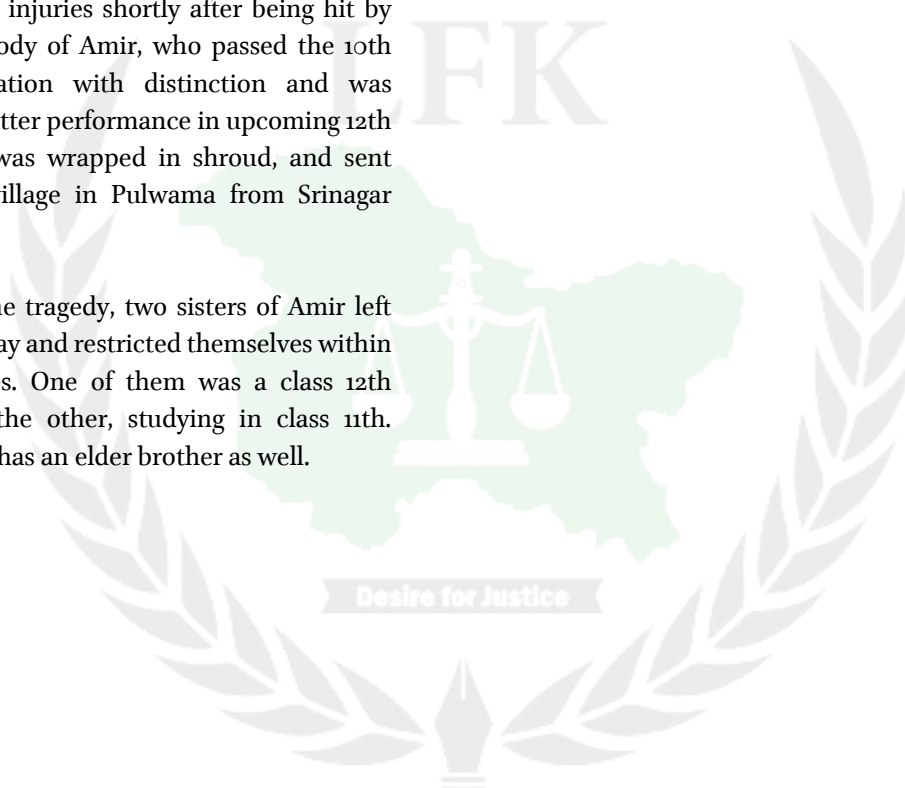
Intense clashes erupted between expected

participants and government forces in which dozens of people sustained critical injuries after later resorted to heavy pellet firing & teargas shelling. Amir once again became victim of shelling. This time, a volley of pellets hit him all over the body.

“He along with several others was initially rushed to a safe place and later nearby health center. But, after his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to SMHS (Shri Maharaja Hari Singh) hospital for advanced treatment,” they said.

In Srinagar, Amir showed no signs of recovery and succumbed to injuries shortly after being hit by pellets. The body of Amir, who passed the 10th class examination with distinction and was expecting a better performance in upcoming 12th class exams, was wrapped in shroud, and sent back to his village in Pulwama from Srinagar hospital.

Shocked by the tragedy, two sisters of Amir left studies mid-way and restricted themselves within home-premises. One of them was a class 12th student and the other, studying in class 11th. Besides, Amir has an elder brother as well.



## Suhail Ahmad Wani, 20, Lethpora, Pulwama Mysser

*Pulwama:* Outside an old-fashioned house in Lethpora, in south Kashmir's Pulwama, Mysser Ahmad, who is in early 20s, is leveling the ramp in the lawns of his house by ploughing with a hand-tool. "It creates problems when it rains. Concreting over might solve it," says

Mysser is basically a tailor by profession and occasionally helps family in household chorus hoping that it will work as a stress buster. He is physically and mentally a fit man but the only thing that makes him feel gloomy and hurt, sometimes, is the tragedy struck during summer agitation of 2016.

Distressed Mysser is the brother of Suhail Ahmad Wani, a 20-year-old, who was killed after being hit with a bullet fired by a security guard of one of the bureaucrats on August 2, 2016. Memories of gloomy past seem to have overshadowed everything in life, he says as he goes on to level the ramp.

On that day, Mysser says, an uneasy calm prevailed in his village, Banpora of Lethpora. Though the day had passed without any violent incident reported, the entry of forces into the village and the subsequent firing incident in the evening rattled the entire locality of Lethpora.

As per the local witnesses, government forces allegedly went berserk and desecrated a mosque and damaged few other residential houses in Banpora area on August 2. Enraged locals rushed to defend the mosque from being desecrated.

By the time news spread in the locality and locals gathered near mosque, forces had made their way out of area and fled from the spot. But a huge gathering had assembled in the area resenting the forces action.

Later, locals headed towards Srinagar-Jammu national highway and blocked the road entirely. Protesting the "excesses" by forces, locals sought an apology and clarification from district administration and police as to why "without any

provocation", local mosque and houses were damaged.

At, when hundreds of locals were on main road and moment of traffic blocked, local witnesses said, a Scorpio with Additional District Commissioner Ramban, Babu Ram, on board, recklessly tried to cut-through the protesters.

### Victim's Profile

- Suhail Ahmad Wani - 20-year-old
- R/o: Lethpora, Pulwama
- S/o: Ali Mohammad Wani
- Left studies when he was in class 10th
- Died on August 13, 2016
- Died due to a bullets
- Father, a laborer
- Mother, a housewife
- Victim was working as a salesman with a milk processing unit-Khyber
- Five siblings
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be under 1 lakh
- Family says he was not part of any protest, but witnesses say he was one among the protesters
- Family has not registered any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with a compensation offer
- Family has accepted a cash compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

"After he failed to cross over, few youths rushed to and tried to enquire about the erring driver. However, within no time, one man (security guard) came out and fired several rounds at protesting people," say witnesses.

Suhail who, as per his family, was at home when people were protesting at national highway, was called by officials of nearby milk processing unit where he worked as a staffer and asked him to reach factory to deliver a consignment.

“As soon as he (Suhail) reached national highway, exactly at the same time, security guard fired at people and left two persons including Suhail critically injured,” says Mysser.

Suhail sustained critical bullet injuries in head while as, another youth, Farooq Ahmad Kuchey, who lives nearby, died minutes after being shot with a bullet.

Recalling the scenes, Mysser says the sudden and indiscriminate firing sent shock waves to entire locality and for next several minutes, bodies of injured youths including his brother lay on road, bleeding profusely.

Suhail was rushed to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura, where inside Intensive Care Unit, he battled life for around 11 days. On August 13, 2016, he succumbed to injuries.

For Wani family, death of Suhail was second similar tragedy befallen on them during the last three decades as in 1988, Suhail's brother, a 6-year-old, was crushed to death by a forces' vehicle when he was playing outside his house.

## Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, 22, Charsoo, Awantipora, Pulwama

*Pulwama:* In summer of 2016 when Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, a 22-year-old boy, returned back home after studying for four years outside state, there were jubilant scenes at his house in a small village, called Charsoo, in Awantipora town of Pulwama district.

After four years of hard work, Bhat had become an engineer now. He had succeeded in fulfilling the dream of his parents who wished to see him an engineer one day and make them to feel proud.

### Victim's Profile

- Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat - 22-year-old
- Civil Engineer
- R/o: Charsoo, Awantipora, Pulwama
- S/o: Bashir Ahmad Bhat
- Died on July 22, 2016
- Died due to pellets
- Father, a government teacher
- Mother, a housewife
- Victim and family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family says victim was not part of any protest or stone-pelting; witnesses say he was
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income is between 1.5 lakhs to 2 lakhs
- Family has lodged an FIR against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or legal body
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation office

But then the engineer had some “better cause” to choose and work for which he started as soon as he arrived here in Valley- the social service. Since from the childhood days, Bhat had this urge of helping the needy and uplifting the weaker sections of the society.

He would survey his village every alternate day and identify the ones, the under-privileged,

widows, orphans and seriously ill-patients who needed help. Though very limited, he would help them with whatever resources he had just to make sure that these needy don't suffer or struggle because of want of help.

For many under privileged and weaker sections of the society in his and in nearby villages, Bhat had become a hope for a respectable and dignified life. He would do it without seeking any benefits from receivers of assistance or gain any profit out of it.

However, before this “noble cause” of raising voice for needy could advance further, Bhat was silenced for life by government forces when he was shot dead by pumping entire cartridge of pellets in his body during summer agitation of 2016, one and a half month after he returned to Kashmir.

As per the witnesses, a pro-freedom rally was organized in Charsoo village on July, 22, 2016, when Friday congregational prayers were over in local mosques. The rally headed towards national highway where they planned to hold demonstrations against the civilian killings.

“As soon as rally reached close to highway, the forces that remain stationed for highway security, intercepted the rally and lobbed tear smoke canisters, pellet fires and stun grenades at the protesters. The forces' firing triggered stone-pelting between them,” say the witnesses.

They say that Mushtaq was “shot with pellet fire from short range” and entire cartridge of pellets penetrated his body, leaving him critically injured. “He was shot with pellets before clashes erupted between youth and forces (near the highway)”, say the witnesses.

Mushtaq was initially treated locally and due to severity of his injuries, he was referred to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital in Srinagar. However, on reaching the above hospital, doctors there declared him as brought dead.

Back home, Bhat's unfortunate mother was waiting for him to have lunch after prayers unaware about his son's body being brought to her house on shoulders by locals. "He was son of the village, not just mine," she says amid sobs and sighs.

Villagers give a miss to Bhat's social service and philanthropic acts and praise him for sacrificing his career for the social causes which had earned him the title of 'boy with a mission'.

"We are happy that he earned some good deeds in his short span of life by investing in social causes which he might not have had earned by working as an engineer," says the desolated family.





## Amir Nazir Latoo, 21, Ahangar Mohalla, Bijbehara, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* As soon as Amir Nazir Latoo, a 21-year-old student, was done with his second semester exams of his post- graduation program at Aligarh Muslim University, he flew to his home, in Bijbehara town of southern Kashmir's Islamabad district to spend holidays and an upcoming Eid festival with the family and friends back here in Valley.

It was after four years that Amir was returning to Kashmir on the eve of Eid to celebrate the festival with his family. He returned a day before the month of fasting began in Kashmir and observed fast during the entire month of Ramadhan.

Amir had spent almost all the last four years in Delhi where he completed his bachelor's in commerce and was pursuing post- graduation in the same subject. He had plans

to pursue PhD and simultaneously work for any of the private firm in Delhi.

“He (Amir) had a beautiful short stay at home. He was scheduled to leave for Delhi nine days after Eid to attend university back and he had already booked a ticket for the journey,” says the cousin sister of Amir now married to his uncle.

On July 12, 2016, she says, Amir was at home busy with academic stuff. Police raided a nearby village known as ‘Khashe Teng’ and arrested several youths over alleged involvement in stone-pelting. Ahangar Mohalla where Amir lives and Khashe Teng are opposite to each other and are separated by the river Jhelum in the center.

When police were arresting youth on the one side of river Jhelum, people gathered on banks of Jhelum on the other side, few of them yelling at forces to stop arresting youths, witnesses said. Amir was one among the dozens witnessing the police raid on the village.

“One police officer, who was heading the police party, got infuriated and fired more than six rounds of bullets at gathering. The firing left two

people including my cousin critically injured,” she said.

### Victim's Profile

- Amir Nazir Latoo
- 21-year-old
- Post-graduate student
- S/o: Nazir Ahmad Latoo
- R/o: Ahangar Mohalla, Bijbehara, Islamabad
- Died on July 12, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, an artisan (works with Tilla work)
- Mother, a housewife
- Three siblings
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income would be between 1 lakh to 1.5 lakhs
- He was not part of any stone-pelting, says family
- He was part of gathering protesting the forces' raid on nearby village, say witnesses
- Family has not lodged any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared the copy of FIR with family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation offer

A bullet pierced his abdomen and damaged several of his internal organs. He was rushed to sub-district hospital Bijbehara where from after receiving initial treatment, he was referred to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital in Srinagar for advanced treatment.

Amir showed no sign of recovery even after going through a surgery in Srinagar. He succumbed to his injuries the next day he sustained injuries. Before and after his death, family alleged, his body was desecrated by police several times at his



hometown and in the Srinagar.

“When Amir was being shifted to Srinagar in an ambulance, policemen forcefully barged into the vehicle and ruthlessly beat-up the relatives and friends of Amir that were accompanying him to the Srinagar,” alleges the family.

Policemen even thrashed critically injured Amir and removed the IV tubes attached to him. “Had the police not intercepted ambulance, he (Amir) might have had reached Srinagar and received timely treatment which he missed,” alleges the family.

The humiliation was not over yet. Family alleged that the ambulance carrying Amir’s body back to Bijbehara was hijacked by police and “forcefully” taken to Police Control Room, Srinagar by “cheating” the family.

“Two (police) men in civvies requested for a lift when we were heading back to Islamabad with Amir’s dead body. The ambulance ended up at PCR Srinagar where the body was held hostage for more than two hours under the garb of official formalities,” they said.

Amir participated in protests or stone-pelting neither in the past nor on the day he was killed. But usually expressed his sentiments on social media as he did on the day when Burhan was killed. The last Facebook post he shared was the graphical image of Burhan, paying tributes to the slain commander.

## Jehangir Ahmad Ganaie, 24, Hassanpora, Bijbehara, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* Everyday early in the morning, a fair looking tall guy with strong muscles would reach a chemist shop situated close to Arwani Bridge in Bijbehara town of Islamabad district and register appointments of patients with a doctor and, at times, would prescribe commonly used medicines for minor health complications of local villagers.

### Victim's Profile

- Jehangir Ahmad Ganaie
- 24-years old
- Pharmacist
- S/o: Mushtaq Ahmad Ganaie
- R/o: Hassanpora, Bijbehara, Islamabad
- Died on July 9, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, farmer
- Mother, a housewife
- Six siblings
- Victim and the family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be under 1 lakh
- Family says he was not part of any protest/stone-pelting, witnesses, however, say he was part of the gathering protesting the forces action
- Victim was earning between Rs 5,000 to 8,000 on monthly basis
- Family has not registered any case against the alleged killers
- Family hasn't approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with family
- Government has not approached the family with compensation offer

He would return to his home which is around a hundred meters away in Hassanpora village, very late in the evening just to make sure that the local patients have convenience in case of medical emergencies. For locals, he was not less than any a doctor.

The dedicated boy was Jehangir Ahmad Ganaie, a 24-year old, who ran this chemist shop for more than seven years and till the day he was shot dead by government forces on July, 9, 2016, just beside his shop in Hassanpora.

With his hard work, he had earned a good name. He was offered a job in a Saudi-based pharmacy company. The documents for the travel purpose were ready and he was scheduled to leave for Saudi Arabia in the third week of July, five days later the day he was killed.

Day after Burhan's encounter, Jehangir along with his friends went to Tral to offer funerals to the slain commander and returned home around 1:30 pm on the same day. On reaching home, his mother told to him to have lunch first and then rejoin friends again.

While he could decide about it, he heard someone screaming aloud outside his house saying that a married man (Showkat Ahmad) from nearby mohalla has been killed by forces.

"He (Jahangir) made ablution and left the house. He told us that he would offer funeral to the slain man and would return," his brother, Raees Ahmad said.

While the killing of Burhan and his two associates had already triggered resentment across the Valley, the killing of Showkat sparked rage in the locality and people in large gatherings rushed to the spot.

A forces camp, to which soldiers who shot Showkat in abdomen belonged, falls along the same route, and was attacked by enraged youths with stones and bricks.

"Later, stone-pelting spread to nearby areas as well. Forces resorted to heavy teargas, pellet and even bullet firing in which dozens of youths sustained injuries. One among them was my brother, Jehangir," says Raees.

Raees claims that Jehangir was not part of the stone-pelting but was going to Showkat's home to offer funeral prayers. "He (Jehangir) has never been a part of any stone-pelting in the past," he says.

On July 9, Jehangir's shop was shut. Close to it was the forces' party, one among of whom fired a bullet fire that left Jehangir dead.

Around a year later, Jehangir's house was brought down to ashes after it was blasted by forces to kill two militants that were holed-up inside the two-story house.

After a year gone to mourning with the death of Jehangir, family says, the belongings of their son too had been burnt to ashes by the forces during the encounter.

"No signs of his living have been left with us now, except the memories that he shared with us," says the shattered family.



## Abdul Hameed Mochi, 22, Arwani, Bijbehara, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* Abdul Hameed Mochi, a driver by profession, was heading towards home driving his sumo on July 9, 2016, after staying for a night at famous tourist resort, Pahalgam along with a family from his village- Arwani. The family had insisted Hameed to drive them to the resort in his vehicle.

The family left for Pahalgam on July 8, 2016, and returned home the next day after situation turned volatile across Kashmir. When Hameed headed for home and reached Arwani Bridge near Hassanpora at around 12 noon, government forces that had already blocked the entire area, stopped the vehicle for check-up.

Hameed was allowed to leave but only after his driving license was seized by forces stationed near the SOG camp Hassanpora. He was told to return in the afternoon to take back his license. Helpless Hameed agreed and drove his vehicle to home.

At home, Hameed had lunch but worried about seizure of license. Around 2pm, Hameed rushed to SOG camp to bring back his driving license, his livelihood.

“As soon as he reached there (Arwani chowk), a (pro-freedom) rally had been organized by locals and was heading towards main town Bijbehara. But forces deployed near the Arwani Bridge had blocked it and didn't allow anyone to cross over to the other side,” says Ashiq Hussain Mochi, younger brother of Hameed.

When not allowed to move ahead, the protesters held demonstrations and raised slogans in favor of freedom. “The blockade agitated a few young men, and hurled stones at forces' deployment,” say witnesses of the incident.

Government forces fired tear smoke canisters, pellets and bullets at the gathering that also included many women and children. Dozens of people sustained injuries in the forces' firing.

Two local girls, Rukhsana and Shameema were hit

with bullets and fell on the road. The firing created scenes of mayhem and people scattered towards safer areas.

Hameed reached the spot when two girls were lying in bleeding condition. “He (Hameed) rushed towards them for rescue. He covered the bullet wound of one the two girls with scarf and thought of shifting her to a safe place. While he could do that, he was target fired in abdomen by a trooper,” say the witnesses.

### Victim's Profile

- Abdul Hameed Mochi - 23-year-old
- Driver by profession
- S/o: Gul Mohammad Mochi
- R/o: Arwani, Bijbehara, Islamabad
- Died on July 9, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, a laborer
- Mother, a housewife
- Six siblings
- Victim or the family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income
- Annual income would be under 70k
- Victim was earning 5k per month
- He was not part of any protest, says family
- Family has not registered any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Family has received a cash compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

The bodies lied on the road for next several minutes as forces, witnesses and family say, didn't allow locals to pick them up and rush them to

nearby health centers for treatment resulting into the loss of blood.

Within few minutes, Hameed died. Both the girls, even after several surgeries and other kind of treatment, have not recovered the injuries and are struggling with the life.

Hameed left behind his 7-month-old daughter. Shattered wife of Hameed, Romi Jan, looks after her but lives a captive and grief-stricken life.



## Showkat Ahmad Mir, 32, Hassanpora, Bijbehara, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* An isolated grocery shop in Hassanpora village of Bijbehara town that once stood as one among very few sources of essential commodities for the locals, stands closed since past several months now. The last time sunrays penetrated inside it was on 2nd Eid-ul- Fitr of 2016, the day of joy and jubilation.

### Victim's Profile

- Showkat Ahmad Mir - 32-years old
- Shopkeeper by profession
- S/o: Ali Mohammad Mir
- R/o: Hassanpora, Bijbehara, Islamabad
- Died on July 9, 2016
- Died due to bullets
- Father, (not working, on rest due to illness)
- Mother, a housewife
- Victims was earning between 7 to 10 thousand a month
- Seven siblings
- Victims or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be under 70k
- Family as well as witnesses say victim was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Family has not registered any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared the FIR copy with family
- Government has approached family with a compensation offer
- Family has received a cash compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

The newly established shop was owned and run by Showkat Ahmad Mir, a 32-year-old who before switching to this job worked as a truck driver for many months.

On July 9, 2016, Showkat didn't open his shop as his locality had witnessed spontaneous shutdown following the July encounter.

Around 11 in the morning, Showkat was told by his wife that his 12-year-old son- Faisal has possibly gone to nearby locality, the Hassanpora village, where protests were going-on against the militant killings.

Worried father along with his friend rushed to Hassanpora chowk where intense stone-pelting was going-on between youths and government forces.

"When he reached very close to the stone-pelting spot, government forces resorted to unrestrained firing and teargas shelling that left several civilians including Showkat injured. He received three bullets in abdomen and died before reaching hospital in Islamabad," say witnesses and his younger brother, Bilal Ahmad.

Father of four children and a sole bread winner for the family, Showkat had switched over to new job of shop-keeping with a hope that it will raise his income so that the rising expenditures are met with.

Having indulged in stone-pelting not even once in his life, parents say, the killing of Showkat was nothing but a "cold blood murder" and seek punishment for the alleged killers.

"It seems that no distinction is made between stone-pelters and people like my brother. The intention remains to kill whoever and wherever they want without any accountability," Bilal says.

Showkat left behind his wife and four children, all of them aged under 12. The shop he was running is locked since the day he was killed. The stuff inside the shop had to be destroyed months later when the shop was cleaned by the family.

His killing received anger from locals and triggered fierce clashes in Hassanpora and

surrounding localities. Two more civilians, Jehangir Ahmad of Hassanpora and Abdul Hameed Mochi of Arwani, were killed during ensuing clashes on the same fateful day.

Police in its report claimed that the locals had attacked a local Special Operations Group (SOG) camp set-up in 2002, forcing troops to fire at them.

The claim has, however, been rejected by locals saying that people were holding “peaceful demonstrations” and that forces intervention triggered clashes in the area.





## Sajad Ahmad Thoker, 22, Uttersoo, Achabal, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* On the day Burhan was killed in an encounter in Kokernag, Sajad Ahmad Thoker- a bachelor's student from Kreeri village of Uttersoo area in district Islamabad- had an entertaining day-out with his local friends. It was the 2nd day of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Returning to home in the evening, just few hours before encountering broke-out, the friends planned another trip for the next day, fixed the time and venue and scattered to their homes, not knowing that the five-month long agitation is just few hours away.

Till morning the next day, situation had taken an ugly turn. The entire Valley including his own village had erupted in rage against the killing of militants and had hit the roads to demonstrate their resentment.

Sajad who, as per the family, has never been part of any pro-freedom activity nor even in peaceful pro-freedom rallies, too joined the locals in his village and chanted pro-freedom, anti-India, and pro-Burhan slogans.

"It was for the first time that I witnessed Sajad so vocal about his feelings. He had never been so in the past. We couldn't stop him because nearly all the villagers including women, children and old participated in the protest demonstrations," says Manzoor Ahmad Thoker, the elder brother of Sajad.

At around 4 in the evening on July 9, 2016, he says, locals in Kreeri assembled in huge numbers in the village and decided to carry a procession against the killing of Burhan and his two associates in Kokernag.

"Chanting pro-freedom slogans, protesters reached close to Uttersoo police station. There, a heavy contingent of police was already positioned to intercept the march," say the witnesses and the family of Sajad.

Soldiers from Uttersoo police station fired tear-

smoke canisters, pellets, and bullets in an attempt to disperse off the protesters. Several participants' sustained injuries due to forces' shelling. Later, a heavy stone-pelting erupted near the police station.

### Victim's Profile

- Sajad Ahmad Thoker - 22-year-old student
- S/o: Abdul Rashid Thoker
- R/o: Kreeri village of Uttersoo, Shangus, Achabal Islamabad
- Died on July 9, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, a class IV government employee
- Mother, a housewife
- Four siblings
- Victims and family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income of the family is between 1.5 to 2 lakhs
- He was part of the pro-freedom rally, say witnesses as well as the family
- Family has not filed any case against alleged killers
- Family has not approached to any court of law or a legal body
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer
- Family had accepted the cash compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

For the family, the boy who wished to live a simple life and had never been engaged in such activities, the sudden death at such a young age was too painful and shocking to bear with.

The Jolt that Thoker family was stricken with worsened the condition of his ailing parents further. His brother, Manzoor, had a dream to pursue PhD outside state which now seems won't materialize ever. Manzoor has restricted himself within the four walls of his house since the incident happened.

Recalling some incidents of Sajad, Manzoor says that in 2015, he had managed to secure admission at University of Kashmir in Srinagar to pursue his master's degree in science.

“While the news cheered-up entire family but moving to Srinagar for studies which is at a good distance away from my village was something which had made me worried. Because my parents were not keeping well since the last few years and I, being the eldest, had to take care of both of them,” says Manzoor whose father suffers from psychiatric illness.

Sacrificing his career, Sajad who was then a 1st year bachelor's student, told his brother not to worry about family and that he should focus on his studies.

“I would finish my graduation and will look for employment. Leave family to me, you keep going and complete PhD,” Manzoor recalls his brother Sajad told him.

Sajad, apart from his academic activities, performed the household responsibilities single handedly and supported his brother till he completed his masters' degree.

## Neelofar, 41, Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* On the evening of July 17, 2016, Neelofar- a 41-year-old woman and mother of four children, was busy with her household chorus when she heard loud screams outside her one-story house.

She rushed outside to enquire only to return quickly to check whether her children are inside or not. The army had allegedly gone berserk in a nearby village- Khargund, and smashed windowpanes of several residential structures besides beating some inhabitants there.

### Victim's Profile

- Neelofar - 41-years old
- Housewife
- D/o: Ghulam Mohammad Shah
- R/o: Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund, Islamabad
- Died on July 17, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Ailing parents (Not working)
- Husband, a laborer
- Five siblings
- Had four children (all minors)
- Victim or family had no militant or political affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be under Rs 70k
- Family says he was not part of any protest/demonstration
- Family has filed a case against alleged killers
- Family hasn't approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer
- Family rejected the cash compensation offer

"They (army) had to pass through our village (Churrath) and that created panic in the entire village. Some youths got furious, and they tried to block main road through which army convoy was to move towards other side," say local witnesses in the Churrath village.

Neelofar found her eldest son, Amir Fayaz Shah, then a 14-year-old, missing and she went outside to look around for him. He was nowhere and it made family anxious and worried.

A local boy told Neelofar that her son was playing cricket on the roadside, the same road where some youths had placed blockades to prevent army vehicles to cross over, and that he must be around there with her friends.

"My mother was not alone as nearly everyone was looking for their inmates and relatives to save them from wrath of forces. It was chaos and fearful situation in the village. She (mother) couldn't find Amir even after searching him for several minutes," says Tajalli Fayaz, elder daughter of Neelofar.

In the meantime, army left Khargund as they face protesters. But within next few minutes, army arrived Churrath village where dozens of people, mostly youth were already assembled to stop their moment.

"Later, women and old people also joined protesters and made it a good gathering. People were chanting pro-freedom and anti-army slogans and resenting the army action in the nearby village," say a group of youths that participated in the protest.

The participants, they say, were expecting army to retreat and take a diversion to avoid confrontation. But it wasn't the case.

"It looked like army had made their mind and was in no mood to take a diversion. They fired indiscriminately at protesters that left several youths critically injured. The firing created the scenes of mayhem as eleven people including three women lay on the road in pool of blood," say the witnesses.

One among the injured was Neelofar who was looking for her son. She was rushed to nearby health center for initial treatment and later

referred to Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Soura for advanced treatment. Neelofar died as soon as she was admitted to SKIMS hospital.

Neelofar left behind four minor children. Her two daughters, Tajalli Fayaz and Meha Fayaz aged 14 and 13, left studies days after Neelofar left to another world.

Broken and shattered, Fayaz Ahmad Shah, the husband of Neelofar, is yet to recover from the trauma that he had to gone through following the sudden and shocking death of her wife.

For, he says, it will be very difficult for her two teenage daughters to sustain and live miserable life without their mother. "No one will replace her (Nilofar) nor even me, Fayaz says as tears moisten his eyes.



## Showkat Ahmad Yattoo, 31, Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* In a leisure time, Showkat Ahmad Yattoo, a 31-year-old plumber, would spend his most of the time in playing volleyball with his friends, mostly on a yard which is around 50 meters away from his house in Churrath village of Devsar in Qazigund area of Islamabad.

On the evening of July 17, Showkat and his friends were in the middle of game and suddenly a group of youth, terrified, rushed towards them and warned them to leave the yard otherwise they might become victims of “forces terror”.

“Government forces had unleashed terror in the nearby village and were heading towards our village now. Youths blocked the main road. While we could find out what is happening, army made their presence just few meters away from us. Scared, we run for our lives,” say the witnesses.

Locals, they said, placed barricades to stop army from entering to this side. In the meantime, more locals joined in and chanted pro-freedom and anti-India slogans.

“But army resorted to heavy firing and injured several people. My brother sustained bullet injury in chest, and he fell on the ground. I was not far from my brother. I rushed to save him but couldn’t do much as the unrestrained firing created mayhem scenes in the village,” says younger brother of Showkat, Mohammad Abbas Yattoo.

While Abbas attempted to remove his brother to a nearby health center and for treatment, a bullet fired by the army pierced his arm wounding him seriously. Both the brothers lay on the ground in bleeding condition.

The due were taken to a hospital but Showkat due to grievous injuries succumbed within hours after being hit by a bullet in chest. Abbas recovered firearm injury only after months of treatment and bedrest.

Hailing from a poor family, Showkat had seen tough times since his childhood. Every day, his

brother says, he dreamt of joyful life and struggled very hard to achieve the one and didn’t succeed till he left to the other world.

Due to bleak financial conditions at home, Showkat couldn’t attend a school and had to start earning even when he was a teenager. He worked as a mechanic before switching over to the current job.

### Victim’s Profile

- Showkat Ahmad Yattoo - 31-year-old plumber
- R/o: Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund
- S/o: Ghulam Hassan Yattoo
- Died on July, 17
- Died due to bullet
- Orphan
- Eight siblings (two dead)
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income of family would be between 70k to 1 lakh
- Family says he was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Witnesses, however, say he was part of the gathering protesting the army action
- Family has registered a case against the alleged killers
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer
- Family claims they didn’t receive cash compensation offered by the government
- Relatives, however, say that the family received a compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

Showkat’s mother died around six months before he fell to a bullet in 2016. The seven siblings including Showkat were yet to recover from that trauma and this new tragedy struck them.

“Before Showkat and our mother, we lost our one more brother few years ago who had a heart

attack and died at very young age. While we are trying to free ourselves from the clutches of miserable poverty, tragedies drag us back to desolate condition,” says the family.

What hurts family more is the indifferent attitude of society which family says, talks high when calamities strike and vanish when victims need them the most.



## Mohammad Ashraf Dar, Halpora, Kokernag, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* Every day in the morning when Zaitoona- a 40-year lady is done with her domestic chorus, she leaves to find some work in her locality that could fetch her few hundred bucks to feed her family of seven.

From domestic helper to walnut peeling to farming, she does everything she gets to arrange two meals a day just like every other man in her village – Halpora, falling in the famous tourist resort, Kokernag in southern district of Islamabad.

Zaitoona is a widow. Her husband, Mohammad Ashraf Dar, was killed during summer agitation of 2016 when he was hit with a bullet while attending his daily work.

“My husband, a laborer, as usual left for work in the morning. Since there was no threat of any disturbance in that area (where Ashraf intended to go) as witnessed in the past, he (Ashraf) told us that it was safe to travel another village (for work) and return without any danger,” wife Zaitoona says, recalling the fate-full morning of July 9, 2016.

### Victim's Profile

- Mohammad Ashraf Dar - 44-year-old
- Laborer
- Married, father of five children
- R/o: Halpora, Kokernag Srinagar
- S/o: Ghulam Hassan Dar
- Died due to bullet
- Died on July 9, 2016
- Father, (ailing, not working)
- Mother already dead
- Three siblings
- Victim and family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income around 36k
- Family says he was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Family has filed a case against the alleged killers at Kokernag police station
- Family has approached a lawyer to pursue the case legally
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer
- Family has accepted the cash compensation offer of Rs 5 lakhs

As soon as Ashraf reached Vailoo chowk, witnesses told Zaitoona, youths were assembling around nearby forces camp in Vailoo to protest against the day before encounter killing Burhan and his two associates.

As per the witnesses and family, enraged youths attacked the forces' camp with stones and bricks. By the time Ashraf could escape to any safer place, fierce clashes erupted between youths and government forces creating chaos all around the locality.

Government forces retaliated by firing bullets at youth leaving around a dozen critically injured, including Ashraf who sustained bullet injuries in head. Amid chaos and mayhem, injured including Dar were removed to district hospital Anantnag.

While others survived the critical wounds, Ashraf lost his battle even before being admitted to the hospital. “He was brought dead to the hospital” doctors told the relatives and Ashraf's family.

The absence of sole bread earner has made the struggle of poverty-stricken family even tougher with a single woman out to sustain livelihood of six family members.

Zaitoona doesn't know how a particular work is normally done as she hasn't any such experience in the past except the domestic work, but she commits to stand any and every challenge she faces in life.



“My husband wouldn’t let me work outside my house. All he would stress on was that I should take good care of our children,” she says, peeling off walnuts at one of her neighbors. It will fetch her 300 bucks and she is expected to work till the evening.

Back home situated on the hilly areas of Halpora, Zaitoona has her eldest disabled son, Adil- a 16-year-old, and ailing father-in-law to take care of. She takes a little break in between the work and enquires about the well-being of both of them.

Zaitoona is not sure whether her other four children, all of them minors, would get any good education. “I fear for their dark future. My husband wanted them to study and achieve something better and not to become like their father- a labor struggling every day to arrange day’s meal,” desolated mother says.



## Fayaz Ahmad Waza, 28, Nikloora, Litter, Pulwama

*Pulwama:* With a bunch of firewood on his shoulders, Mohammad Shaban Waza makes his way into a traditional bakery shop, owned, and run by him, in Nikloora, in southern Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Inside the messy shop, one of Waza's sons, Adil Ahmad, is busy in making round balls of flour to prepare traditional bread called 'tchochwor' for evening salt tea for the daily customers in his locality.

A glance into Waza's normal behavior would tell one that he is like any another person in his locality but behind his pretension of 'looking normal', the shattered father hides the pain and trauma of his son's killing in 2016 agitation.

He usually tends to avoid any discussion about his son's killing as he doesn't want the painful memories to come back and haunt the poor and already traumatized family. He doesn't even blame anyone for his son's killing.

"We don't want to recall how and what happened then. It was destined for him (Fayaz) to live a short life. Why to scratch old wounds now," the visibly distressed Waza says, struggling hard to control his deep emotions so that he doesn't break down.

Waza's son, Fayaz Ahmad Waza was killed by government forces in 2016 summer agitation when the Nikloora locality witnessed heavy clashes post-Burhan encounter.

As per the family, Fayaz was at home on July 10, 2016, when clashes erupted in the locality. Witnesses say that locals after having lunch, assembled, and intended to march towards Nikloora Bridge in procession.

Government forces had already sealed off Nikloora bridge to prevent people who wanted to join people in nearby areas, from crossing to the other side. The youths pelted forces with stones to protest the blockade.

The parents of Fayaz worried about their son, Adil Ahmad who they feared might have indulged in stone-pelting, and they told Fayaz to go out and enquire about him.

### Victim's Profile

- Fayaz Ahmad Waza - 32-year-old
- Bandsaw machine operator
- Married, one child (2-month old son)
- Left studies when he was in 10th
- R/o: Nikloora, Litter, Pulwama
- S/o: Mohammad Shaban Waza
- Died on July 10, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, baker
- Mother, housewife
- Five siblings
- Victim or family had no militant and political affiliations
- Family belongs to a poor income group
- Annual income would be under 70k
- Victim was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Victim was earning 7k per month
- Family has lodged a case against the alleged killers
- Family hasn't approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached family with compensation offer
- Family accepted the cash compensation offer of Rs 5 lakh

"When stone-pelting turned intense, government forces resorted to teargas shelling, pellet and bullet firing that left several youths injured," say witnesses' part of the protest then.

Fayaz had just arrived near the spot, they say,

when forces fired pellets and bullets to scatter the stone-pelting youth. “He was looking for his younger brother (Adil) who was not part of the protest that day,” say the witnesses.

Three among the several injured including Fayaz received critical bullet injuries and were rushed to nearby health centers for immediate treatment. Fayaz was hit by a bullet in his private part and within hours succumbed to his injuries.

Operating a bandsaw machine at a factory in nearby Lassipora, Fayaz would leave early in the morning and come back late in the evening knowing that it was the means to come out of lowly and poverty-stricken life.

Besides, the otherwise miserable life had given Fayaz a big reason to smile - he had become father, just two months before he became victim of forces' firing. He was silenced before he could witness his then two-month-old son, Junaid Ahmad Waza, to speak to him.

Meema, Fayaz's wife, left for her maternal father's home in Arwani along with her son Junaid few months later. She is married to another guy now.

Fayaz would keep a record and pen down every development in his locality as a hobby. From someone's marriage to death to important occasions, Fayaz had a record of everything to share with others and for his memory. Before he could stretch the dairy further, destiny has his name recorded in the dairy.

## Safeer Ahmad Bhat, 21, Charigam, Aishmuqam, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* In a small village called Charigam, in Islamabad's Aishmuqam, a teenaged boy- Safeer Ahmad Bhat- dreamt of working with a multi-national company and to utilize his outside state experience back in his hometown.

### Victim's Profile

- Safeer Ahmad Bhat - 21-year old student Mba student
- R/o: Charigam, Aishmuqam, Islamabad
- S/o: Sanaullah Bhat
- Died on July, 9, 2016
- Died due to drowning and alleged torture
- Father, a farmer
- Mother, a housewife
- Four siblings
- Victim or family had no militant or political affiliations
- Family claims he was not part of any protest and stone-pelting
- Witnesses say victim was part of the protest
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Family tried to lodge an FIR against the alleged killers but police refused to register
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with cash compensation offer Family has accepted the cash offer

Supportive family sent Safeer to Chandigarh for higher studies where he pursued his master's degree in business administration in the year 2015. As it is said that hard work works harder than luck, Safeer appeared in an interview at a well-known engineering firm and got hired even when he was yet to finish the studies.

The firm, based in Chandigarh, approved Safeer's request to let him finish his last semester of his 2-year MBA program and was told to join when he

is done.

In 2016, around a week before Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter, Safeer returned home for a short stay to celebrate Eid festival with his family. Day after the arrival, Safeer along with his brother and few friends went for a trip to Ladakh. They returned on the morning of Eid.

Safeer would often pay a visit to his maternal aunt's home which is at a walking distance whenever he had free time at home, and on July 8, 2016, he insisted to visit there on which his father agreed to visit but the next day.

As per the family, Safeer, a 21-year-old, left for his aunt's home in the morning of July 9, 2016, day after the Burhan was killed. Safeer's Father, Sanaullah Bhat, a farmer, had volunteered for the construction work of a new mosque in their locality.

Around 11 in the morning, when Bhat was having tea at home, his brother rushed to him and cried: "We are ruined. Calamity has befallen us". Bhat's brother was referring to reports about their son's death.

As Bhat could figure out as to what has happened, a procession carrying Safeer's body made its way towards Bhat's home amid heavy sloganeering in favor of freedom. Stunned, Bhat couldn't even muster courage to give a look at his hope of life, the dead body of his son.

As per the eyewitnesses, a pro-freedom rally, comprising mostly youths, was organized in Charigam to protest the militant killings in Islamabad the previous day. The angry youths, they said, marched towards the 'langar' (community kitchen for yatris) and hurled nearby stationed forces with stones.

The forces retaliated with tear smoke shells to scatter the protesting youths in which, they said, few youths sustained minor injuries. The road the youths were protesting on has a wide stream

flowing in its one side.

“When forces chased protesting youths, many among them jumped into the stream to escape from being caught by the police. Safeer was one among them. When police saw them escaping via stream, they (police) hurled stones at youths sustaining injuries to few including the slain Safeer,” say group of youth, witness to the incident.

Due to heavy flow of water in stream during summers, they said, it might be because of that reason also that Safeer couldn't maintain his balance and failed to cross over to the other side. “Otherwise, he like others who successfully crossed over knew the art of swimming,” they said.

Family, however, alleges that some of the eyewitnesses told them that the police initially caught Safeer and thrashed him brutally before “deliberately throwing Safeer into the stream”.

“His (Safeer's) head bore torture remarks. He could've easily crossed over but couldn't as police torture had made him nearly unconscious,” says the father.

Bhat did hard to lodge a case against the alleged killers, the forces that were on duty then, but police refused to do so. At police station Aishmuqam, the family was told to leave and that the police will file an FIR of their own.

In their statement, police said that the gathering of youth had attacked ITBP road opening party and police party Aishmuqam near Ganeshpora on July, 9, 2016.

“The police resorted to lathi-charge and chased away the miscreants. A 23 year old, Safeer Ahmad Bhat S/o Sana-ullah Bhat R/o Cherigam, Pahalgam while running away slipped into a nearby stream and drowned. The dead body had no mark of fire arm injury or violence (on his body),” it said.

Safeer was buried so were his dreams. The family that was expecting Safeer to bring honors knew

little that the same would be their reason of eternal mourning. The walls of Bhat's house look deserted more than ever. “It's hard to forget easily the one which is dearest of all in the family,” says the grieved father.

## Shahnawaz Ahmad Khatana, 23, Dadoo, Marhama, Sangam, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* “I am going to offer Juma Namaz (Friday congregational prayer) at Sangam (in Islamabad) today. If a pro-freedom rally is organized, I will participate in it. If I come back then good, if not, consider that your son has been martyred for the cause of Islam and fight against injustice,” these heavy and painful words from son’s mouth left a mother shell- shocked and guessing how and with what to respond to his son’s possible final departure.

The mother wept, cried and pleaded his son to revert his decision of leaving his family in middle of the road but son was adamant as he had committed to himself that “fighting and sacrificing his life” is now the final goal that he wishes to fulfill in his remaining life.

“That morning moment still haunts me. I wish I had tried more to stop him from going to Sangam that day, he might have been alive today,” mother says, recalling that fateful morning when her son left for eternal journey.

This devoted freedom lover was Shahnawaz Ahmad Khatana, a 23-year old farmer, from Dadoo village in Marhama of Sangam, in south Kashmir’s Islamabad district. Khatana comes from the Gujjar tribe, the otherwise considered less active tribe in pro-freedom struggle of Kashmir.

As per the witnesses and family, a pro-freedom rally was carried after Friday congregational prayers at Sangam, Islamabad against the unabated civilian killings following the July encounter on August, 26, 2016.

“Government forces intercepted the rally near Sangam Bridge and fired tear smoke canisters to disperse off the protesters. When forces chased the participants and attempted to nab few of them, many protesters, mostly youth, jumped into the river Jhelum to escape from being caught by the forces,” said the witnesses.

Khatana, they said, was one among them.

“Khatana didn’t know swimming but still jumped knowing that if he is caught, police torture will be brutal. Since the gap between two banks of Jhelum is too wide and over this the heavy flow of water, Khatana couldn’t balance himself to cross over and drowned,” they said.

### Victim’s Profile

- Shahnawaz Ahmad Khatana
- 23-year old
- Farmer by profession
- Married, one child (3-year old son)
- Left studies when he was in class 6
- S/o: Iqbal Ahmad Khatana
- R/o: Dadoo, Marhama, Sangam, Islamabad
- Died on August 26, 2016
- Died due to drowning
- Father, a farmer
- Mother, a house-wife
- Family and witnesses say victim was part of the protest
- Family belongs to an extremely poor class income group
- Annual income around 50k
- Victim would earn around 5k per month
- Family didn’t file any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the family
- Police didn’t share FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached family with any compensation offer

Within few minutes after jumping, Khatana’s signs were nowhere visible in the Jhelum. The rescue launched by locals and police took hours and the body couldn’t be found even till the late evening.

It was only in the morning the next day that the body was fished out by the police. Instead of lively

Khatana with dazzling smile and pumped up with aspirations, family was handed over his discolored and swelled body.

The younger brother of Khatana, says that he had deep inclination towards pro-freedom movement in Kashmir. "He would occasionally join and participate in pro-freedom rallies in nearby areas. The civilian killings (during summer agitation of 2016) had upset him deeply and that was possibly the main reason he resorted to extreme step," says his younger brother.

Otherwise, the brother says, he was recently married and had a year-old son then, Shahzad, born as well. "Moreover, his life both-pre and post-married, was going very well. This sudden and painful decision was a shocker for all of us," he says.

While Khatana achieved what he wished, back home, he left his 22-year old widow, Tahira and then a year-old son, Shahzad, to grieve, mourn and fend for themselves.

"Though we won't lament his sacrifice but without him there is little in life to be hopeful of and to live rest of the life. Alone, the struggle in life is painful," widowed wife says, holding the son Shahzad tightly in her lap.



## Zubair Ahmad Bhat, 15, Kathsoo, Sallar, Pahalgam, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* Day after Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations in July, 2016, a 15-year Zubair Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Kathsoo in picturesque tourist spot, Pahalgam, went to Bijbehara for a week's stay at his aunt's house.

Zubair would found aunt's house the second home and would often visit them whenever he had time from studies and cricket. Around 20 kilometres away from his house, Zubair had developed a good friend circle in Bijbehara town in southern Kashmir's Islamabad district.

### Victim's Profile

- Zubair Ahmad Bhat - 15-year old
- Class 9th student
- R/o: Kathsoo, Sallar Pahalgam
- S/o: Ghulam Qadir Bhat
- Died on July, 12, 2016
- Died of drowning
- Father, a carpenter by profession
- Mother, housewife
- Three siblings
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income of family is under 1 lakh
- Witnesses say he was part of the stone-pelting, family doesn't know anything
- Family didn't file any case against the alleged killers
- Family didn't approach any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation offer

The day of July, 8, 2016, was well spent for Zubair with his friends. They played, enjoyed and

laughed together but only until that fateful evening that triggered the massive popular uprising following the killing of three militants including Burhan in the same district.

The boy planned to go back to his native village but volatile conditions and severe restrictions made it somewhat impossible for him. He stayed there at aunt's house till July, 12, the day he left for heavenly abode.

Zubair died of drowning when, as per the witnesses and relatives, a group of youths including Zubair that were assembled on main road Bijbehara, jumped into river Jhelum after being chased by the government forces.

The witnesses say that boys that jumped into the Jhelum were panicked after a police vehicle running at a very high speed advanced towards them seemingly to chase them off or possibly caught few of them.

"They (boys) pelted forces' vehicle with stones but due to less in number, they could have been easily overpowered and caught by forces. To avoid that, they (youths including Zubair) jumped into the river to cross over to the other side," say the witnesses.

While all the boys crossed over to the other side successfully, Zubair lagged behind. He tried hard to swim and cross over but his strength exhausted. The moment youths realized this minor boy failed to cross over, Zubair had loss his fight to death.

Back home, Bhat family waited for early and safe comeback of Zubair as "war-like" situation in Valley then, particularly in south Kashmir had already made them apprehensive about his safety.

Little did the family know that this wait is going to be everlasting and the comeback of Zubair will haunt them for life. The life of the 15-year old cricket lover came to an end at when he had just stepped outside.

Zubair, eldest among the three siblings, was the 9th standard student. Among all, he was passionate about cricket and would spend much of his free time playing it outside his house and nearby fields.

Father of Zubair, Ghulam Qadir Bhat, a carpenter by profession, repeats that his son's death was written already in his fate apparently to dispel painful thoughts to emerge and haunt his family of four.

"It's very painful. But I believe that it was already written in his fate. What enrages me inside is that he was killed by occupational forces" says the father.

His faith on judicial system has vanished much before he needed it to get justice for his son's killing. For him, the entire existing justice system is "controlled by the ones who chased his son to death" and that expecting justice from it is like "living in a wishful thinking".



## Yawar Mushtaq Dar, 19, Betengoo, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* At noon, on September 10, 2016, Yawar Mushtaq Dar, a 19-year old boy from Batengoo village in Islamabad, told his mother that he is feeling hungry and requested for lunch, a little earlier than the usual time.

While mother followed, son changed his mind and decided to take a bath first. Yawar loved 'haakh' Kashmir specific vegetable, and before going for bath, he told mother to prepare it for him as it had been long since he had tasted his favorite vegetable.

After coming out, Yawar put on new clothes and had a rest for a moment till lunch was being prepared in the kitchen. The moment his mother started serving lunch, screams from outside broke the cheerful conversation between mother and the son.

The government forces had raided the Batengoo village and had started vandalizing property in the village. Terrified, locals rushed for their safety which created chaos in the locality. Yawar, leaving the meals untouched, stood up and went outside to enquire.

Despite insistence by his mother to stay inside and have the lunch, Yawar didn't listen and left for outside. "I don't know what is written in my fate, but I will be going out," he told his mother before leaving the house.

As per the witnesses, Yawar who was heading his home back after forces were leaving the village was caught by two policemen that had laid a trap to nab few youths.

Policemen, that family identified as Gowhar and Liyaqat, caught-hold of Yawar and one more local boy and beat them up mercilessly. "Yawar was dragged by policemen and thrashed severely on the road," says the family.

Witnesses told family that Yawar was crying and pleading policemen to take him to police station and not beat him. "But policemen didn't listen

and continued thrashing him and trampled him underfoot," witnesses said.

It was there that whole cartridge of pellets was pumped into the body of Yawar by same policemen and left him profusely bleeding on the road.

### Victim's Profile

- Yawar Mushtaq Dar - 19-years old
- Left studies when in class 9th
- Worked with a mechanical workshop shop
- R/o: Batengoo, Islamabad
- S/o: Mushtaq Ahmad Dar
- Died on September, 10, 2016
- Died due to pellets
- Father, watchman at Dak Bungalow
- Mother, a house-wife
- Four siblings
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be around 70k
- Family says he was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Family didn't file any case against the alleged killers
- Family didn't approach any court of law or a legal body
- Hurriyat representatives promised them that they will fight their case and even lodge FIR against the killers on their behalf but nothing happened
- Police has filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Government approached the family with compensation offer, family refused to accept

"He (Yawar) was crying for help but nobody dared to come out to rescue him as forces had raided the village with an intention to kill. He was recalling his mother and crying that someone inform his mother," family was told later when forces left the

village.

For several minutes after Yawar was shot with pellets, witnesses said, forces didn't let people to take him to the hospital despite attempts by locals to reach close to his body resulting into blood-loss to the body.

"It was only after forces sensed trouble and left the spot, locals rushed to his rescue and took him to district hospital Anantnag," said the witnesses. Doctors at the hospital declared Yawar as brought dead. He had multiple pellet injuries in abdomen and chest.

Police has, however, claimed that Yawar was involved in stone-pelting and in an incident where a school building was set on fire, the claim refused by the family. "The building caught fire after a teargas shell fired by forces landed inside the structure," they said.

Yawar had left studies when he was in class 9, and joined a local automobile workshop to stabilize his family's bleak financial conditions. He had visited the workplace the day he was killed.

His few thousand's support to family had shown some recovery signs from miserable financial conditions but after sudden departure, family is now again back to the distressful life of living.

Despite hardships, family refused a cash compensation offer from the government believing that doing so will amount to trade off blood of their son in exchange for money.

"My that son (Yawar) once told me that if any of her sons got martyred for the cause of Kashmir, don't sell the blood by accepting blood money," ailing mother, Nargisa, said, as she broke down.

## Imtiyaz Ahmad Mandoo, 32, Nandpora, Khanabal, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* Late afternoon on July, 10, 2016, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mandoo had a brief discussion with his sister who along with his another sister was scheduled to get married next month, about wedding preparations.

Imtiyaz, a 32-year-old resident of Nandpora village in Khanabal of southern Kashmir's Islamabad, briefed her sister about arrangements and after they were done with it, he requested her sister to have a cup of salt tea prepared for him. After he had it, he left for local mosque to offer Asr prayers.

### Victim's Profile

- Imtiyaz Ahmad Mandoo - 32-years
- Businessmen
- R/o: Nandpora, Khanabal Islamabad
- S/o: Mohammad Shafi Mandoo
- Died on July, 10, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, a sumo driver
- Mother, a house-wife
- Five siblings
- Victim or family had no militant or political affiliations
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income is under 1 lakh
- He was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Family didn't file any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or legal body
- Police has filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police claims Imtiyaz was involved in stone-pelting
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation offer

Outside, youths and government forces were engaged in mild clashes against the encounter in same district a day before that killed Burhan and

his two associates.

Imtiyaz while coming back towards home stopped near a shop-front and metres away from him were youths pelting forces with stones. The forces chased the youths and fired tear- smoke canisters, pellets and bullets indiscriminately at them.

Unaware about developments, local witnesses said, Imtiyaz was caught by a surprise and couldn't escape to anywhere. A bullet fired by forces ripped apart Imtiyaz's abdomen and left him critically injured.

Bleeding on the ground, they alleged, forces didn't allow locals who attempted to lift injured Imtiyaz, to nearby health centre for treatment.

"Later, uncle of Imtiyaz braving continues shelling picked him (Imtiyaz) up and removed him to district hospital Anantnag. He (Imtiyaz), however, succumbed on his way to the hospital," witnesses said.

A year-old married, Imtiyaz was into tent-making business and was the main source of income for his family of seven. With savings from long time, he had finally managed the sum enough to marry off his two sisters.

But little did the Mandoo family know that the tragedy is waiting ahead and would strike the family much before the scheduled joyful event. The grief and sorrow engulfed the otherwise cheerful family.

However, for the family, the bigger tragedy was the unborn baby being orphaned. Gowhara, the wife of Imtiyaz, was two-month pregnant when her husband was killed. She was then at her paternal home in Qazigund.

The wife couldn't even see her husband's face for one last time as forces had laid a strict curfew in the district and didn't allow any civilian movement. Since mobile communication was blocked, few

neighbors and relatives of Imtiyaz made every attempt to inform his wife of the tragedy but couldn't succeed.

"Somehow, we managed to inform her and it was only in the morning that she arrived. But till then, we had laid Imtiyaz to rest in the grave," said the witnesses. Shattered wife couldn't do much except that she wailed over the destiny that made her widow at very young age.

Police claims that Imtiyaz was part of the stone-pelting near Khanabal chowk in Islamabad and was killed in forces firing after they came under heavy stone-pelting attack. The family, rejecting the claim categorically, calls the death of Imtiyaz as a "target killing" by forces.



## Hilal Ahmad Dar, 18, Sofipora, Harnag, Bijbehara, Islamabad

*Srinagar:* Outside at the verandah of an old-fashioned one-storey house in Sofipora, a part of Harnag village in Bijbehara town of Islamabad, lay on a concrete floor an ailing man in 50's, Ali Mohammad Dar.

He is suffering from chest ailments and is bedridden from last couple of years now, exactly since when a tragedy struck Dar and his family in 2016.

Dar is the father of Hilal Ahmad Dar, an 18-year old student, who was killed by government forces on July, 13, 2016, during summer agitation of 2016 when forces shot him dead with a bullet at Harnag locality.

As per the family, Hilal was accompanying his 14-year old brother, Zubair Ahmad Dar who had developed some health complications, to a nearby medical shop in Harnag located on Srinagar-Jammu national highway. Like father, Zubair too is suffering from chest illness for a good time now.

He often bleeds by mouth and develops severe headache. A doctor who is treating Zubair has prescribed an injection for such emergency complications which family followed to cure the Zubair's bad health at and when the need arise.

On the very fateful day, Dar who wasn't feeling well that day told his son, Hilal to accompany Zubair as he was spitting blood. "Since it was the evening time, I thought forces might have left the spot where they're usually stationed and that it will be safe to visit a medical shop," Dar recalls.

Around 5 in the evening, when Hial and his brother cut the distance of around half-a-kilometre and reached close to entrance point linking the locality with Srinagar-Jammu national highway, the duo saw forces still stationed. Nearby to them were a group of youths.

After injecting the prescribed dose, they headed back towards home but not without meeting the 'waiting tragedy'. Recalling the tragic events,

Zubair says that soon they crossed the point where forces had stationed, one trooper hurled abuses at them which infuriated both.

As per the witnesses, there were fierce clashes going-on between government forces and youths at Harnag village when the due brothers were heading back towards their home.

### Victim's Profile

- Hilal Ahmad Dar - 18-years old
- 12th class student
- R/o: Sofipora, Harnag, Bijbehara, Anantnag ...
- S/o: Ali Mohammad Dar
- Died on July, 13, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, a laborer
- Mother, a housewife
- Eight siblings
- Victim was not part of any stone-pelting or protests
- Family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to an extremely lower middle-class income group
- Family has not filed any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation offer

"Scared and hand of his ill brother held tightly, Hilal attempted to cross over to the other side to evade getting caught between stone-pelting clashes. As more youths joined in, clashes intensified," say witnesses.

Government forces resorted to heavy teargas shelling and pellet firing followed by stun grenades and bullet fires. As Hilal engaged into verbal altercation with forces over hurling of



abuses, a bullet fired by one among the stationed solders hit Hilal in the head and he fell on the ground.

Crying and helplessly watching his brother bleeding, Zubair took off his shirt and tried to cover the wound cuts to stop blood oozing out from his brother's body.

The locals rushed in and removed Hilal to district hospital Anantnag. The doctors at the hospital, however, declared Hial as brought dead.

Most bright-minded among the eight siblings, Hilal with a good combination of strong muscles and height was offered a job in army a year and a half ago which he categorically rejected citing his wish to study more.

“He (Hilal) accepting the job offer might have had pulled all of us out of clutches of miserable poverty we are in, but he believed that the job (in army and police) is not a dignified one. He promised us that he would achieve something better than this in future and take us out of this miserable economic living,” ill-fated father recalls.

The hopes of a poverty-free life that the son Hilal once promised to this extremely poor family has vanished with his sudden death and with that the courage of unwell father to bring his family of nine, including six minors, among them four daughters, back on track.

The eldest son of Dar, Mubashir Ahmad, a 22-year-old, is now the only source of income for the entire family who works as a driver and earns few thousand bucks monthly. From this, a sizable income goes to the treatment of Dar fighting the chest infection.

No one has approached the family, neither the government which claimed to have compensated the affected families in 2016 with Rs 5 lakhs cash assistance, nor the people aware about the miserable living of poor family. Not so sure about better future, family takes what life offers to them, often, the despair and hardships.

## Saqib Manzoor Mir, 15, Khundru, Achabal, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* “When two of your family members, your loved ones, die at a very young age, there is a little one could hope for a better or even to live a normal life,” sighing Rameez Manzoor of Khundru, Achabal, in Islamabad says, whose brother, Saqib Manzoor Mir, was killed by government forces in 2016.

### Victim's Profile

- Saqib Manzoor Mir - 15-years old
- Student of class 9th
- R/o: Khundru, Achabal, Islamabad
- S/o: Manzoor Ahmad Mir
- Died on July, 9, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, a mason by profession
- Mother died on February, 28, 2017
- Three siblings
- Family says he wasn't part of protest or stone-pelting, witnesses say he was part of rally
- Victim and family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Family has not lodged any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with compensation offer

Saqib was killed on July, 9, 2016, when forces shot him dead near Achabal police station claiming that the boy was part of gathering that attacked the station in the morning, day after Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter in the same district.

The other jolt that Rameez was talking about was his mother's death barely after around nine months of his brother's killing. “She couldn't bear

the sudden death (of Saqib) and that literally ate her inside which ultimately became the reason for her death,” Rameez says.

A class 9th student, Saqib was academically going very well despite his bad-health from past several years now due to some serious injuries that he sustained in an explosion back in 2007 when he was barely 5.

Few months after Army's 21 Field Ammunition Depot (FAD) at Khundru went-up into flames in 2007, Saqib went to his aunt's house that lives nearby in another village. While he was busy with some work, a live littered shell exploded leaving him critically injured.

Though the Saqib survived injuries but he didn't recover fully. He was advised for check-up on regular intervals by doctors, which he continued till the day he was killed in Achabal.

“That day (when he was killed), he had actually gone for that very health check to Achabal hospital and we don't know when and how he joined that protesting gathering. But for sure, he was going for his routine check-up,” stress Rameez.

Giving the timeline of events, witnesses say that a huge rally was carried out from Shangus area of Islamabad which headed towards Achabal. They were planning to offer in-absentia prayers for slain militants and hold demonstrations against the killings.

The rally passed through several villages including Khundru where Saqib joined it, before reaching Achabal where it was joined by more people and by other smaller rallies from nearby localities.

“It was here actually that the rampant killings started in the (summer) agitation (of 2016). Forces resorted to indiscriminate firing directly at protesters leaving dozens of them injured, many critically,” say witnesses' part of the gathering that day.

After in-absentia funeral prayers, they said, when people were holding demonstrations against the killings, forces intercepted the gathering and fired tear smoke canisters, pellets shots, stun & chilly grenades to disperse off protesting people.

Fierce clashes erupted later between youth and forces. Enraged youths attacked police station Achabal with bricks and stones. The forces shot bullet fires directly at protesting youths.

At around 1pm, Saqib was hit by a bullet in head. He was rushed to Achabal hospital and after initial treatment he was referred to district hospital Anantnag. When he showed no signs of recovery, he was referred to Srinagar for advanced treatment.

However, within hours after admitting him at Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital in Srinagar, Saqib lost the battle with life and succumbed to his injuries the same night.

Remembered as the hero for having won the battle with life when he was just 5, Saqib had taught his entire family a lesson that tough situations can be easily handled, provided, one had courage and will power to fight back.

“For us, he was the symbol of strength and courage. He overcome the challenges and excelled in academics like any other normal boy despite his bad health,” brother says, recalling the moments he shared with Saqib.

For Manzoor Ahmad Mir, their father, who works as a mason, the bigger challenge is to relieve the minds of his two remaining sons of trauma that they had to go through following the death of their brother and mother.

Police in its report claimed that the gathering on which they fired on July, 9, leading to the killing of three civilians including Saqib, had attacked and attempted to set ablaze the police station Achabal, the claim, rejected by the family.

## Amir Bashir Khan, 24, Verinag, Dooru, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* A rally of hundreds, high on emotions, made their way towards famous Mughal garden-Verinag in southern Kashmir's Islamabad, day after the encounter on July, 8, 2016, to protest the militant killings.

Amid high-pitched slogans in favor of freedom of Kashmir and against India, two brothers, Adil Bashir and Amir Bashir who live nearby, joined the rally to express their resentment against the operation.

Adil, the elder brother, warned Amir to not enter the garden as he sensed some "forthcoming trouble". Amir

stepped out of rally and stayed outside the garden while demonstrations were being held inside.

Amir, however, couldn't resist the emotions and joined the gathering again. When people were almost done with peaceful demonstrations, some angry youth attacked a nearby forces camp located on the right side of the garden.

Youths hurled stones and bricks at the camp and in response to that, forces fired tear smoke-canisters, pellets shots and chilly & stun grenades to disperse off the stone-pelting youths. The forces firing only intensified the stone-pelting clashes.

Amid this chaos, Adil's eyes caught sight of his younger brother Amir who had got stuck in clashes between youths and government forces and was suffocating due to smoke. He wanted Amir to escape to a safe spot but Amir couldn't find one.

He rushed to him but was stunned when he was around fifty metres away from his brother. From a distance, he saw blood drop coming out of body of his brother and he falling on the ground.

"I couldn't understand what happened then. My brother was in front of my eyes and my eyes were on him while I was rushing to take him out of the

garden. And suddenly, a bullet fired from the camp pierced my brother's heart and he fell on the ground," Adil recalls the fateful and last moments of his younger brother Amir.

### Victim's Profile

- Amir Bashir Khan - 24-years old
- Civil engineer
- R/o: Verinag, Islamabad
- S/o: Bashir Ahmad Khan
- Died on July, 9, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, a retired government employee
- Mother, a house-wife
- Four siblings
- Victims was part of the protest, say witnesses, family refuses
- Family or victim had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to an upper middle-class income group
- Family has not filed any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has registered a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer
- Family has accepted the cash compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

Numbed and shocked, Adil cried seeing his brother not uttering a word. With the help of others, he removed Amir to sub-district hospital Dooru but, says, Amir succumbed on his way to the hospital.

A civil engineer by profession, Amir was working with a private firm dealing with construction works. He, however, was to leave for New Zealand to live with his one of the relatives settled there and to join a private firm as a civil engineer.

“We were waiting for passport and Visa formalities to complete. He was almost hired by the firm (in New Zealand) and there was little documental process to complete,” says the brother, revealing the future plans made by Amir.

Before switching over to a local private firm, Amir taught at a private school in Dooru, where his students remember the slain boy as an “icon and helpful teacher”.

Amir often contributed a sizable income of his salary, his brother says, to needy students for the purpose to buy stationary items and other academic material for them. “We were happy with his that gesture and not even for once have we objected to it, despite our financial conditions not being very good,” say the brother.

The killing of Amir had a deep mark on the life of his best friend, Asif Malik from Khahgund, Dooru, who after few months later joined the militant ranks. “They both had a deep bond between them,” Adil says.

Asif joined the militant outfit, Lashkar-i-Toiba, in September, 2017, and became its commander within a year. A year later, however, he too was killed in an encounter in a Dooru locality. An army soldier was also killed in the encounter.

Police in its defense said that the gathering, the Amir was part of, attacked the forces camp and in retaliation, forces fired bullet shots in which Amir got killed. The family, however, claims that the slain boy was not involved in any stone-pelting but was just a spectator.

## Basit Mukhtar Bhat, 13, Dalipora, Pulwama

*Pulwama:* One morning in September during summer uprising of 2016, Basit Mukhtar Bhat, 13-year old boy, called his local friends including classmates in Dalipora locality in district Pulwama where he lives to assemble at a mosque-lawn turned cricket ground for a friendly match.

It was the 70th day of raging anti-India uprising triggered by the Bamdoora encounter. Though, the curbs that were imposed shortly after the encounter continued across Kashmir, tightly in southern districts, the forces were a little lenient in essential and public moment.

### Victim's Profile

- Basit Mukhtar Bhat - 13-years old
- Class 7th student
- R/o: Dalipora, Pulwama
- S/o: Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat
- Got injured on September, 5, 2016
- Died on September, 15, 2016
- Died due to teargas shell
- Father died in 2013
- Mother, a house-wife
- Two siblings
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income is 70k
- Family claims Basit was not part of any stone-pelting or protest, witnesses say, he was
- Family didn't file any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared the FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer
- Family has accepted the cash compensation of Rs 5 lakhs

"That, perhaps, was the main reason they were meeting to play a cricket match to release their mental stress that had probably accumulated due to unabated killings and strict restrictions (in Valley following the encounter)," Majid Bhat, the elder brother says, talking about the events that led to the killing of his younger brother, Basit, on September, 5, 2016.

For the entire day on September, 5, 2016, witnesses and family says, Basit, a 7th standard student, along with his friends played cricket at the mosque lawns. When they were finished with the game and were planning to leave for home, they promised with each other to meet very soon or, perhaps, tomorrow again.

The moment they left the mosque-lawns, forces that remained stationed during daytime at Sirnoo Chowk in Pulwama which is close to playground were also preparing to leave the spot. Waiting for curbs to be lifted and forces to leave the square, a group of local youths, however, were ready on the other side to pelt the forces' party with stones and bricks.

Within the seconds, the teargas shells, pellet fires, stun & chilly grenades turned the square like a battle ground as heavy stone-pelting clashes erupted at the spot between youths and stationed forces.

As per the witnesses, Basit also joined the gathering that amid heavy sloganeering in favor of freedom and against India, pelted forces with stones. After intense shelling, youths took shelters behind walls and other structures around the square.

"Basit took shelter in a by-lane which was very close to spot from where forces were firing teargas and pellet fires. He was repeatedly peeping through a corner of a structure. A soldier tracked his moments and kept a teargas fire ready to be shot directly at him," say the eye- witnesses.

A little later, forces tricked him and went out of



his sight by taking shelter on one side of the road. “As soon as Basit came out of by-lane to check the forces position, the same soldier quickly appeared on the road and shot Basit with a teargas fire that tossed him on the ground,” say the witnesses.

Profusely bleeding, youths rushed Basit to district hospital Pulwama where from after initial treatment, he was referred to Srinagar due to severity of his injuries.

At Srinagar’s Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS), Basit remained in trauma ward for two days before he was shifted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital. After battling life for around ten days, Basit succumbed to his injuries on September, 15, 2016.

An orphan, Basit and his elder brother were facing with tough time that they had to witness after their father, Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat, died in 2013. While Majid, the elder brother had to leave education midway and earn to sustain his family of three, Basit had to battle the trauma of sudden departure of his father.

Even though Basit was just 10-year old at the time of his father’s death, brother says, he maintained a good balance between his education and his personal life and didn’t let distressful moments to eclipse the academic performance.

In their statement, police said that the slain boy was part of stone-pelting’ gathering that attacked police party and in ensuing clashes he was hit by a teargas shell and got killed.

Family, on the other hand, claims that the boy was playing cricket and was returning to home in the evening, alleging police with ‘target-killing’ of Basit.

Between allegations and counter-allegations, however, remains the plain reality that once-happy family of four, the mother son duo has to bear the brunt of time and live their rest of the life without their two loved ones around



## **Irfan Ahmad Malik, 15, Urwan, Newa, Pulwama**

*Pulwama:* After assisting father at his traditional baking shop during morning hours in the nearby village on July, 10, 2016, Irfan Ahmad Malik, a 15-year old student, left for his house which is barely a kilometre away in a small hamlet, called Urwan, falling in Newa area of southern Pulwama district.

With few traditional bread pieces, locally referred as tchot, in hand, Irfan was caught by a surprise on his way towards the home when a forces' convoy made their sudden entry through Urwan village on July, 10, 2016.

Recalling the timeline of events, witnesses say that the locals in Urwan, mostly youths, that were charged with emotions and anger following the July encounter and subsequent civilian killings were already on roads preparing to hold the peaceful demonstrations against the militant & civilian killings.

The sudden and unexpected entry of forces' vehicles, they said, angered the locals further and they pelted their vehicles with stones amid sloganeering in favor of freedom of Kashmir and against India.

"They (forces) stopped the vehicles and came out with firing bullets. The firing created scenes of mayhem at the spot and all of us ran for our lives. A few minutes later, we saw Irfan lying on the ground with blood oozing out of his head," say the witnesses.

A local witness, who wished not to be named, saw Irfan taking shelter behind a walnut tree when forces were firing bullets indiscriminately. Terrified, he said, Irfan attempted to rush to a safer spot to avoid getting hurt in firing.

"But the moment he was visible to forces, he was target fired and shot dead in head by a soldier of that same convoy. The bullet bounced him on the floor," says the witness.

Sensing the trouble, forces quickly left the spot to avoid the wrath of angry locals. Almost dead, Irfan

was rushed to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital in Srinagar, where he was declared dead on arrival.

"The entire tragedy happened in less than an hour. The otherwise avoidable killing revealed to us that the forces fired at locals with an intention to kill and not to disperse off the stone-pelting youths, as they claim," says the brother of slain boy, Younis Ahmad Malik, refuting that his brother was part of any protest or stone-pelting.

### **Victim's Profile**

- Irfan Ahmad Malik - 15-year old
- Class 9th student
- R/o: Urwan, Newa Pulwama
- S/o: Manzoor Ahmad Malik
- Died on July, 10, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Father, left baker's job, now, a laborer
- Mother, a house-wife
- Victim and family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family claims he was not part of stone-pelting or clashes, witnesses, however, say he present at the spot, nobody saw him pelting stones at forces
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be around 70k
- Family has not filed any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with cash compensation offer
- Family has accepted the cash compensation offer

Younger among the three siblings, Irfan lived his life at his will. His family would often tell him to just focus on his studies and nothing else but

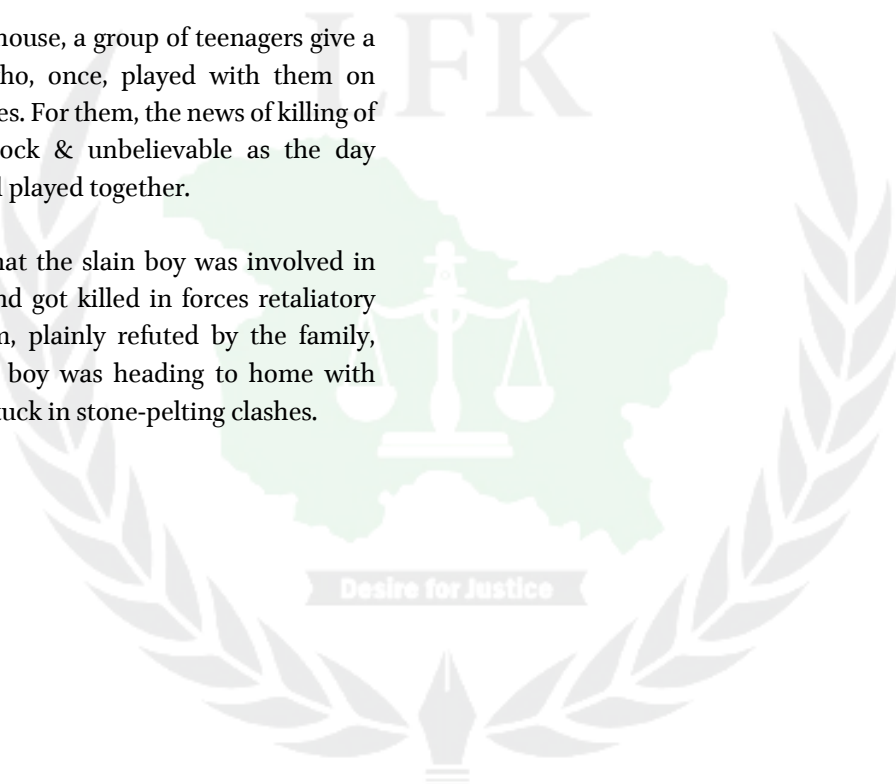
despite that, he would voluntarily assist the father at his baking shop during the morning hours.

The reason that entire Urwan locality is mourning the boy's killing is that, villagers say, he was boy with "clean record and killed as innocent".

"Have had he attacked the forces with bullets and knives, we might have had no objections then. For the sake of arguments, even if he raised slogans or pelted a stone or two at forces' vehicles, which witnesses say he didn't, how does it make logic to shoot a child dead with a bullet in response to it," question the elders in Urwan locality.

Outside Irfan's house, a group of teenagers give a miss to him who, once, played with them on nearby hill-slopes. For them, the news of killing of Irfan was a shock & unbelievable as the day before, they had played together.

Police claims that the slain boy was involved in stone-pelting and got killed in forces retaliatory firing, the claim, plainly refuted by the family, saying that the boy was heading to home with bread and got stuck in stone-pelting clashes.



## **Zahoor Ahmad Mantoo, 25, Kisrigam, Kakapora, Pulwama**

*Pulwama:* With her left hand fractured and swathed with bandage, Rehtie, an ailing old lady in her late 60's, makes her way to a nearby shopkeeper to buy some stuff for the family. Her fractured hand pains a lot and there is no one to help her to carry the bought stuff. But anyhow, she has to do it and alone.

It's not the first time that Rehtie has to go through such tough situations but she has been facing them since past many years now, especially when her husband, Sanaullah Mantoo, left for heavenly abode some 13 years ago.

After her husband's death, she single-handedly raised her seven children, one among them a disabled, and secured a basic education for some of them. Due to financial instability, all the children had to leave their studies midway to either support mother in family chorus or to earn some thousand bucks and arrange two meals a day.

Zahoor Ahmad Mantoo who left the studies after clearing class 10th exams, was the most literate person in the family of eight. At a local bandsaw machine, he got the job of a woodcutter and served as the main source of income for his family, sacrificing his wish to go for higher studies.

In the meanwhile, Zahoor's brother, Irfan Ahmad became a mason and contributed to the family income. For a brief period, Mantoo family had some joyful moments while their daughters were married off except one.

The bleak financial conditions were recovering. Rehtie who kept on dreaming of poverty-free and contented life, had all praises for her hard-working and obedient sons. Everything went on well but until one fate morning.

Day after Burhan's encounter, Zahoor after his dawn prayers told his mother: "Our three brothers have attained martyrdom (in Kokernag) and it's now my religious obligation to offer funeral prayers to them. Allow me to participate in their

last rites".

"The worst is coming", Rehtie feared as situation took an ugly turn overnight after the encounter. Throughout the night people from several districts were rushing towards Tral, the Burhan's hometown to pay last tributes to slain militants.

The mother resisted son's what she calls the "emotional outburst" citing forces crackdown on mourners but to no avail. Zahoor remained adamant on his demand and around 6 in the morning, he left for the volatile Tral.

Zahoor persuaded mother that he will go to Tral and will extend an invitation to his elder sister and her husband who coincidentally lived in Tral on the occasion of Eid.

He was not alone. As he stepped outside, there were small gatherings of locals already rushing towards Tral town. He joined and marched with one gathering.

At Awantipora in Pulwama, witnesses and family say, contingents of forces were already deployed to block the mourners' gatherings or any other public moment towards Tral. Stationed forces intercepted the march and attacked it with teargas shells, pellet fires and stun & pepper grenades.

While participants rushed for safety, witnesses say, few of them, however, fell to the hands of forces and were brutally assaulted by them. Zahoor was one among them.

"Zahoor was hit by a teargas shell in leg and he couldn't escape from the spot. Soldiers caught hold of him and ruthlessly beat him up. Later, nobody knew what happened to (Zahoor)," witnesses told the family a day later.

When till late evening that day, Zahoor didn't answer to phone calls made by family and return to home, anxious family went out to look for their son. They searched and contacted their relatives

and the places wherever they believed he might be, but he was nowhere.

Helpless, family lodged a missing report at police station Kakapora in a hope that they get some information from police about their son. "Police denied that they caught or beat-up Zahoor and registered a missing report," says the family.

### Victim's Profile

- Zahoor Ahmad Mantoo - 25-year old
- 10th pass
- Wood-cutter operator
- R/o: Kisrigam, Kakapora, Pulwama
- S/o: Sanaullah Mantoo
- Injured/drowned on July, 9, 2016
- Body found from river Jhelum on July, 13, 2016
- Father died 13 years ago
- Mother, house-wife
- Seven siblings (one disabled)
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to an extremely lower middle-class income group
- Annual income would be around 50k
- Family tried to lodge FIR against the alleged killers but police refused
- Family didn't approach any court of law or a legal body
- Police filed the case in connection with the incident
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with any compensation offer

After four days of hopeless efforts, family received a call from police informing them that a body has been fished out from river Jhelum and directed them to appear at local police station for identification.

"At first, we couldn't recognize him as his body bore bruises and torture remarks. His leg, head and arm had injury marks indicating that he was tortured by forces before pushing him to river Jhelum," says Irfan Ahmad, brother of slain Zahoor.

Family says that they tried to lodge a murder case against the alleged persons but police refused to register FIR claiming that the Zahoor died of drowning. "Zahoor had few documents and few currency notes in his pocket which were fresh when we retrieved them from his pocket. It was clearly a murder and not any case of drowning," alleges the family.

After some gain towards a poverty-free life, Mantoo family has now again been pushed to a miserable living after their main bread-earner died a mysterious death. At the age and with bad health when the old lady should have had been relaxing, she is working and carrying the household chorus.

More than the income, family says, they miss the lessons that Zahoor often taught his sisters and mother about the worldly life and hereafter. "Earn good deeds as it is everything what life is meant for. It's the success and main achievement here, results of which will be given in life hereafter," Zahoor often advised his family.

A police statement in connection with the incident said: "A 30 year old Zahoor Ahmed Mantoo S/o Sona-ullah Muntoo R/o Kisrigam, Pulwama had as per reports gone to his relative's house to attend a function on 7th July. The dead body of Zahoor Ahmed Mantoo was recovered from Jhelum by civilians near Jowbrara, Awantipora on 13th July".

The statement said that "there was no law & order incident in the vicinity" during the said period and the medical opinion also confirmed "death due to drowning and there were no marks of fire arm injury on his body".

## Syeda Banu, 62, Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* In the evening on July, 18, 2016, when Syeda Banu, an aged lady from Churrath village of Devsar, in Qazigund area of Islamabad, was having salt tea with her family, loud yells and screams from outside caught her attention and she glanced through the window.

Outside, she saw panicked people rushing towards main road where she sensed of some untoward incident. She told her 24-year old daughter, Noor Jehan, who was also with her at home, that she is going outside to enquire about what has happened.

“Initially, it didn’t look so scary and that’s why I didn’t stop her (Syeda Banu). But when the outside noise intensified, it worried me and I went out to look for her,” traumatized daughter says, narrating the last moments that she had with her mother Syeda, who was shot dead by government forces few dozen metres away her house on July, 18 evening.

As per the witnesses and family, an hour before tragic incident that led to the killing of Syeda and two others, army had raided a nearby village, called Khargund, and vandalized the private property besides, beating number of locals and detaining few of them.

The news of forces’ raid spread in nearby localities and people rushed towards Khargund village to rescue detained youths. “Locals held demonstrations and demanded that detained be released immediately,” say the witnesses that were part of the protest then.

Sensing the forth-coming trouble, army succumbed to protesting people’s demand and released the youths. Later, they say, people scattered off peacefully and army left the spot.

As soon as contingents of forces that wreaked havoc in Khargund village left, the forces again arrived in Churrath village where they had to face a huge gathering that had assembled on main road to protest the “forces’ highhandedness” in

Khargund village.

The demonstrators also include women, children and old, who had collectively hit the roads after announcements were made on loudspeakers in local mosque, asking all to gather on road and hold demonstrations. Banu also participated in the gathering.

### Victim’s Profile

- Syeda Banu - 62-years old
- House-wife
- R/o: Churrath, Devsar, Qazigund, Islamabad
- D/o: Ghulam Mohammad Lone
- W/o: Ghulam Hassan Mir, laborer
- Died on July, 18, 2016
- Died due to bullet
- Mother of five (elder one is 40)
- Victim or family had no political or militant affiliations
- Victim was part of the protest
- Family belongs to a lower middle-class income group
- Family has not filed any case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any legal body or court of law
- Police has filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer, family refused

A group of angry youths that were close to blockades put-up by them started pelting forces’ vehicles with stones and bricks. “They wanted forces to retreat back towards where from they’d come,” say the witnesses.

Moments later, few of the army men came out of their bullet-proof vehicles and pointed the barrels of their guns towards the gathering. “We thought they’re doing it to scare us, besides, there was no reason that they will rain bullets on us,” recall the witnesses.

However, little did the demonstrators know that in next few seconds, they will witness a massacre of three civilians and critical injuries to around eight locals. In just one minute, witnesses say, forces fired dozens of rounds of bullets and left 11 souls bleeding on road before leaving the spot.

“Two among the eleven including Banu had almost an on-spot death. We attempted to remove her and others to a health centre in Qazigund but she died on her way to the hospital,” says Banu’s son, Ashiq Hussain Mir.

When Banu was hit by a bullet and she fell on the ground, terrified daughter Jehan amid rain of bullet fires, rushed to pick her mother up and admit her to nearby hospital.

“When I grabbed my injured mother, a bullet hit my hand and I too fell on the ground. While we mother-daughter were bleeding on road, all I could hear was the loud shrieks and banging sound of bullets,” recounts the daughter.

It took Jehan several months to recover from bullet injury in her hand but she is devastated inside. After months, she couldn’t find a way to come out of the trauma that she had to go through on that fateful day.

Banu had lived her short life and she was not keeping a good health now. Perhaps, a peaceful death was imminent. But for the family, especially for her daughter, Banu’s sudden departure has shattered all of them.

Three days after the incident, government ordered a magisterial probe into the killing of three civilians and asked the inquiry officer to submit his report with 15 days.

Army which justified the killings by claiming that few of the youths tried to snatch weapons forcing them to fire also ordered an inquiry into the incident.



## Basit Ahmad Ahangar, 20, Vessu, Qazigund, Islamabad

*Islamabad:* Afternoon on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, Ghulam Mohiuddin Ahangar, a laborer, took his 20-year old son, Basit Ahmad Ahangar along with him to their nearby apple orchard to deal year's apple harvest with a local trader.

The deal couldn't be done as the buyer was offering very less amount than the Ahangar family would usually get from the year's harvest. Late afternoon, father-son duo proceeded back to house.

### Victim's Profile

- Basit Ahmad Ahangar - 20-years
- 1st year BBA student at Government Degree Anantnag
- S/o: Ghulam Mohiuddin Ahangar
- R/o: Vessu, Qazigund, Islamabad
- Father, a laborer
- Mother, a house-wife
- Died on September, 3, 2016
- Died due to thrashing and pellets
- Victim was not part of any stone-pelting or protest
- Family has no political or militant affiliations
- Family belongs to a middle-class income group
- Annual income would be around 1 lakh
- Family tried to lodge an FIR against the alleged killers but police refused
- Family has approached the court to pursue case legally
- Police has filed a case in connection with the incident
- Police has not shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has approached the family with compensation offer
- Family has rejected the compensation offer

On their way to home, a known carpenter met Mohiuddin and both had a brief talk about their professional work. As the home was just around 50 metres away, Basit without telling his father thought to travel rest of the distance alone as the conversation between Mohiuddin and carpenter had stretched a little longer.

"While I was conversing with the carpenter, I heard a loud bang from a nearby. Since there was no stone-pelting going-on that time, it worried me a little," shattered father says, narrating the horrible account of events that led to the killing of his son, Basit, on September, 3, 2016.

Minutes later, father heard locals making distressing screams and shouts, and he rushed to enquire about it. "At a distance, I saw my son severely assaulted and being removed to nearby hospital by youths. I was numb & shocked and couldn't muster courage to see my unconscious son," father says, as he recalls the painful moments of his son's killing.

As per the witnesses and family, intense clashes erupted on September, 3, 2016, afternoon, between youths and government forces. The stone-pelting clashes were a routine on alternate days during summer agitation of 2016,

"The (stone-pelting) clashes lasted for a brief period. Forces had chased away youths that had pelting them with stones. When we were heading towards home, there were absolutely no clashes," father reiterates, alleging forces with "cold-blooded murder" of Basit.

Witnesses say that when Basit reached close to the by-lane that leads towards his house, a soldier fired a surprise pellet fire directly at him which hit him in leg when he attempted to run back to escape from being caught by the forces.

"As he fell on the ground, a group of forces pounced on him and beat him up severely. They dragged him, bounced and tossed him on a concrete ground and wall, the injuries of which left Basit almost unconscious. When he became motionless, they (forces) threw the body into a nearby almost dry stream," say the witnesses and the father of slain Basit.

Few locals that witnessed Basit being beaten and thrown into a nearby stream, rushed to him as soon as forces left the spot and took him to public



health centre, Vessu for treatment. Due to severity of injuries, doctors advised Basit be taken to district hospital Anantnag for specialized treatment.

However, before Basit could be admitted at the hospital, he died on his way towards the hospital. As per the doctors, Basit had a deep wound in skull besides multiple pellet injuries in legs which caused his death.

A first semester BBA student at Degree College Anantnag, Basit had decided to switch over to hotel management course and was planning to move outside to pursue said course at a better college in Chandigarh.

“The admission had almost been completed. He was preparing to leave for Chandigarh in coming days but as it is said, death keeps no calendar, everything vanished. I don’t mourn that my son was killed. He is a martyr. But what kills me inside is that he was killed when he wasn’t part of any protest or stone-pelting,” laments the father.

Most talkative among friends, his gossips were the best entertainment for his friends and would bring cheer on their gloomy faces at school and at the college.

“That’s perhaps the main reason that he was loved most not only by his friends but by most of the students at school,” a friend of Basit, Tanveer says, recalling the schooldays.

After joining the college, Basit had developed several changes in him. “He had joined a tableeghi jamaat and had gone with them for few days. He had limited his gossips and had developed mature signs. He had started approaching life with all seriousness,” say his friends.

The sudden and shocking death, however, shattered all of them. Back home, mother is in trauma and didn’t want to talk about this tragic incident.

Forces in their justification claimed that they didn’t kill Basit but he died after he fell in the

stream and sustained head injuries due to concrete substance. Family, however, reiterate allege forces with “cold-blooded murder” of Basit.

## Ghulam Muhammad Khan, 75, Ellahi Bagh, Soura, Srinagar

*Srinagar:* Ghulam Muammad Khan, a 75-year old retired employee had a short walk to nearby Public Park at his residence, Ellah Bagh in Soura, Srinagar, on November, 2, 2016.

There, inside the park, Khan met other senior citizens and friends of his locality and had a brief chat between them about the situation in Kashmir when summer agitation had entered on straight 133rd day triggered by the July encounter.

A group of teenagers were also present inside the park, playing carom game. The otherwise busy 90 feet route, as usual during summer agitation, wore deserted looks and witnessed a very thin presence of private transport plying during the day.

Since there were no protests or stone-pelting, Khan thought it to safe to spend his leisure time inside the park basking the sunlight.

Around 12 pm, witnesses and family say, a forces' vehicle running at a very high speed passed through and stopped near the spot where Khan stood with his friends. All of a sudden, a trooper aimed his gun with teargas shell loaded at these senior citizens and fired directly at them.

Unaware about the developments, Khan couldn't realize what a soldier is intending behind his back neither did his friends. That teargas fired by the forces hit Khan in head and left him critically injured.

The locals and family rushed him to nearby Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) hospital, Soura, for treatment where after more than two weeks of treatment, Khan couldn't show any sign of recovery.

Witnesses say that some youths had pelted the forces vehicle with stones at Ahmad Nagar, around a half a kilometre away from spot where Khan was shot at with teargas shell.

"They mistook teenagers that were playing carom inside park as stone-pelters and instead shot

elderly with teargas shell in head out of frustration. It's a murder and killers must be punished," say the witnesses.

Due to serious condition, he was put on ventilator and kept inside Intensive Care Unit of the hospital but his condition remained same as it was at the time of his admission to the hospital.

### Victim's Profile

- Ghulam Muhammad Khan - 75-years old
- Retired Employee
- R/o: Ellahi Bagh, Soura, Srinagar
- Injured on November, 2, 2016
- Died on November, 17, 2016
- Died due to teargas shell
- Wife, (not keeping well)
- Father of five children
- Family or victim had no political or militant affiliations
- Victim was not part of any protest or stone-pelting
- Family belongs to upper middle-class income group
- Annual income 6 lakhs
- Family has filed a case against the alleged killers
- Family has not approached any court of law or a legal body
- Police has shared FIR copy with the family
- Government has not approached the family with compensation offer

On November, 17, 2016, Khan lost his battle to critical head injuries and died at the hospital. Fayaz Ahmad Khan, son of Khan, has been going pillar to post seeking punishment for his father's killing but everywhere he has been shown coldshoulder, by both- civil and police authorities.

A case stands registered at police station Soura and a special investigation team was formed to investigate the killing. "But that SIT exists nowhere on the ground," alleges the son.

“From lower rung police officials to home minister of India, I approached everyone with an appeal to identify and punish the killers of my father but none helped,” says the son.



## Neelofar Shah

**Husband's Name:** Fayaz Ahmed Shah

**Resident of:** Churait, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, at Churiat, Kulgam.

Forty-one years old Neelofar Shah, a homemaker, was killed by the personnel of Indian armed forces belonging to the Rashtriya Rifles regiment stationed at Devsar, Kulgam. She had gone to fetch her seven years old son who had joined the protests against the killing of HM commander Burhan Wani. The army men fired indiscriminately at the protest; a bullet hit her head and killed her on the spot. She was killed on 18th July, 2016, in the cricket field of her village.

The family didn't file a First Information Report. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, and a son.

Her eldest daughter Masrat Jan reminiscences:

What should I tell you? And how will you understand what I will tell you...

My mother's killing turned our world upside down; it left us open, and we are now lost. I feel we should all die... My mother, she was such a beautiful lady, so warm, so tender, so loving. After her killing, I feel there are thorns in my body; my body always aches, and I long to see her smile at me the way she would do when she was alive.

Not a single day goes by when I am not reminded of her. I can see her smiling at me...I can see her talking to me. I have not entered her room since she was killed; everything in the room reminds me of her. We, sisters, have locked her room, and don't enter it; it reminds us of her, everything in the room, the bed, her clothes, and her picture that is tacked to a wall.

## Saida Mir

**Husband's Name:** Ghulam Hasan Mir

**Resident of:** Churait, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 18th July, 2016, at Churiat, Kulgam.

Fifty years old Saida Mir, a homemaker, was killed by the personnel of Indian armed forces belonging to the Rashtriya Rifles regiment stationed at Devsar, Kulgam. She had gone to look for her son who had joined the protests against the killing of HM commander Burhan Wani. The army men fired indiscriminately at the protest; a bullet hit her in the heart and killed her on the spot. She was killed on 18th July, 2016, in the cricket field of her village. The family didn't file a First Information Report, as there was "no point of filing it. We don't believe her killers would be punished ever"

She didn't want me to be harmed in anyway; in the end she was killed. I feel guilty; I feel I am responsible for her killing. Had I not gone out, she would not have come out to look for me? That is fate; we can't do much about it.

Since her killing, I hardly sleep; I am reminded of her; I feel as if she is still out there looking out for me... My mother comes to my dreams every night; I see her calling out to me, and then when I stretch my hand out to hold her, she vanishes into the dark.

Since her killing, our family has plunged into darkness; nothing is the same. Without mother, our world has turned hollow. On the occasions of festivals, we miss her. I wish she was with us... I wish she was not killed.

After she was killed, many people told us to file an FIR against the army. But what is the point of that? We don't expect any justice from them. Can they bring my mother back? Can they punish her killers?

Javid Ahmed, her son tells:

I had come out that day and was part of the protest. She had come out to look for me, as she had heard that the army had come to the village.

I have no faith in the Indian judiciary. Justice will only be done on the Day of Judgment. I will ask Allah that day to punish those who snatched our mother from us.

## Mashooq Ahmed Shiekh

**Father's Name:** Mohammad Ramzan Shiekh

**Resident of:** Kral-e-Kund, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 18th August, 2016, at Kansal, Kulgam.

Twenty-Five years old Mashooq Ahmed Sheikh, a daily wage laborer, was killed by the personnel of Indian Army belonging to the RR camp at Kansal, Kulgam. According to the eye witnesses he was shot dead by a major from close range. Mashooq was part of a peaceful protest and the men of RR fired at the procession when it reached Kansal camp.

The family didn't file a First Information Report. Mashooq Ahmed is survived by his ageing mother, wife, and four years old daughter.

His mother, Zareefa Begum, tells:

He entered the grave too young; at the age of 25. He didn't think twice what will happen to me, or to his wife, and his daughter. He was my eldest son; his father had died when he was little. I raised him with difficulty; I would work myself in the fields and earn to feed him. I wanted him to study, and get a government job so that he would look after me when I would be old. But fate had something else in store for us.

Now he is not there, and I am again left all alone, to raise his daughter and his wife.

I married him young. I wanted to get the burden off my shoulders and see him raising his family. He didn't study much, and began to work as a daily wage laborer to earn for the family. We were happy in our small world; he didn't earn much but we were happy.

I married him young. I wanted to get the burden off my shoulders and see him raising his family. He didn't study much, and began to work as a daily wage laborer to earn for the family. We were happy in our small world; he didn't earn much but we were happy.

That day I told him not to go to the procession. But he didn't listen to me; he said he will return soon, and keep lunch ready. I kept waiting for him to come and eat with me; his body arrived, instead. I don't know what I am talking...

I don't want to be reminded of him. I don't. He has a daughter. She is four years old. She keeps asking about her father. Sometimes, I don't know what to tell her. Is there anything we can tell her? I lie to her; I tell her that she was born without father and the daughters like her don't have fathers. I don't know if she believes me or not but then I don't think I can tell her anything else.

My son never came into my dreams. I wish he could come to my dream; I would complain to him why didn't he come back home alive as he had promised! I wish I could talk to him once, just once.

I would give anything for one glimpse of him. Sometimes I think that he has not been killed, and that he is out there...

Since his killing, we have hardly smiled. There is nothing that can make us smile.

Many people (police officials) came to our home; they promised that they will give us Rs, 5 Lakh. I told them I do not need money. I just need my son back. I don't have any strength left to ask for justice; how can the killers of my son give justice to me?

I wish I die... It would be a relief.

## Mushtaq Ahmed Dar

**Father's Name:** Abdul Ahad Dar

**Resident of:** Howrah-Mishpora, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 13th July, 2016, at Wanpoh, Kulgam.

Twenty Four years old Mushtaq Ahmed Dar, a student of 2nd year at Khannabal College, and part-time cable lineman, was shot dead by a SOG man from the neighboring village at Wanpoh. The eye witnesses and the family say that Mushtaq was repairing the cable line when a procession passed on the road. The men of SOG Kulgam fired at the procession and one bullet hit Mushtaq on his chest. He died on the spot.

The police filed an FIR in this case but refused to give a copy of the report to the family. The family wanted to file a petition in the court but due to the lack of documents and resources have not done that till now.

Mushtaq is survived by his old father, and three sisters.

His father, Abdul Ahad, tells:

What shall I tell you?

He was my only boy. I had so many hopes from him. I thought he will complete his studies and get a job and support me in the old age. His sisters thought that he will support them; to marry them off. But all that was an illusion; he was killed before he could that all.

That day he had gone to fix the cable line to Wanpoh. It was occasion of Eid. He called and said

he will be heading home soon. But he never came home alive. They killed him there. What did they achieve out of it? He was not even part of the protests. He had just gone to earn for his family.

Since his killing, I have not been able to sleep well. I wake up in the middle of night, and find myself drenched in sweat. I miss his every moment of my life. He was a student and would work diligently to be something in his life. His books are still with us. I have locked them away in the almirah; I cannot bear myself to look at his books, at his clothes, or enter his room; I might kill myself if I see his things.

After his killing I have not been keeping a good health. My heart beats faster than it would. And I have constant headache. I have wept as much as I could for my son, but then he won't come back however much I weep. At this age, I can hardly move my body. I have some land but I cannot work there; we live a life of astute poverty. I wish my son was still with us.

My daughters too have been affected much. One of them didn't eat anything for a long time after his killing; she sobs, cries his name out, and beats her face. They loved their brother more than themselves.

I was given Rs. 5 Lakh by the government. I wish I had means I would have accepted the money, but I had no choice. Some people say that I sold the blood of my son. How can a father do that? I had nothing to feed my family. I had no money to look after me and my daughter's deteriorating health. I had no choice.

I wish I was younger so that I could have earned money to fight for justice for my son. But I am old and I don't have strength or resources to do that. I am sure that if not here, Allah will do justice in his court. That day he will bring the killers of my son to justice.



## Irfan Ahmed Dar

**Father's Name:** Maqsood Ahmed Dar

**Resident of:** Tuli- Nowpora, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 14th July, 2016, at Nowpora, Kulgam.

Eighteen years old Irfan Ahmed Dar, a student of class 10th, detained by the personnel of STF at Nowpora from a protest procession, and was tortured which led to his death on 14 July, 2016 at SKIMS Hospital. According to the family, on 7th July, he, along with his younger brother was detained by the police men. They beat Irfan, and later threw him out of a moving police van. He was then taken to the hospital and passed away seven days later. Despite family requests, the police didn't file an FIR against the personnel involved in his killing.

Irfan Ahmed is survived by his parents, and younger brother.

His mother, Haleema Begum, tells:

I would have made peace with his killing but the way they killed him gnaws my soul. They tortured him to death, my son—he was so young and so lovely a child. What crime had he done that he deserved the death he was given?

That fateful day I was at home with him. My younger son had gone out to participate in a protest. I sent Irfan out to look for his brother to

bring him back home. But he returned tortured.

I wish I had not sent him out. I couldn't look at his body, even when he was dead. They had, as I heard later, tortured him badly. I couldn't bring the courage to look at his body; I would have died of heart attack. I loved my son, more than myself—God had given him to me after lots of toil.

And took him away from me in a moment... After his killing, I have hardly smiled; my body aches, and I cannot sleep in the night. He comes to my dreams and screams "Mother! Mother! Save me". I wake up after that, sweating profusely. I haven't looked at his photos since he was killed; I have told my husband to lock my son's belongings away; he did that.

I wish my son was alive... I wish he was in front of me like you are... I would have given my life in exchange for his.

I have no hope for justice. My husband wanted to file a petition in the court but I told him not to. I neither have strength to keep on going to the courts, nor do I expect any justice from them. They have killed hundreds of innocent people here, has anyone gotten justice? It is stupidity to even expect that.

I just want to let things be the way they are; silent. I will silently mourn his death, and I know I shall meet him hereafter. May be that will be the justice; to meet him again after I die...

## Zubair Ahmed Khanday

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Qadir Khanday

**Resident of:** Naibasti Qaimo, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 8th July, 2016, at Qaimoh, Kulgam.

Eighteen years old Zubair Ahmed, a student of class 11, was shot dead by the personals belonging to 18 Battalion CRPF stationed at Qaimoh, Kulgam. He was killed in his village; a procession march against the killing of Burhan Wani passed through the road, and the men of CRPF fired at it.

The family filed an FIR—FIR number 153/16—against the CRPF. However, the case since then has not moved forward, and the family, disappointed, has given up the search for justice.

Manzoor Ahmed Khanday, his brother, tells:

What remains are the photographs—nothing else. And the photographs are a festering wound we all carry with his; we have preserved his photographs in our house; I have framed them all and put them in my room; I do not want to—and I cannot afford to—forget my brother.

He was my youngest brother. I have raised him like my own child. He had too many dreams; he wanted to become an artist, and in his spare time

would paint. But a bullet by the Indian forces took all his dreams away from him, and us; his death shattered our family.

My mother keeps asking about him. I have no answers to her questions; she hasn't been the same since then; she keeps the door of her room ajar; she hopes she will see her son again; and I don't have the courage to tell her that he will not return; that he is dead. But mothers keep waiting... don't they?

After his killing the joys have vanished from our home. There is hardly any time when we are not reminded of him. He was such a lively child. He would make our home lively with his laughter, he would always tell jokes, and make all of us laugh. Now no one tells the jokes, now no one shouts in our home. It has turned into desolation. Why did the Indian state do this to us? What crimes had we done?

When I think of how he might have suffered while dying, I just want to burn down the entire world...

We filed an FIR; we thought the killers of my brother will be punished. But after a month we realized that we cannot fight the system; it is too rigid, and it doesn't care about people, or justice. Then we didn't pursue the case forward. What could we expect from them? They want all of us to die. And they kill Kashmiris like flies.

I don't have words to say more... I am reminded of my brother... I cannot talk more.

## Feroz Ahmed Mir

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Ahmed Mir

**Resident of:** Begoam, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, Nilow, Kulgam.

Twenty-two years old Feroz Ahmed Mir, a cleric in local mosque, was shot dead by the personnel of Indian Army belonging to the RR stationed at Nilow Camp, district Kulgam. He was part of a protest. Feroz was shot dead, according to the eye witnesses, from a close range; a targeted killing. The family didn't file an FIR, as it considers filing FIR futile.

Feroz Ahmed is survived by his ailing father, three sisters, and a disabled brother.

Ghulam Ahmed Mir, his father, tells:

Our world turned upside down that day. Now nothing is left. I am a living corpse. And I pray to Allah to send me death. I cannot bear the misery and grief. I just want to die...

That fateful day, I was not home. I had gone to Gulmarg for some business. After Burhan was martyred, the curfew strangled the life. I got stuck in Gulmarg, and had no contact with the family.

I came home after seven days of his killing. When I reached home, I didn't know anything. And learning the news of his killing was unbearable; I fell unconscious.

I am the most unfortunate father; I couldn't see one glimpse of my son after he was killed; I didn't even attend his funeral. What father does that?

I feel guilty of it. I visit his grave every day, hug it, and ask his forgiveness that I couldn't attend his funeral. And I cry out to him either take me with you or come back. I just want to see my son. I would have saved him. I would not have allowed him to go out. But fate doesn't work like that.

My son has abandoned; he doesn't even come to my dreams. I wish I could see him once, at least in my dreams. Do you think he is angry at me?

He has a right to be angry...

He was our sole bread earner; he earned not much but it was sufficient to feed us. I have three daughters, unmarried, and my other son is disabled. I hardly could work on my own. I don't know what to do with my life. Our family is on verge of begging. Had my son been alive I would have asked for nothing...

My health denigrates. Since his killing, I could hardly sleep. I take sleeping tablets to fall asleep but they have very bad effect on the health; my body aches. I do not have money to consult a doctor. I just keep going...

The district magistrate offered Rs. 5 Lakh for my son; I didn't accept it; I don't want it. I feel it is selling my son.

I don't know if we filed FIR, I think the police has filed; but it is not important. Army does what pleases them, so there is no need. What is there left now. No justice. I don't want it. If they would, could they just bring my son back? Will they be able to pay for the tears, and the suffering we go through?

I am an old man... I just want to die now...

## Khursheed Ahmed Mir

**Father's Name:** Abdul Razaq Mir

**Resident of:** Harwaith, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, Nihama, Kulgam.

Twenty-four years old Khursheed Ahmed Mir, a carpet weaver, was shot dead by the pesonelles of Indian Army belonging to the RR stationed at Nihama, Kulgam. Khursheed was part of a protest march. The procession reached Nihama camp and the forces fired at it. According to eye witnesses he was shot from a close range; a target killing. He died on the spot.

The family didn't file FIR against the army. Infact they don't know whether the police filed or not.

Khursheed Ahmed is survived his father, and an elder brother.

Abdul Razaq Mir, his father, tells:

Those day he was weaving a carpet; he left it unfinished; his life was truncated before he could finish weaving the carpet. The carpet is in our home; unfinished: it is the last token he left behind. We bought it, and it lies with us, still unfinished.

His killing devastated our family; I haven't been

the same. I wanted to marry him off, and then die peacefully. But fate had something else for us in store. Instead, I shouldered his coffin. He was too young to die. They killed him in cold blood...

That fateful day, he told me that he will be back by evening. I told him not to go. He went anyway, and didn't return.

He would earn for the family, and would tell me that he will earn lots of money so that I could perform Hajj. And he went somewhere without fulfilling that promise.

I do not enter his room; the thought of his absence kills me. And I then cry. I cry every night, and pray to Allah to give me one glimpse of my son. But that is not possible.

I am an old man. Living everyday feels like living in hell, without him. He was such a lovely boy, he was so handsome, and he was so generous.

Had I known about his fate, I would have asked God not to send me a son! But we don't see fate. This is what God had for me, in store.

I didn't file any case or FIR. How can they do Justice to us? They killed him in cold blood...

I pray that Kashmir gets freedom so that no more sons have to die, and no father has had to shoulder the coffin of his son...

## Yasmeena Jan Wani

**Father's Name:** Abdul Rahman Wani

**Resident of:** DH Pora, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, Damhal Hanjipora, Kulgam.

Twenty One years old Yasmeena Jan Wani, a student of handicrafts, and an embroider, was shot dead by the personnel belonging to the SOG wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police stationed at DH pora, Kulgam. She was shot dead from close range near her house. According to the family, she had gone to fetch her younger brother who had to protest the killing of Burhan Wani.

Out of fear, the family didn't file the FIR against the personnel's of SOG; their house was ransacked by the police a day after her killing.

Yasmeena Jan is survived by her old parents, a sister, and a younger brother.

Her mother, Haseena Bano, tells:

That fateful day, I was tending to my kitchen garden, along with her. In the main chowk the protests broke out. Her brother too had joined the protests. She went to fetch him. And returned dead.

And she left her numerous shawls, on which she was doing embroidery, unfinished. I don't have the courage to go into her room, and sit there. No

one in the family does that. We have locked her room away, and in it are buried all her items. She was a beautiful child and they snatched her away from me.

She would earn, and also study. I had no elder son; she had taken that place. She supported the education of her siblings, and her own. I don't know how to live the life without her...

That day she was killed was the day our family has stopped to be happy. They didn't only kill her; they killed our entire family along with her. My husband has gotten ill since, and he cries. I console him; but I know he cannot be consoled. No one can console me.

Since her killing, my children do not go out of house. They fear that they too will be shot. And her younger brother doesn't keep well. He complains of hearing her cries. We had to take him to the psychiatrist; he thinks he is responsible for her killing.

What did they get out of killing her? She was an innocent child who had gone out to fetch her only child!

We tried to file a case against the police but they threatened us not to. They threatened that they will kill my husband. We didn't file any case. I have been looking for her. I go to the fields and call out her name. I go to her grave and call out her name; she doesn't respond. I know I should not do it... I know she will not come back... Yus Gov Su Katte Yiyee. I will not let the memory of her, die.

## Abdul Rasheed Kumar

**Father's Name:** Abdul Gaffar Kumar

**Resident of:** DH Pora (Czech), district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 9th July, 2016, Damhal Hanjipora, Kulgam.

Twenty-four years old Abdul Rasheed Kumar, a potter by profession, was killed by the personals belonging to CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police at DHPora, Kulgam. According to the family, he had gone to buy medicine for his mother. In the main market of DHPora a protest march was going on. The forces fired at it and he was shot dead.

The family didn't file an FIR.

Abdul Rasheed is survived by his ailing parents, and a younger brother.

That day he had gone to visit the market to get medicines for his mother. She kept waiting for the medicine, and he didn't arrive. His dead body arrived instead.

Since his killing, our house is desolate; the walls of the room and every part of house are in mourning. I dread to go inside the house; I always think of him. I cannot sleep properly; my son's face comes in front of my eyes when I close them. He haunts my very existence. He doesn't allow me to sleep. I wish I could see him again, and talk to him...

After his killing, the life seems impossible to live. I do not wish to live on. I pray to Allah to send death to me.

What crime had my son done that he was killed? He was just a poor man. He had gone to buy medicines...

He doesn't even come to my dreams. He abandoned me even in the dreams.

We didn't file FIR. What is the point of filing it! I know I will not get justice here. Had this government been just, it would not have killed my son.

I don't know what else to say...

His father, Abdul Gaffar, tells:

I am a broken man like the earthenware in front of me. He was the lone supporter of our family. He was a support of my old age. And they killed him. Now I am devastated. What should I tell you and what will you understand?



## Javid Ahmed Shiekh

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Maqsood Shiekh

**Resident of:** Aripanthan, district Budgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 16th August, 2016  
Aripanthan, Budgam.

Twenty two years old Javid Ahmed Shiekh, a barber by profession, was shot dead by the pesonelles of CRPF and JK Police in his village Aripanthan. According to the witnesses the CRPF and JK Police men barged into the village early in the morning that entailed in a protest. The armed forces fired indiscriminately at the protesters. Javid, who had gone to the market to buy bread, was hit by a bullet, and died on the spot.

The family fired an FIR in police station Magam. The family awaits justice. Javid Ahmed is survived by his parents, and two siblings.

His father, Ghulam Maqsood, tells:

When I heard of his death, everything turned dark in front of my eyes. I fell unconscious. When I opened my eyes, I found myself beholding the dead face of my son. He was my eldest son. And my favorite. We would often, playfully, fight with each other. I would play prank on him, and tease him. He would play prank on me. We were like close friends. Whom would I prank again? He is gone; they killed him. I buried him myself, and with it, all my joys.

Since his death, I have ceased to live. You might tell me that I am alive, but if you look deep, I am a

dead man. My world has been debased with the killing of my son...

Whenever I pass through the market, I look at his shop and am reminded of him; I am reminded of his hair style, long hair full of hair gel, combed neatly. He was such a handsome boy, so fashionable. He didn't want to study; I didn't force him to study; I would allow him to do whatever he wanted to.

I have not sold his barber shop. I don't want to sell it. I still pay its rent. Till I am not dead, I will continue to pay its rent. I feel that he is still in the shop, cutting the hair of people; he was very popular barber. He would make different hair styles...

They called him Shah Rukh Khan; I feel he was a 'hero'.

I am unable to sleep. I take sleeping tablets to sleep. That too doesn't help. His mother too has lost interest in everything; she hardly smiles now. Our home would be full of laughter earlier, now there is gloom; the rooms of the house feel like chambers of hell without him.

I don't go to his room. There are his clothes. There is his perfume; he would use perfume a lot. I hate all the perfumes now. The mere smell of perfume sends me to jitters. I feel as his he is there, when I look he is not there. It is too much for a father to be in that situation; to not able to see his son when one wishes to.

I have filed an FIR. I don't know why I filed it. Do you think I will get justice for my son? Do you think the killers of my son will be punished?...



## Javid Ahmed Najar

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Mohammad Najar

**Resident of:** Aripanthan, district Budgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 16th August, 2016  
Aripanthan, Budgam.

Twenty five years old Javid Ahmed Najar, a carpenter by profession, was shot dead by the pesonelles of CRPF and JK Police in his village Aripanthan. According to the witnesses the CRPF and JK Police men barged into the village early in the morning that entailed in a protest. The armed forces fired indiscriminately at the protesters, and Javid was hit by the bullets and died on the spot. Javid had gone to the market to buy bread. The family didn't file FIR.

Javid Ahmed is survived by his father, and two sisters.

I was to get married a month later. He was so happy. We had made all preparations for the marriage...But before I was to be married, he was killed. The items—spices and rice—we had bought for my marriage, was used in his funeral. Such is the fate. Such are the things that India does to our lives...

His hands were golden. He was a great carpenter. He would make anything with his hands— tables, chairs, fine designs on wood—and those hands now lie buried. And his workplace, abandoned.

I have collected all the tools he used and put them in the trunk. They will remain with me forever; they would help me not to forget him, and those who killed him.

Since his killing, I have never seen him in dreams? If he comes to my dreams I would ask him, 'why did you leave me alone?'. I have no one now in the world. I am alone now. What did his killers get out of it? I am so angry.

If I had enough strength, I would have gutted all of India. But I don't have.

I don't want to file any petition seeking justice. I know I will not get it. And what justice can they do anyway? Can they bring him back? Can they? I hope Kashmir gets freedom. I know Kashmir will get freedom one day. The blood of my brother will not get wasted...

Fiza Banoo, his sister, tells:

I am angry...very angry. Why did they kill my brother? Why didn't the killers think that he was my only support in the world? He was like my father. He raised us two sisters as if we were his daughters. After our mother died, he took her place. Our father abandoned us. He left studies and began to work as a carpenter. He built house. He would earn and feed us. He was our world...and they snatched him away from us.

## Manzoor Ahmed Lone

**Father's Name:** Mohamad Akbar Lone

**Resident of:** Aripanthan, district Budgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 16th August, 2016  
Aripanthan, Budgam

Thirty-Two years old Manzoor Ahmed Lone, a daily wage laborer, was shot dead by the personnels of CRPF and JK Police in his village Aripanthan. According to the witnesses the CRPF and JK Police men barged into the village early in the morning that entailed in a protest. The armed forces fired indiscriminately at the protesters, and Manzoor was hit by the bullets and died on the spot. The family didn't file FIR.

Manzoor Ahmed is survived by his ailing parents, three daughters, and wife.

reconcile that he is no more with us.

He was my only child. I had thought that he will be my support in old age. I married him young. Now his family is dependent on me.

I constantly think about survival. I am too old to work and earn. But I still manage to do it.

His daughters keep telling me about him. I have no answers. I tell them that he has gone to Jammu and that he will return soon.

After his death, my wife has changed. She wakes up in the middle of night and go out in the courtyard and cry out his name. I don't know what to tell her. I don't have the courage to stop her calling out her name. She thinks that he is still alive. And sometimes, she tears out her clothes, and says that Manzoor is calling out her name. I tell her it is her dream; she doesn't listen.

Mohammad Akbar, his father, tells:

I keep think what should I tell his daughters when they grow up? I don't know whether I should mourn the loss of my son; I don't have the choice to do so; now his family depends on me, and if I become weak, they will get destroyed by it.

I have not shed tears for my son; the pain of his loss has been so immense that I am yet to

I have taken her to a local faith healer. She gets fine for a day or two but again does that same. What can cure the loss of the son? Nothing...

I am tired of telling to the world. What can it do...? I won't get my son back.

The police came to my house; they offered money. I didn't take it. How can I take Rs. 5 Lakh and forget about my son.

## Mohammad Ashraf Wani

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Mohammad Wani

**Resident of:** Aripanthan, district Budgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 16th August, 2016  
Aripanthan, Budgam

Thirty-six years old Mohammad Ashraf, a shopkeeper, was shot dead by the personnels of CRPF and JK Police in his village Aripanthan. According to the witnesses the CRPF and JK Police men barged into the village early in the morning that entailed in a protest. The armed forces fired indiscriminately at the protesters, and Ashraf was hit by the bullets and died on the spot. The family didn't file FIR. The family was offered a job, which they accepted.

Mohammad Ashraf is survived by his parents, wife, and a daughter.

His wife, Jameela Begum, tells:

My daughter has kept a diary. She writes letters to her father every day. She tells him dear papa when will you come home. And then she tells me why father doesn't respond.

I have no words to tell her. What can I tell her? I never thought that I will have to answer that question?

She has not slept in the room where he used to sleep. She says that she feels frightened without her father.

She misses her father. Somedays she tells me the stories her father would tell her. She would say that she has remembered every story he told her. I listen to her stories till she falls asleep.

I don't know how to mourn him...I am reminded of him every day. All his clothes remind me of him. During nights, when I am unable to sleep, I keep think about the dreams we had seen together. We had made plans and would dream that we will give our daughter a decent education. He would tell me that our daughter will become a doctor, and after that we shall marry her. He earned day and night for her. She was her everything.

Now everything seems hollow and empty without him. I don't feel to go into the room where we talked and dreamed. The walls of the room haunt me.

Life of a woman without her husband is a life full of tribulation. Lots of people tell you many brutal things. I was called names, and was teased; they thought I was 'loose charactered'. I didn't say much. I would just cry.

I took the job that the government offered. I didn't want to...but I had no choice. I had to feed my family and there was no one to earn for us. Many people, the neighbors tell me that I sold the blood of my husband...I wish they know what It means to live without husband. I didn't want to beg...Had I not taken the job, I would have been forced to beg...No one helps.

I wish the killers of my husband are punished...If not here, at least hereafter.

## Mohammad Maqbool Wagay

**Father's Name:** Abdul Kareem Wagay

**Resident of:** Loolipora, Chadoora, Budgam

**Date and Place of death:** 5th August, 2016, at Nagam, Chadoora, district Budgam.

Thirty-five years old Mohammad Maqbool Wagay, a daily wage labourer, was shot dead by the personnel of CRPF stationed at Nagam, Chadoora. He was part of a protest march. The witnesses say that the CRPF men fired at the protesters; one bullet hit Mohammad Maqbool and he died on the spot.

The family doesn't know whether the police have filed FIR against CRPF or not; the family has no copy of the FIR report.

Mohammad Maqbool is survived by his wife, and two children.

Had I known that his dead body will return I would not have allowed him to go.

He was a handsome man. I had married him and I thought that he will support me in old age. But they killed him. He was shot dead from close range. He was shot at chest...

Every night, I dream of him, He comes to my dreams and tells me that he is in pain. I try to put some medicine on his chest, but it too doesn't help; then I wake up... I cry afterwards. Maybe I had sinned in the past, and that is why he was killed.

I am too frail to even mourn him. I don't know what to say. To bury one's son is the greatest misery in the world...

He has two children. I don't know what will become of them. They have to grow without their father, and I myself don't know how long can I live.

His father, Abdul Kareem, tells:

The day before his killing, I had a dream that blood is flowing through my fingers. Little did I know what it meant? The next day my son was killed...He was my eldest son. That fateful day, I saw him leaving in the morning to join protests. I told him not to go. He didn't listen, and said that he will be fine...

His children have lost all the charm; they have lost interest in their studies. The little one, a son, complains about headaches, and asks about his father. I don't know what to tell him. I wish my son was alive. I wish I could just talk to him once...

I don't know if the police filed an FIR...even if they have, I don't think it will help in justice... can they return my son to me? ...

## Sameer Ahmed Wani

**Father's Name:** Noor MohamamdWani

**Resident of:** Mulnaroo, Takia-Farooq, Khansahab, Budgam

**Date and Place of death:** 5th August, 2016, at Takia-Farooq, Khansahab, district Budgam.

Twenty-one years old Sameer Ahmed Wani, a BA first year student, was shot dead by the personnel of CRPF. According to the family, he had joined a protest march which was heading towards Hazratbal, Srinagar. Outside the village, the protesters were shot at with pellets and bullets by the CRPF. A bullet hit Sameer Ahmed; he was taken to hospital where he was declared brought dead.

The family doesn't know about filing of FIR in this case. Samir Ahmed is survived by his parents, and three siblings.

inside a trunk...They remind me of him, and his dreams. His death devastated me. If I ever meet his killers, I will ask them what they gained from killing my child.

After his killing, I have ceased to smile. I buried all my joys with him. And now I am lost in the world. I don't know what to tell and whom to tell what I feel...all I know is that my son was killed in cold blood.

There are times when I wake up in middle of night; I feel that someone is knocking at the door of my room, and I go to open it thinking it might be Sameer...He cannot come back. I suffer to sleep properly.

I don't go to the room where he would sleep...I cannot bear the thought that he is no more with us. His smile, his eye...they haunt me.

I have no hope that any justice will be done to us. The state of India has killed hundreds of Sameer's; they think the people of Kashmir will forget it. But we cannot. I hate India. I hate everyone who is in hand and glove with India. I hope we will get freedom one day...I will pray for that. That would be a great tribute we can pay to our boys who left home and returned dead...

His father, Noor Mohammad Wani, tells:

He would play cricket... He would play volleyball. After his killing, I have kept his bat and ball locked

## Abdul Ahad Ganie

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Khaliq Ganie

**Resident of:** Qumroo, Arizal, Budgam

**Date and Place of death:** 29th July, 2016,  
Qumroo, Arizal, district Budgam

Forty-One years old Abdul AhadGanie, a businessman, was killed when his bike met an accident due to the concertina wire laid out by the CRPF and JK Police at his village Kumroo, Arizal. He was taken to hospital but succumbed due to his injuries.



## Javid Ahmed Dar

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Mohammad Dar

**Resident of:** Wadwan, Budgam

**Date and Place of death:** Shot on 5th July, 2016, and died on 11 September, 2016, Wadwan, district Budgam.

Twenty-one years old Javid Ahmad Dar, an auto-rickshaw driver, 19, was hit by a bullet at Narbal, Budgam when forces opened fire on a pro-freedom procession. A bullet pierced through his right thigh after which he was operated upon five times. Finally, his leg was amputated a few days before he breathed his last on September 11. Dar was only support of his nine-member family. The family didn't file an FIR against the JK Police and CRPF.

Javid Ahmed is survived by his parents, and four siblings.

spread. The doctors amputated his leg, but that too couldn't save him...

I wish I had the power to bring him back...

He was such a handsome boy, my boy. I raised him like my own child...I had so many dreams for him...I wanted to see him married, and have kids...But those dreams were dashed to the ground. The state snatched our dreams, and devastated our lives. We buried our dreams with him...

He would often tell me that he will work hard and become something in his life...all he became was a dead body...

I dread to go inside house. His laughter echoes from every room; he was such a charming child.

His death has turned our world upside down. Mother remains ill since then and she asks about him all the time. For some time, she lost her mind; she would run from home and sit in the streets, waiting for him. It took her a long time to recover, and understand that he is dead.

We didn't file an FIR. There is no need to. We don't expect any justice from the state or any politician. They kill people to remain in power. I know justice will be done hereafter on the Day of Judgment. I will wait till then. All we can do is to keep remembering our dear brother...

Mushtaq Ahmed, his elder brother, tells:

He died painfully...he died in my lap. He was our youngest brother. He implored me to save him. I tried to. I couldn't. I failed to save him. Its guilt will remain with me forever...the helplessness not to save him.

What pains me more is the pain he went through. They shot him in his thighs, and the infection had



## Muzafar Ahmed Pandith

**Father's Name:** Mohammad Ramzan Pandith

**Resident of:** Chak e Kawoosa, Narbal, Budgam

**Date and Place of death:** He was shot on 7th September with pellets, and died eventually on 1 October 2016, at SKIMS.

Twenty-one years old Muzafar Ahmed Pandith, a student of class 12th, was shot with pellets by the personnel of CRPF at Narbal. According to the family, Muzafar was part of the protest march. He was shot with pellets all over his body, leading to development of Sepsis that led to his eventual death after three weeks. The family does not know whether the FIR has been filed or not. And they have not pursued the case legally.

Muzafar Ahmed is survived by his parents, and three siblings.

His father, Mohammad Ramzan, tells:

I tried everything to save his life... I sold a piece of land, which i was planning to sell to marry him off, for his treatment. But that could not save him. The pellets had made pores in his body; he died a painful death. Since his killing, I have tried to weep, but I don't know what to weep and what will be the point in it. My tears will not bring him back.

That fateful day he went out in the morning. I told

him to have some food but he didn't eat any. He died without talking to me again... I wish I could talk to him...I wish I could hear his voice again. All that is left of him are his clothes; he had bought pants and shirts on eid, and he never wore them. Now I look at the clothes and satisfy myself when I miss him. I sometimes hug his clothes, and kiss them. He was an obedient son...I wanted to see him married...I wanted to see his kids, and raise them. But now I raise his clothes...

I don't know what to tell...What can a father tell? How can I talk about my son whom I see dying in pain?

When I think of him, I get angry, both at myself and those killers who killed him. I wish he was never born...I wish I never had become a father.

His mother is inconsolable. She doesn't talk much but I know she weeps every night in his mourning. We had many hopes on him. I thought he will support the family in old age and would shoulder my coffin when I die...But it was my misfortune to shoulder his coffin...

I wish he was alive.

I have no faith in the Indian Judicial system...I do not want to seek any justice. What difference will it make anyway? No justice can bring him back...I want to see him again; I want to see him getting married...

## Mohamamd Yousuf Khanday

**Father's Name:** Nazir Ahmed Khanday

**Resident of:** Gagarpora, Narbal, Budgam

**Date and Place of death:** Injured on 30 September in a bike accident due to a barricade (put up by the armed forces) at Kawoosa bus stop, and succumbed on 3 October, 2016.

Thirty-Five years old Mohammad Yousuf Khanday, a marketing executive, was severely injured in a bike accident, when his bike hit a barricade put by the armed forces. He along with his father met the accident that led to his breaking of skull, and his eventual death. According to his father, they were returning home from Srinagar, when at Kawoosa stone pelting was going on. The armed forces were beating the boys and firing tear gas shells. In panic, Mohammad Yousuf lost control of his bike and rammed into a barricade. He died four days later.

The family filed no FIR.

Mohamamd Yousuf is survived by his parents, wife and a kid.

His father, Nazir Ahmed, tells:

That fateful day, he was with me. We were returning home from Srinagar. And we met an accident. The Indian forces are responsible for it. Had there been no barricade, we would never have met the accident, and he would have been

alive...

The image of his broken skull and blood comes in front of my eyes whenever I am reminded of him...That helplessness in his eyes...

I wish I had been killed instead of him. He was young and had a family to take care of...But God took him away.

He was the lone bread earner of our family. I had married him, and he has a kid. I don't know how I will raise the family now. I am too old to work again the way I would do...

Since his death, I have felt very weak. There is nothing in this world that can console me. I do not want to think of him; it is too painful. I wish we had never gone to the city that day. I wish he was alive...

I have not looked at the bike since...I don't even want to look at.

His mother fell ill after his death. She didn't eat for many days. I have to take her to the psychiatrist. She always says that she sees Muzafar in his dreams and that Muzaffar is in pain... I don't know what to tell her.

Hundreds of boys have been killed. This is the price we Kashmiris pay. I wish there was no conflict here. How more boys have we to sacrifice before we get freedom?

I am out of words...

## Javid Ahmed Mir

**Father's Name:** Fateh Mohammad Mir

**Resident of:** Narsullah Pora, Budgam

**Date and Place of death:** 21th October, 2016, at Narsullahpora, district Budgam.

Twenty-Two years old Javid Ahmed Mir, a student, was shot dead by the personnel of JK Police with a tear gas shell at his village Narsullahpora. According to the witnesses, Javid Ahmed was not part of the protest, and was a by-stander. He was targeted and a tear gas shell was fired at him, which hit his head and died later on his way to the hospital.

The family filed the FIR but have not been given the copy of the report. The family wants to file a petition in the court to get justice.

Javid Ahmed is survived by his parents, two brothers, and a sister.

His father, Fateh Mohammad, tells:

His death ruined everything. What shall I tell and what will you listen! Since his killing, my family has been devastated. We mourn the death of our child every day. We hardly smile now. There is nothing to smile about. He was our eldest son. I worked hard to give him education...He was a good student and I had dreams that he will get a job and support the family. I looked up to him to take responsibility of the family. I am a poor man, a peasant; was it wrong that I dreamed of better

life?

He would often tell me that he will work hard and become an officer. I am reminded of all his talks, all his laughter. He was a sweet child.

I have not slept properly since his death. I see strange things in my dreams. I wake up. Some days I just keep thinking about him and forget to eat and drink. I don't know how to tell what I want to tell...How can a father tell what he feels about his murdered son?

His books lay scattered in his room. I told them to keep them safe. When I look at his books, I wish that I kill myself. I have no interest to live. Had I no other children, I would have killed myself!

I want the killers of my son to be punished. They robbed our life; they inflicted suffering on us that won't subdue ever. I don't think that I will get justice, but I will still try. For my son I will fight this battle. The police are not giving us the copy of FIR; they tell us to forget about the death of my son and move on. They promised they will give money if we don't file the petition. How can I forget my son? Was my son that cheap that I will sell him?

They just know power. They think that money can buy anything and can make me forget my son. I will not forget him, even if they give me a house of gold. My son will never return. I will keep his memory alive... I know that his sacrifice will not be wasted. The innocent blood will haunt India and they will have to give us freedom... I wish I could see my son...

## Azad Ahmed Thokar

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Mohammad Thokar

**Resident of:** Pudsoo, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** 9th July, 2016, at Pudsoo, district Shopian.

Forty-One years old Azad Ahmed Thokar, a daily wage labourer (truck driver), was shot by the personnel of Indian Army belonging to the RR regiment stationed at Nehama. According to the family and witnesses, he was hit with a bullet when the army fired at the protesters. Later, he was put in an ambulance for first aid, but the locals and the family allege that the ambulance was stopped and his bandages were ripped off, and he was beaten, which led to his death.

The family didn't file an FIR in this case.

Azad Ahmed is survived by his parents, his wife, two sons, and a daughter.

His wife, Mehjabeen Bano, tells:

What can I say? Remembering is like sticking your hand in fire. It hurts, more than that, it pains. He was killed in cold blood. They ripped off his bandage and beat him to death. When I think of that, my soul catches fire; I conjure how much he would have suffered.

More than his killing, the look on the faces of my children is devastation. They ask about their father; they miss him. My children are lost; they

have lost interest in the studies and remain gloomy all day. I don't know what to do... I wish I was died, rather than dying daily.

His killing has left us all alone. He was the lone bread earner of the family. For a woman, it gets doubly difficult to raise children without father. He was a hardworking man. He would work throughout the year; he wanted to provide good education to his children. We had dreamed to make a house and educated our children. But fate had something else in store for us. I wish he was here...

The day his body was brought home, I wanted to kill myself. They put his coffin in this room, and I just kept looking at it. I kissed it. I don't know if I can ever get over it and move on. It seems my life stopped with his killings...

Besides, there are many problems. At times I don't have money. No one helped. My brother is the one who helps me now...

After his killing, my elder boy fell ill. He would complain of heart ache and anxiety. I spent lots of money on his health; he is on medication. He tells me that he fears to go out. He tells me that his father comes to his dreams, clad in red cloth, with blood dripping all over the place...

I have no expectations from the government. What will they do; they killed him? The politicians are doing dramas with our lives. I have no hope from anyone. I just will wait for the justice of Allah...Allah will punish those who killed my husband and made me a widow...

## Shahid Hussain Ganie

**Father's Name:** Asadullah Ganie

**Resident of:** Chek-Cholan, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** He was shot with bullets on 9th July, and he succumbed to his injuries on 11th July, 2016.

Nineteen Years old Shahid Hussain Ganie, a student at a Madrassa, was shot by the personnel of Jammu Kashmir police stationed at Bihibag, Shopian. The family says he returned from Tral after attending the funeral of Burhan Wani. Near his home, he joined a protest march, which was fired upon by the police. He was shot in abdomen, and later taken to the hospital, where he eventually succumbed.

The family didn't file an FIR.

Shahid Hussain is survived by his aged father, and eight siblings.

His father, Asadullah Ganie, tells:

I remember that afternoon vividly. I saw him leaving the house. He had come from Tral, and he ate lunch in front of me. Suddenly, there was commotion in the village; a protest had broken in the village. He told his sister to keep tea ready for him; he will return soon, he said.

We kept waiting with tea for him, but he didn't

return; his dead body returned. My son whom these tyrants have martyred was my backbone and he was the light of this home. I know his martyrdom would be too much for me but since Allah had willed this, I am happy for him.

I have been suffering from Cancer from last seven years. I have spent most of the money I had on medication. He would work part-time as a painter to support the family. Who will support me now? He was such an obedient and hardworking boy...

After his killing, our family has come on the road. He was the lone earner for the family and they killed him. These tyrants snatched the sight of my eyes—my son...

I visit his grave and talk to him... I tell him to take me too with you.

He was my youngest son, and he lived with me. I thought that he will study and get a job and then I will marry him off...

Little did I know that I will have to bury my groom, my son? I wish I could tell what I feel. The pain of losing him is worse than the pain of cancer. He left a wound that will never ever, never ever, be healed.

I am a father and I know what the grief is. A part of me is glad that he was martyred. If his blood brings freedom to us, I will be honored.

The tyrants have killed hundreds like him...he was a like a rose and they plucked him...

## Sayar Ahmed Shiekh

**Father's Name:** Mohamad Shamim Shiekh

**Resident of:** Gunawpoar, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** 10th September July, 2016, at Tukroo, Shopian

Eighteen Years old Sayar Ahmed Shiekh, a class 12th student, was shot by the personnel of Indian armed forces belonging to the CRPF stationed at district Shopian. He was hit by a tear gas shell on his head leading to his instant death. He was part of a peaceful protest. The family didn't file FIR in this regard.

Sayar Ahmed is survived by his parents and three siblings.

Mohamamd Yousuf is survived by his parents, wife and a kid.

His father, Shamim Ahmed Shiekh, tells:

I still cannot forget his dead face...It was too helpless. When I think of it, my heart sinks, and a shard of pain passes through my body. What would he have done when the bullet hit him? He would have cried with pain...

He was my second son, and he was very obedient. He wanted to study a lot... he loved studies and

always be with his books. He dreamt of becoming a school teacher, now he lays buried deep inside the grave, along with his unfulfilled dreams.

Since his death, there is a gloom in our family. We don't smile anymore...His brothers have lost the charm... they do not go to his room. My elder son says that the walls of the room, where he would study, echo the pain that he went when he was killed...The house feels empty without him.

My wife often complains of sleeplessness...she keeps the door of her room open and sometimes wanders out of the room and sits and cries in the courtyard. I don't know what to tell her...I took her to the doctor; the doctors say that she has no ailment. Maybe she has the worst ailment in the world; the pain of the loss of her son.

The tyrants killed him in cold blood... I don't understand how they can kill kids. Don't they have kids of own? To bury one's son is greatest misery in the world...I wish I could see him again. I would hug him tight and not let him go anywhere...But I know he will never come back.

I have no hope for justice; I didn't file any petition in the court. The Indian state cannot give us justice; they will not punish the killers of my son. I have hopes in Allah that he will help me to bear the loss of my son...



## Khushboo Jan

**Father's Name:** Mohamamad Hussain

**Resident of:** Gadafpora, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** 19th September, 2016. She died of cardiac of cardiac arrest in a protest rally after armed forces resorted to Intense shelling of tear smoke shells, Pelargonic Acid Shells and pellets.

Eighteen Years old Khushboo Jan, a student, died of a cardiac arrest after the Indian forces, CRPF and JK Police restored to violence in her village. The family blames the armed forces for her death. No FIR was filed by the family in this regard.

Khusboo Jan is survived by her parents, and two brothers.

mouth. We thought of taking her to the hospital but the armed forces were everywhere; they were beating people and firing shells. She eventually died. Had there been no shelling she would have survived...She was killed by them...

She was a beautiful girl and she wanted to study a lot. I would buy her new clothes every month. In July, I had bought her two dresses; she wore one but before she could have worn another, she met the cruel fate and was killed by the armed forces...They killed her, I will say that again and again.

I have kept her clothes and gold ear ring locked in my room. I thought I will marry her after some years... I would buy some jewelry for her from time to time; I was preparing for her marriage. I wanted to see her as a bride; she would have been a very beautiful bride

She looked beautiful even in white shroud...My daughter! I wish I could have saved her... I wish.

Mohamamad Hussain, her father, tells:

That fateful day she was inside her room. We heard some tear gas shot, and she became anxious. Then the shelling intensified, she collapsed and white foam dripped from her

I don't even see her in my dreams. I think she is angry at me. She died in my lap. Do you think she is angry at me?



## Jahangir Ahmed Pandit

**Father's Name:** Gulzar Ahmed Pandit

**Resident of:** Trenz Mohanpora, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** 10th July, 2016 at Trenz, Shopian

Seventeen Years old Jahangir Ahmed Pandit, a student, was shot dead by the personnel of CRPF. According to the family, Jahangir was part of a peaceful protest; the armed forces fired tear gas shells and bullets at the crowd; one bullet hit Jahangir on his head that led to his death.

Despite requests of the family, the police didn't file an FIR against the CRPF. Jahangir Ahmed is survived by his parents, a brother, and a sister.

Gulzar Ahmed, his father, tells:

He would play cricket a lot. I would tell him to study more. But he didn't listen. He bought a bat five days before he was killed. And the bat lies in the courtyard; he never played with it. The bat too must be missing him...

I cannot bear to think of him...To be honest I haven't looked at his photographs since he was killed. Though I have his pictures in my phone and one day, if I could get the courage, I will look at them.

He was such a charming boy...He would smile all the time. And even if I scolded him for anything, he would still smile. Now he smiles no more; he lies buried six feet deep. I buried him with my own hands. How unfortunate am I! I put him in the grave and put earth on it. He must be sleeping there.

After he was killed, I haven't been keeping well. I wake up in the night and am reminded of him. I cannot do anything but weep. I wish those who killed him get the worst in this life and hereafter. What crime had he done? He was just a boy. He was part of a peaceful protest. He didn't kill anyone. He didn't harm anyone. Yet they killed him.

My only wish before I die is to see Kashmir free. My son's blood will not be waste. Do you think we will get freedom?

I think God will hear us one day...God is not so cruel that HE will not give us freedom. God would one day hear us...

## Muzaffar Hussain Bhat

**Father's Name:** Mohamad Ahsan Bhat

**Resident of:** Keegam, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** 10th July, Haal, district Pulwama.

Twenty-four year old Muzaffar Ahmed Bhat, an auto-rickshaw driver, was shot dead by the men of CRPF at Haal, Pulwama. According to the family, he had joined a peaceful protest march which was fired at by the CRPF at Pulwama. He was hit with bullet on his chest and died on the spot. The family didn't file an FIR.

Muzaffar Ahmed is survived by his father, two brothers, and a sister.

raised him without her. And he was killed. I am happy about one thing that his mother didn't see him dead...I bear all the pain, hers too.

My son would talk to me in the evening and would always get me some fruits or something else to eat. We would talk for hours, we would laugh. He would watch television a lot; we would watch the serials. And laugh together.

Now everything is desolate. We hardly turn on the television; how can we watch the same serials that he would watch? It feels like a betrayal with him...He lies buried.

Sometimes, I visit his grave...I don't say anything to his grave; I keep looking at it. I could feel him there, deep asleep. He must be smiling at me from under. The martyrs are alive. he must be watching me coming to his grave. He must be happy about it.

I don't know what to feel about his death; maybe it was my fate to shoulder my son's coffin. He was such a lovely boy.

When I think of him, I want to kill myself. What is left for me in this world but the misery? I wish I too die now...

Mohammad Ahsan, his father, tells:

He was our lone bread earner. Since his killing, our family is on verge of begging. He would work very hard and earn small to feed his family—us. He wanted his younger brother to study. His mother passed away when he was too young. I

## Asif Ahmed Bhat

**Father's Name:** Gulzar Ahmed Bhat

**Resident of:** Chatragam, Kalan, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** 10th July, at Zainapora, Shopian.

Fourteen years old Asif Gulzar Bhat, a student of class 8, was shot by the men of CRPF stationed at Zainapora Camp, Shopian. According to the family, Asif was part of a protest march. He was hit on his head and died on the spot.

The family didn't file an FIR in this case.

Asif Ahmed is survived by his parents, and two siblings.

still believes that he is alive. I hear his voice during the night. I hear his snoring on my chest. I smell of him as if he is tightly hugging me. My son, my boy, he was such a lovely child...

I wanted him to study. I would work hard day and night and earn. I wanted to give him every facility so that he could study. I had saved money for his studies. That money was used for his funeral. I bought a marble stone to put it on his grave. I decorated his grave with tiles and put flowers on it—rose and jasmine. He loved roses. He would bring roses to home; he would pluck them from the plants wherever he would find one. Now no one brings roses to home. And the home has stopped to smile...

He was my world. I would come home; the mere sight of his face would lighten my mood; all the tiredness would vanish. My son! Why did they kill a child? Who had he killed? They had shot him in the head. I don't know what had happened to his head; I didn't look at it.

Gulzar Ahmed, his father, tells:

He was just fourteen; you understand that, just fourteen. His milk teeth were still intact. He would sleep with me; he would hug me tightly and sleep on my chest. Who will I hug now?

I haven't properly come to terms with it. A part me

My wife and me sleep late; we talk about our son; we cry together; she consoles me and I her. Nothing can console us. Our world was burned down to ashes by the killers of my son.

If I ever meet the killers of my son, I will ask them why they killed a child. Why did they pluck the rose from the plant?

## Amir Bashir Lone

**Father's Name:** Bashir Ahmed Lone

**Resident of:** Sedow, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** He was shot on 5th August with pellets that led to his death on 8th August. He was shot in Sedow, Shopian.

Seventeen years old Amir Bashir, a student, was shot with pellets by the men from CRPF at his village Sedow. The witnesses say that he was part of a protest and the armed forces resorted to pellet firing. The pellets hit him all over his body, seriously injuring him. He was taken to the hospital to Srinagar but succumbed to his injuries three days later. The family didn't file an FIR.

Amir Bashir is survived by his parents and a brother.

never meant to happen. He lies buried deep under six feet and the world goes on.

I feel time has stopped for me. I no longer feel interested in doing anything...I just feel strange. He was a charming boy. When I look at his pictures, I just weep as much as I can. I have just God to complain. And I tell God everything.

Few days before his killing, I gave him two thousand rupees; he wanted to buy a pant and shirt; he never bought it. The money still lay in his wallet when his body was handed over to us at the hospital. I have kept the wallet with me...And the notes too. I will never spend them; I will always keep them with me; his hands have touched those notes.

He was in the hospital for three days; he suffered much; for most time he was in terrible pain. I prayed a lot and asked for his life. But God didn't want him to survive. I would have given my life if it could have saved him...But nothing helped.

Bashir Ahmed Lone, his father, tells:

It is saddest thing that a father has to talk about his son's death. I wish I had been killed, instead. It feels like walking on the embers; the mere thought of him sends shivers down my spine.

He was a good boy. He wanted to do an MA. He wanted to do business. He would tell me that he will become a good business man. But that was

I don't know what else to say. I hope and I am sure that India will have to vacate one day. The tyrants have killed too many people...Someday the blood will speak back...Khoon Diye Baroo...

Though I am devastated, but I feel honoured that my son lay down his life for the sake of nation...And I know that the sacrifices won't be wasted...It is our duty to remember those who were martyred.

## Shahid Ahmed Seh

**Father's Name:** Mohammad Yousuf Seh

**Resident of:** Urpora Nagbal, district Shopian.

**Date and Place of death:** 13th September, 2016 at Nagbal, Shopian

Eighteen years old Shahid Ahmed Seh, a class 12 student, was shot with pellets on his head and face by the personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF at his village in Nagbal. Shahid was part of a peaceful procession after eid prayers. The locals say that the armed forces fired at the procession with pellets and tear gas shells.

Shahid is survived by his parents and two siblings.

Mohamad Yousuf, his father, tells:

I dream of him: in my dreams I see him astride on a white horse. He smiles at me. I smile back. Then he stretches his hand towards me; I try to shake his hand; but he vanishes. And then appears again on the horse...

This is what he is doing; I think he plays with me, teases me. I see his image in everything. He is everywhere around me. He is in my room; when I go to bed and close my eyes, I see his smiling face. He was a charming boy; the smile was charming;

he just wanted to live happily.

And they killed him, in cold blood. He was hit with pellets; they mutilated his body with pellets. I wish I could go into the past; I would not let him die. He didn't deserve to die; he deserved to live like all the martyrs.

His death has devastated us. His sister has not been well since. She complains of heart ache and anxiety. She says that she wants to go to his brother; the two were very attached to each other. She has lost interest in studies and doesn't go to the school. All the smiles from our home have been snatched away; we buried them with him.

At Eid we don't buy meat. How can we take part in festivities when our son lies buried deep inside the grave? I am reminded of his smiles and the happiness that was on his face. And I feel like killing myself when I realize that he has been killed.

His mother is inconsolable; she doesn't talk much; she seems to have lost her speaking power. The death of a son shakes you; it is the saddest thing in this world.

I have no hopes of getting justice from anyone in this world. Allah will give us justice and will ask the killers and the tyrants about the killing of my son. Allah will punish them...

## Zahoor Ahmed Shiekh

**Father's Name:** Abdul Ahad Shiekh

**Resident of:** Warsun, Kralpora, district Kupwara.

**Date and Place of death:** 12th July, 2016 at Warsun Kupwara.

Eighteen years old Zahoor Ahmed Shiekh, a class 11th student, was shot dead by the men of Jammu and Kashmir Police (SOG) while he was part of a peaceful protest. According to the family, he was shot dead from close range; he was hit with a bullet on his chest and head. He died on the spot.

Despite requests, the police didn't file FIR against the men who killed him. Zahoor Ahmed is survived by his parents and four siblings.

Abdul Ahad, his father, tells:

I don't remember anything, not how he looked. I remember wounds. Gunshot wounds. There was a hole near his heart. The bullet had hit him right there (pointing to his chest). The wound was as big as palm of my hand. I tried to forget that image but I am unable to. That is, unfortunately, the only thing I remember of him. What a terrible thing to remember. Rest I have forgotten everything.

When I close my eyes, that wound comes in front of my eyes. And then I cry. I feel as if the wound is inside my soul. It is excruciating to talk about him... I don't remember anything...

I requested the police to file FIR against his killers. They didn't file it. They instead threatened me with jail if I come again to police station. I didn't pursue it further. I am too exhausted to fight with the police. There is God in the world; He will do justice his own way...



## Hajira Begum

**Husband's Name:** Gul Mohamad

**Resident of:** Saderkot Payeen, district Bandipora.

**Date and Place of death:** 15th July, Saderkot Payeen, Bandipora

Sixty Years old Hajira Begum, a home maker, died of a cardiac arrest when the armed forces barged into her village and fired tear gas shells, and PAVA shells. She died on the spot. The family blames the forces for her death.

The family didn't file an FIR.

That fateful day, she prepared the lunch. Suddenly there was commotion in the village. The armed forces had barged into the village, and were firing tear gas shells, PAVA shells, indiscriminately. She went out to look for her son.

In the street, out of fright, she had fallen unconscious; the tear gas shelling was immense. She died instantly.

Since her death, the house feels empty. She was the bedrock of our home.

I am reminded of her every day. We had planned so many things. We wanted to marry our children and see them living with their families. Now everything is ruined. I don't know how to live life without her... and how to raise the children without her.

Gul Mohamad, her husband, tells:

My children have taken it to heart...They don't talk much now; they miss their mother...





## Mushtaq Ahmed Ganie

Father's Name: Mohamad Ahsan Ganie

Resident of: Tawhidpora, Ganie Mohalla,  
Kalaoros, district Kupwara

Date and Place of death: 15th July, 2016, at  
Kalaros, Kupwara.

Twenty-one years old Mushtaq Ahmed, a student, was shot dead by the personnel of the Indian Army belonging to Territorial regiment stationed at Kalaros. According to the family, he was shot with bullets in a protest march. The bullets hit him in face, and abdomen. He died on the spot.

The police refused to file an FIR against army in this regard. Mushtaq Ahmed is survived by his parents and three siblings.

Mohammad Ahsan, his father, tells:

I visit his grave often, thrice a week...

I sit at his grave for hours, sometimes during the night. Sometimes I cry out, and don't hear anything else besides my sob, until the crows surround around the grave... and I come to the senses. I like to be away from people; the people make me uncomfortable now; I want to be left with the thought of my son...

When I miss him, I look at his photo... I look hard, for a long time. He either smiles at me or frowns; he seems annoyed at me...

He was such a lovely man...He would talk to me for hours about his life. He wanted to study and get a job to support me in the old age. But before he could do that his life was truncated, and snatched away from me.

His death changed everything about me; my face, my hands, my eyes. I feel as if I am dead; there is a feeling of numbness in me. I don't taste anything; everything feels bland and out of place.

I loved my son madly, and I still love him. When they brought his body for burial, I didn't believe that he is dead; I cried like a child, and wanted to enter the grave with him.

I don't know where to go. I just want to go to my son. I feel he calls me out from grave. Why did they kill him?

I have kept his books preserved with me. I kept them in my room. I look at them every night before going to sleep, and kiss the books; his hands touched those books; his eyes read from the pages of the books. I don't know who to complain. The tyrants killed my son. I don't expect any justice from them. The police told me that they will pay me...I don't need money. My son's blood is not cheap. I just wish to see him again...

Maybe on the Day of Judgment I will meet him...I am too tired to talk... That day I will ask God about Justice. I will ask God to punish those who killed him... In this world we are weak. They kill us like dogs...

## Showket Ahmed Malik

Father's Name: Ali Mohammad Malik

Resident of: Hatmulla, district Kupwara

Date and Place of death: 16th July, 2016, at Hatmulla, Kupwara.

Twenty-five years old Showket Ahmed, a daily wage labourer, was shot dead by the personnel of Jammu Kashmir Police and CRPF during a protest march in Hatmulla, Kupwara. The family says that the bullets hit him on his chest, and head. The family didn't file an FIR.

Showket Ahmed is survived by his parents.

his children. Now I see his grave. I go to his grave sometimes, and talk to him. He remains silent most of the time. I talk to him about what has become of me. I tell him that the house is calling you. I tell him that the rooms in the house ask about him. He doesn't say anything...He sleeps in his grave.

My son...He was killed mercilessly. There were bullets in his chest. I think of the pain he might have gone through...I want to tear my clothes. He died without living. And left me, an old weak man, to mourn him.

I have begun to forget his face. At times I don't remember how he looked. He doesn't even come to my dreams. I wish he comes to my dreams; at least It would have helped me to remember his face.

Ali Mohammad Malik, his father, tells:

What is there to tell?

This house, my body, my world seems dead; it is dead. I died with him. That day when I saw his body being carried on the stretcher I ceased to live.

He was a poor man. He was a hardworking laborer, and was the lone bread earner of the family. He had been working from his early youth. The poverty was immense. He couldn't study. I thought that I will marry him now. I wanted to see

There is no justice for poor people. The Indian state kills, and doesn't care. They ruin our lives. They have ruined it in the past and continue to do so.

I was offered money by the local district magistrate. I told him I don't need money; I just need my son back. What shall I do with the money? My son's blood was not so cheap. I was happy when he was in front of eyes; no money can buy that happiness.

I wish India leaves this place so that no more boys have to die...

## Bilal Ahmed Dentoo

**Father's Name:** Abdul Rashid Dentoo

**Resident of:** Kuwari, district Kupwara

**Date and Place of death:** 16th July, 2016, at Kuwari, Kupwara.

Seventeen Years old Bilal Ahmed, a student, was shot dead by the personnel belonging to the CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police. According to the family, Bilal Ahmed was not part of any protest. He was killed from a close range. The family didn't file an FIR in this regard.

Abdul Rashid, his father, tells:

He was walking to a shop to buy some household items, when he was shot dead ... barely 100 meters from our house. The police told us that he was hurling petrol bombs. He did no such thing. He was a gentle boy. He would not even hurt a fly...

Loss of son to bullets has made my life hell. He comes to my dreams and tells me that he is in pain...He tells that to help him to subdue his pain...I wake after that and cry. I sometimes don't know where I am...I might turn mad.

All my son wanted to was to study...he loved reading... and would be with his books all the time when he was inside the house. I would tell him that I will even give him my blood to feed, if need

be, I wanted to give him the opportunities that I didn't get when I was of his age. But he was killed...Killed in cold blood.

At times I see his shadows following, I turn back but he is not there...He just vanishes like a puff of smoke...Maybe I am hallucinating about him. He was such a lovely boy...He was full of life.

He would play cricket in the courtyard...with the ball made up of socks...I would watch him play and would be glad at how happy he was...Now I watch the gloominess in my house and in the courtyard. His friends don't come to our house; they say that they can't bear to be reminded of him. I wish he could come back just once; I wish he could play in the courtyard...

I didn't file an FIR. What was the use of it? They would have just made me to wait and go from pillar to the post without actually doing anything. They killed my son. They would have humiliated me too with the court and police stations visits. I have no hope of justice from anyone...not with the state and the government.

This sadistic government wants me to accept a few hundred thousand rupees in exchange for my son's life.

I don't want any of this stinking money. I don't want a job from the government. I want the men who killed my son punished. But I know that will never happen; Allah will do justice of his own. They cannot escape that.

## Ghulam Mohiddin Mir

Father's Name: Abdul Salam Mir

Resident of: Khumriyal, Lolab, district Kupwara

Date and Place of death: 20th July, 2016, at Lolab, Kupwara

Fifty Years old Ghulam Mohiddin Mir, a daily wage labourer, was tortured to death by the men of the Indian army belonging to the 41RR regiment. The family alleges that he was picked from home and tortured.

The family was threatened by the army against filing the FIR. Ghulam Mohiddin is survived by his wife, two boys and a daughter.

may get a job. He had simple dreams; he was a simple man. But all of that is gone; all his dreams melted with his killing; they lie buried with him in the grave.

Father would sit in the corner of kitchen and smoke hookah. He would smoke for hours. I would tell him not to smoke; I miss the smell of the smoke; the hookah lays abandoned; no one smokes now. I wish father comes back and smokes again; I would never complain about his smoking. But those who go don't return...

I tried to file a petition against the army. But I fear that the army will come and kill me too. The state kills and doesn't allow to file the case. Is this democracy? Is this what they tell the whole world? They can kill anyone and get away with it. The laws are in their pockets; they control everything.

Feroz Ahmed, his son, tells:

Our lives were happy before he was killed. Now it is a nightmare...

I saw his body; there were torture marks on it. That image has left me restless. I can hardly sleep. They killed him mercilessly; they beat him like a dog...

Father worked hard all his life. He wanted us to study. He wanted us to have education so that we

I don't have the strength to fight for the justice. And even if I fight, I know I will not get the justice. The laws are here to protect them and they kill without caring about its consequences. This has been happening in Kashmir since decades.

I wish we get freedom...May be that day I will make peace with myself and my father's killing. Do you think we will get freedom so that the killing of innocents stop? ...

## Fayaz Ahmed Rather

**Father's Name:** Mohammad Ramzan Rather

**Resident of:** Saidpora, Rafiabad Sopore, district Baramulla

**Date and Place of death:** 30th July, 2016, at Saidapora, Sopore.

Forty-five years old Fayaz Ahmed Rather, a bookseller, was shot dead by 'unknown' gunman during a protest rally he was leading. The family alleges that the Jammu Kashmir Police is responsible for it. The witnesses say that the men of the police had come in civilians' clothes and shot at him from close range.

Mohammad Ramzan Rather, his father, tells:

They tell it was 'unknown' gunmen; but we all know who the unknown gunmen are; the police killed him. Many people who were present know and identify who the killer was; they fear to come out and speak.

My son was a businessman. He was a hardworking shopkeeper, he wanted to earn for his family, and he was.

Since his killing, a ruin has set on the family. The bookshop, where he would spend most of his time, feels desolate. We didn't open the shop for months. I feared that the memory of my son

would kill me. But time is a great healer. With time we get accustomed to our pain and misery.

As a father i don't know how to talk about my son. What is there to tell but misery? I am an unfortunate man; only unfortunate people have to bear the burden of the coffin of their children. My son was a pious man. He would pray five times a day.

Often, I am reminded of his childhood; he would dress up in his childhood and talk like a grown-up man. He would talk to me for hours and would always consult me before he did anything. He had so many dreams. He wanted me to go for Hajj. I was happy. We had planned to go next year. But he was killed before that...The dream remained unfulfilled. If I ever perform Hajj, I will go to the grave of prophet and complain and weep. I will ask my Prophet why my son was killed. I would tell him that my son too wanted to come, but he was killed before he could. I will tell my prophet to help me to meet my son...

The prophet will listen. I talk to Allah, and tell Allah everything. It relieves me. I don't think there is anything for me left in this world. I wish I die...But before that I wish the killers, who ruined our family, be put to miserable death.

Why didn't they think that he has old father who needed him for his old age? He was support... I had so many hopes from him. But he was snatched away from me. I will never forget and forgive. The killers will pay for what they did...

## Ishfaq Ahmed Dar

**Father's Name:** Abdul Khaliq Dar

**Resident of:** Tarzoo, Sopore, district Baramulla

**Date and Place of death:** Injured on 23 July, which led to his death on 31 July, 2016, at Tarzoo.

Seventeen Years old Ishfaq Ahmed Dar, a student, was shot by the men of CRPF. He was hit with a bullet and some pellets. The family allege that he was later tortured by the CRPF men that worsened his condition and led to his death after a week. The family didn't an FIR in this regard.

Ishfaq Ahmed is survived by his parents, and three siblings.

Abdul Khaliq Dar, his father, tells:

He has a shirt that he would wear often. The shirt lies in his room, it is pegged to a nail on the wall...I go daily to his room, look at his shirt, and sometime I take it down from there and kiss it...That is all that remained of him.

When I touch the shirt, I feel I am touching him...and I feel that he is around me. My wife told me that we should keep the shirt locked away...I didn't accept that. The shirt is his memory...It is all he left behind, and it is the testimony that he lived here, and slept in this room. I don't allow anyone to sleep in this room.

Sometimes, I myself sleep in his room; it feels good, and I talk to him in my mind.

My son was tortured after he was shot; there were torture marks on his body; he had been beaten with the batons, and he had been kicked...They killed him brutally. I don't complain why he died; I complain about the way he was tortured.

I am glad that my son laid his life for the nation...It feels like an honour. I know his blood will not be wasted; we will one day get freedom.

When I sit alone, I think about him. I think about the time when he was a boy and the way he talked. He talked beautifully, and would tell stories. I would tell him stories about the Kings and Queens; he relished hearing those stories. He too became a story at the end, a grotesque story.

He wanted to study as much as he could. We would often talk about his studies...he would tell me that he will become an officer. Such dreams he had! All those dreams died with him...

I have lost interest in the world. I fear everything now. I fear to venture out of my house...I fear that I too might be killed. The loss of someone so dear makes you weak. My body aches and there is nothing in the world that interests me now. I wish my son was alive. I didn't file any court petition. I don't believe that his killers will ever be punished for what they did. Maybe that is how our world is, maybe there is no justice in this world. All I can do is to mourn my son...Rest I don't know what to do now.



## Danish Rasool Mir

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Rasool Mir

**Resident of:** Munligam, Wagoora, district Baramula

**Date and Place of death:** 5th August, 2016 at Wagoora, Baramula

Seventeen years Old Danish Rasool Mir, a student of class 12th, was shot dead with pellets by the personnel of CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir police during a protest march at Wagoora. According to the family, Danish had joined a protest just two kilometres from his home. The witnesses say that he was shot from a close range at his head and lower body.

The family didn't file an FIR in this regard.

Danish Ahmed is survived by his parents and a brother.

Ghulam Rasool Mir, his father, tells:

What remains of the dead is the sadness they inflict on the dear ones. Since his death, I have hardly smiled. What is there to smile about? They killed our happiness. They ruined our world when they killed him. What gave them that right? They not only killed him, they killed us too, our entire family.

I didn't see his body when it was brought home; I didn't have the courage to look at it. I heard that there were holes in his chest. How terribly would

my boy have suffered?

I wish I could have taken that bullet...I wish I had been killed instead of him. I would have happily given my life for him.

Often, I am reminded of him; he had two beautiful eyes; he would smile with his eyes. Those eyes were forced shut forever. There is nothing left now, only his memories.

I often think of him. He always will remain a small child for me; the child I would bring snacks everyday...I remember he would wait for me to return...He would not eat until I didn't return from work. Now, no one waits for me.

He is long gone, he lies asleep.

When I miss him, I go to his grave to sit next to it...I clean the grave off the leaves and put my head low; to see if he will talk to me. But he never does. Maybe he doesn't know I am there. That is what remains; the grave visits. They become routine of your life. They define everything in your life.

The loss of my son changed us all. Earlier we would watch TV, now we don't watch it; my son was the one who would change the TV channels. I don't know how to change and what to watch.

I just know how to mourn, now. I cry often when I think of him. When I return home, I delude myself that my son will be waiting for me. When I reach home, I find no one waiting for me on the door, like he would...



## Ishfaq Ahmed

**Father's Name:**

**Resident of:** Batpora, Sopore, district  
Baramula

**Date and Place of death:** Shot on 13th August,  
and succumbed on 15th August at Sopore.



## Danish Manzoor Lone

**Father's Name:** Manzoor Ahmed Lone

**Resident of:** Nadihal, Rafiabad, district Baramula

**Date and Place of death:** 31st August, 2016 at Nadihal, Baramula.

Twenty-one years Old Danish Manzoor, a student of class 12th, was shot dead by the Indian armed forces belonging to RR regiment. He was part of a protest on which the armed forces opened fire. A bullet hit him on his chest, and he died on the spot. The family tried to file an FIR against the army but the local police station, the family alleges, didn't file it.

Danish Ahmed is survived by his parents, and two brothers.

Manzoor Ahmed, his father, tells:

A huge number of people attended his funeral. They were crying most of them. The trees seemed to cry at that time. Then we buried him. I didn't cry at that time; I was too shocked to cry.

Later as the days passed, I began to miss my son. I would cry inside the room. I would not let anyone to come to the room. The mourning for one's child should always be done alone...I talk to my dead son. I ask him about his health and how he is doing there down underneath. He never talks back. He keeps silent. He is in deep sleep.

His mother has changed a lot. She doesn't talk much. She keeps looking at the walls for most of the time; then tears trickle down her face. She doesn't say much. Some days, she gets all his clothes out and hugs them. She unpacks the clothes, spends hours fondling them, and then she neatly packs them again and puts them back in the almirah. Maybe she still believes that he is alive; maybe she believes that he will come back to her.

She complains of severe headaches, and in the night, she goes out into the kitchen and lies down where my boy would eat. She tells me that he will come back. Sometimes she tells me that Danish is calling her and that he is in the courtyard playing cricket.

I remember my son vividly playing cricket in the courtyard. He would assemble all the neighbouring boys and play cricket with them. He had a black bat; it was big one. I don't know where it is. I tried to look for it but I am unable to find it.

My son would break window panes while playing. I would scold him often for it. He would still play...I wish he comes back from grave and play again, and break the window panes. This time I would not scold him.

He was good at studies and wanted to study. He wanted to go to Delhi for studying. His books and a bag that he bought the previous month, still lies packed. He never used it. Maybe he knew he would get killed... Maybe he knew...

## Musaib Majeed Nagoo

**Father's Name:** Abdul Majeed Nagoo

**Resident of:** Sonawani, Lakipora, tehsil Qaziabad, district Kupwara.

**Date and Place of death:** 5th September, 2016, Sonawani, Kupwara

Seventeen Years old Musaib Majeed, a student of class 12th, was shot dead by the personnel of the CRPF. He was, the family says, part of a protest; a tear gas shell hit him in the head.

According to the eyewitnesses, he was shot from a close range. The family didn't file an FIR in this regard.

Musaib is survived by his parents, and two brothers.

properly recognise him. His eyes, his beautiful eyes, had blood on them. I see him in my dreams like that. He cries out to me, and tells me that he fears a lot where he is. He wants me to save him...I feel guilty that I couldn't save him. He was my child and it was my duty to not let him be killed. I wish I had been killed instead.

Nothing is left of him but the grief...the grief I have to bear my entire life. I don't even know whether I will be able to bear his loss or not. His death had left us all weak. I need to take sleeping tablets to sleep...without them I cannot sleep. I feel that I have a wound inside me that doesn't allow me to take rest. It is living your part.

The state killed him. They don't want Kashmiris to even live. What crime did he commit? Asking for Azadi is not a crime. I will never forget and forgive India. They killed my son. He was such a charming boy. He wanted to study but they killed him instead. I don't have anything else to say...

Abdul Majeed, his father, tells:

There was lots of blood on his clothes. I saw the blood...It was all over. He was hit in the head and his head was totally damaged. I didn't even

Desire for Justice

## Mustafa Mir

Father's Name: Abdul Hameed Mir

Resident of: Dachigam, district Bandipora

Date and Place of death: 13th September, 2016  
at Dachigam, Bandipora.

Twenty-one years old Mustafa Ahmed Mir, a shopkeeper, was shot dead by the personnel of Jammu and Kashmir police. He was part of an eid prayer protest procession. The family claims that he was shot on head with a tear gas shell by an Superintendent of Police stationed at Bandipora. The family tried to file an FR against the police but the police refused to file one.

Mustafa Ahmed is survived by his parents and a brother.

Abdul Hameed Mir, his father, tells:

He left for prayers in the morning, at around 9 am but I kept waiting and waiting for him; he never returned. He was my eldest son and was taking care of the family by earning a living as a shopkeeper.

I visited many police stations and pleaded with the officers to tell me file an FIR. And many times, I would cry and plead to them to help Me.; they would kick me out of the offices... The police are all liars.

I wish he could come into my dreams. I wish I could just see one glimpse of him...

Sometimes, I feel that he will come back and see in what conditions we live. The life after him has been hard and the only consolation I have is his photograph. I look at it almost daily and pray to Allah that he comes in my dream. But it looks; he has been snatched away from my dreams too.

We have just two rooms and a small makeshift kitchen. And we are six family members. He had promised me that he would build a house and provide for the education of all other siblings.

We live a life of squalor, hardly managing to survive on daily basis and this pains me a lot. I do not have any wish to live any longer and I want to die as soon as it can be. What is there in my life? Nothing but the darkness and poverty. My whole body is defeated and I no longer am able to do the things that I used to. All the time I am in pain and I ask Allah to send me death.

After all these years, I have lost faith in everything, except Allah. There is no one to help you in this world. And the state too is a big liar and tyrant. The justice system is defunct and sides with the oppressor.

I have no hope also that I will be able to see my son again...he lies buried now ... I have kept my hope on Allah and believe that on the Day of Judgment I will get the justice. Till then, as I have no other choice, I will mourn for my son...

## Mansoor Ahmed Lone

**Father's Name:** Mohamad Ramzan Lone

**Resident of:** Harud Sho, district Baramula

**Date and Place of death:** 14th September, 2016 at Baramula.

Twenty-four years old Mansoor Ahmed, a daily wage labourer, was tortured to death by the personnel of the Indian Army belonging to 22 RR regiment. The family claims that he was picked up by the army, beaten and tortured that led to his death. No FIR has been filed against the army.

Mohammad Ramzan Lone, his father, tells:

One moment he was with me, smiling and eating, and next day I received his dead body, tortured and bruised. He cried while they tortured him...He must have cried out my name. I was witnessing and hearing his cries outside the camp. In the afternoon, he and my relatives went out looking for Mansoor. We found blood-smeared stones and sticks in the quarry. I knew it was my son.

That day at 11:30am on that Tuesday, three army vehicles hurried inside the 22 RR camp. Then I heard loud shrieks; the sound penetrated my brain. The shrieks were of slogans heard often in Kashmir. I crept close to the wall of the camp. What I saw was unimaginable. For two straight hours, four army men were hitting Mansoor, with iron bars, throwing stones at him and punching him

To each blow, he yelled back a slogan: 'Pakistan Zindabad; Hum Kya Chahte? Azadi!'

He was a simple man. He worked hard all his life to make his ends meet. He didn't earn much but we were happy with that. We would eat food and thank God for it...

I don't have any picture of him to remember; they were in his phone and I don't know what happened to it...perhaps it was stolen or the army took it away from him...What is left of him is his lunch box. He used to carry his lunch in the box when he would go to work. That lunchbox lay in the kitchen. Often, I look at it for a long time and remember the way my son would carry it in his right hand. He would take it in the morning and return with it in the evening...

Now no one takes the lunch box...No one goes to work. Since his death, I don't know how we manage. My wife has fallen ill, and she needs money for her medication...I wish my son was alive, he would have taken her to the doctor. I don't have enough money...I spend my days indoors...

I don't go to the grave of my son. What is there now? Even if I tell him anything, he will not hear it. He was killed and I buried him with my own hands...

I have no expectation from the Indian Judicial system. They will not punish those who killed him; instead, they will reward his killers. But I know that Allah will do justice. He will ask my sons killers about it and punish them...

## Wasim Ahmed Lone

**Father's Name:** Nazir Ahmed Lone

**Resident of:** Nadihal, district Bandipora

**Date and Place of death:** 23 September, 2016, at Baramula.

Twenty-two years old Wasim Ahmed, a student, was shot dead by the personnel of the Indian Army belonging to the 32 RR regiment. The family says that he was not part of any protest; he was killed without any provocation. No FIR has been filed against the army in this regard.

Wasim Ahmed is survived by his parents, and three siblings.

Nazir Ahmed, his father, tells:

My son was not the part of any protest. Why did they kill him? What was his crime? He was just passing from the road. They, nonetheless, killed him... The soldiers are not humans; they are goons who kill anyone they want to.

He was a simple student. All he wanted to do in his life was to study and become something in his life. He even would never ever shout at anyone...He would not fight with anyone. He was a well behaving boy.

My son loved to eat biscuits, and would sing songs. He had a good voice. He would sing Bollywood songs, he loved music. I would sometimes ask him to sing a song in the evening; he would sing sad song. I miss his voice...I miss to listen to him. The tyrants silenced his voice forever, with a

bullet. After his killing, I tried to kill myself. Had I no other children I would have. Life without him is bleak and I don't have the strength to bear his loss; I am broken inside. I am a corpse. I am just alive to the world; deep down I died with my son.

I wish I could see him just once...I wish I could listen to his voice just once.

I had promised to bring him a Rabab; he was so happy about it. He wanted to learn it and sing songs. He even promised me that he will sing to me every evening. He never kept that promise; he was killed before I could bring him Rabab.

I have no hope from the killers of my son to give me justice. The pro-India politicians are a scum. They order to kill small boys for their power. I wish they understand what it means to lose a child, I wish they understand what it means to receive the bullet ridden body of one's child...I wish...

## Showket Ahmed Yatoo

**Father's Name:** Ghulam Hasan Yatoo

**Resident of:** Churait, district Kulgam

**Date and place of Killing:** 18th July, 2016, at Churiat, Kulgam.

Twenty-one years old Showket Ahmed Yatoo, a student, was killed by the personnel of Indian armed forces belonging to the Rashtriya Rifles regiment stationed at Devsar, Kulgam. He was killed when he was a part of the protest against the killing of HM commander Burhan Wani. He was killed on 18th July, 2016, in the cricket field of his village.

The family didn't file a First Information Report. He is survived by three brothers and a sister. His mother, Sajada Begum, died six months before he was killed.

take the bat in his hand. And I have kept the bat with me, as a token; it was my brother's bat and the one with he never played...

I wish he had played with that bat; I wish he had broken it so that I could have bought him another (cries)... But we cannot run the time backwards! Can we?

What wrong had my brother done any to anyone? He just wanted to become a cricketer and he was killed.

There are times when I see him in my dreams; he tells me to save him. I reach out to him with my hands but he slips away and enters a dark chasm. Perhaps he is still calling me out from his grave to save him. How I wish I could have saved him! How I wish I had died instead of him. It would be better than to live and think that he is not there anymore, that he was killed by the army, that his heart was shredded by the bullet. When I think of it, I cannot sleep then...

His brother, Mohammad Nawaz recalls:

I don't know what else to say...

He was our youngest brother. After the death of our mother, I became his mother, but I couldn't save him. He was an excellent cricketer. All day he would play cricket, in the cricket ground, where he was killed. Had I even a flicker of idea that he will be killed in the cricket field, I would have never allowed him to play cricket... What should I tell you? Even that thought of his is too difficult for me to bear, my brother... my Brain Lara. We fondly called him Lara, after the great West Indian cricketer. My brother was such an excellent cricketer.

Since the day of his death, I have stopped to watch cricket. It reminds me of him and then I get anxious, and a severe headache invades me. I even don't go towards the road where the cricket ground is located.

On the eve of Eid, I had bought him a new bat. He never played with it; he was killed before he could







**LEGAL FORUM FOR KASHMIR - LFK**

[WWW.LFKASHMIR.COM](http://WWW.LFKASHMIR.COM)