

SLAUGHTER IN SOPORE

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SLAUGHTER IN SOPORE

About this Report

This fact-finding probe was originally compiled by - Institute of Kashmir Studies.

LFK has been archiving various investigative reports that have donned invisibility. Our aim is to bring such work into the public domain.

This report on the Sopore massacre is an attempt to disseminate the defiant work carried out by IKS.

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Researcher LFK

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Date: 06-01-1993

Time: 10:45 A.M - 13:00

Place: From main Chowk Sopore to Tehsil Headquarters Sopore-Bandipora road.

SOPORE MASSACRE: Brief Facts

On the morning of January 6, 1993, everything was going smoothly in the town of Sopore till 10:45 A.M. According to eyewitnesses two local fighters attacked a BSF patrol party and snatched a machine gun from one of the BSF personnel. Within 15 minutes of the said incident, BSF sealed off the entire area and started indiscriminate firing thereby killing everyone who came in their way. Eyewitnesses further say that the BSF personnel brought kerosene oil, petrol, and gunpowder, and started spraying and sprinkling it over the residential homes and shops at various places, and then torched the buildings which caused a devastating fire.¹ The BSF men were on a killing spree that day. They broke open the shutters and doors of shops and buildings and killed people from point-blank range. The troops on a rampage killed at least 57 civilians in cold blood. After killing them, BSF men set ablaze the shops and buildings with dead bodies inside them.² A report on the Sopore massacre appeared in Time magazine under the heading "Blood tide rising". According to the magazine, 55 innocent civilians were killed in the massacre.³

A State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) bus no **JKY 1901** bound for the adjacent town Bandipora was passing by when BSF personnel started firing upon the bus which resulted in the killing of 15 passengers and injuring many others. A survivor among the

passengers of the bus Mr. Assadullah Lone s/o Abdul Aziz lone revealed:

"The bus was parked in the main chowk of Sopore near the main bazaar area. On hearing gunshots, the passengers of the bus lay flat inside the bus. It was about 11:25 a.m. that two BSF men got into the bus and resorted to indiscriminate firing inside the bus. This process continued for about ten minutes till they got satisfied that they had killed all the occupants of the bus. When the killers got off the bus, I found that my wife had succumbed to the injuries caused by nine bullets she had received. I had got three bullets in my arm, leg, and abdomen".⁴

Another bus no **JKY 1899** reached the spot where the incident had taken place. It was from Hardshiva Dooru Sopore. One of the passengers **Mr. Mohammad Ashraf kar** was carrying **Rs.52,000** in cash on him and had his merchandise in the bus, revealed

*"The bus reached the main bazaar of Sopore at 10:30 a.m. He was in search of coolie for unloading his goods from the bus. At about 11:00 a.m. the BSF personnel resorted to indiscriminate firing. He then left the goods on the bus and entered a nearby shop wherein he saw four other people including the proprietor of the shop. Soon the BSF men raided the shop and killed the proprietor and his son and the third man. Mr. Kar in the meantime hid under the counter in the shop. He placed **RS 42000** in his inner pocket and **RS 10000** in his handbag. The BSF men directed Mr. Kar to come out which he did. Mr. Kar requested them to take his cash and let him go. One BSF personnel took the cash and directed him to run away. As he began to*

run other BSF personnel fired upon him but fortunately for him, he escaped unhurt. “

Most of the eyewitnesses which were interviewed later by the **Institute of Kashmir Studies-IKS** claimed that BSF personnel were in search of an occasion to clear the area and liquidate its inhabitants (right since the occupation India is trying to terminate its occupants in Indian Occupied Jammu Kashmir-IOJK to sabotage the free and fair plebiscite and ignores UN resolutions again and again).

Four members of a family who were loading fruit in truck no **JKQ 6057** for its dispatch to the outside the state markets were shot dead and later the BSF men set the truck ablaze. The cleaner of the truck **JKQ 6057 Mr. Pawan Kumar a non-Kashmiri Hindu** was also injured in the BSF firing and later shifted to Army hospital Srinagar in a **BSF plane**. This fact is corroborated by a student **Mr. Bilal Malla then aged 13**. Mr. Bilal, an eyewitness of this imbrued incident testifies:

“At the time when BSF personnel resorted to indiscriminate firing, I was in the union watch Co. Shop at Shalapora, to get the watch of my grandmother repaired. As soon as the firing started I and four others present in the shop lay flat on the floor while the shutter of the shop remained open. I could only hear the gunshots”.

He further reveals that two BSF personnel then entered the watch shop and ordered them to stand up. On seeing the BSF party was likely to shoot him too, he caught hold of the legs of a BSF man and begged for his life. He was asked to leave the shop and directed to

go inside a nearby hardware shop owned by **Mr. Abdul Khaliq**. Mr. Bilal complied and got inside the said shop. There he saw a person whom he could not recognize. The BSF men then entered the shop and fired upon them. Mr. Bilal hid under the sanitary pipes in the shops while the other one got killed. They then poured petrol into the shop Mr. Bilal too got soaked. He got one more chance and caught hold of the legs of another BSF personnel, begging for his life. The BSF personnel directed him to run away which he did, but he was fired upon by another BSF personnel. But fortunately for him, he had a miraculous escape by fleeing through a nearby by-lane. There are six visible bullet marks in his *Pheran* -a traditional Kashmiri gown. Children and women are given protection even in the state of war but the brutality of India is that they killed and injured many women and children in the IOJK. From the on-spot investigation and the evidence of the eyewitnesses who were interviewed it is proved that besides killing innocent people and destroying property worth crores of rupees, the BSF personnel looted cash and kind also. As can be ascertained from the pursuit of the foregoing lines and other available reports on the episode, the then-senior superintendent of police district Baramulla **Mr. Sahai** while speaking to the press correspondents confirmed that the BSF had run amuck in Sopore, killing dozens of people brutally irrespective of age and sex, and destroyed property by using gun powder. This alone is the most reliable proof of the havoc which was committed by BSF in Sopore. They are without any doubt dubbed murderers in uniform having restored to outrageous

killings. It seems that the Indian forces deployed in occupied Kashmir valley have been given the right to commit massacres at their will. **Armed Force Special Powers Act** (if military personnel are of opinion that it is necessary so to do for the maintenance of public order, after giving a warning as he may consider necessary, fire upon, or otherwise use force, even to the causing of death). The Indian Army and BSF are using this act for their pleasure in IOJK and eliminating the Muslim population on daily basis. The incident unveils and exposes the real face of secular and democratic India whose forces under the instruction of its high command are engaged in state terrorism.

Government inquiry of the Sopore Massacre

A question captioned "What is your opinion about the government-instituted inquiry about the massacre?" was asked by the IKS team to the witnesses. 60 percent declared the proposed inquiry to be useless. 25 percent said that it was simply to cover the obvious killers, and 15 percent said that it was the killer becoming the judge and that one couldn't expect any justice out of it. From this assessment the government has lost the confidence of the people as for its judicial behaviour is concerned. The then position was that the state had directed the police station officers not to file any FIRs against the BSF, the CRPF, or the Army. This is invariably being said by these Police officers to the relatives of the victims of state terrorism. These facts have also been mentioned in various reports of Amnesty International (London). Asia Watch (New

York), issued during 1991 and 1992 on the situation in Kashmir.

The Kashmir Times, in an editorial of March 4, 1993, commented:

"During the past four years of violence in Jammu and Kashmir the majority of those killed were the innocent citizens who were neither involved in the acts of militancy nor in the retaliatory action of the security forces... The concern among the people having faith in human values, peace, and civil liberties over the large-scale violation of human rights in the State is understandable... Unfortunately, there has been a subsequent increase in the killings of innocent persons in Kashmir during the past few months while both the Government and the militant outfits have been crying gravely about the violation of human rights".

In connection with the carnage at Sopore, the following facts about State terrorism have been brought to light by local and international human rights organizations:

- (a) State terrorism seems to have crossed all limits when you find such persons among the victims whose age is more than 55 years. The victims include an insane and sick man and a lady traveling in a bus.
- b) State terrorism has not spared even the State government employees. In the list of victims, most of the victims are government employees.
- (c) Fourteen passengers traveling in the RTC bus JKY 1901, were killed mercilessly on the spot inside the bus. This is clearly an example

of state terrorism. There is hardly any parallel to such brutalities.

d) Most of the killed and injured persons comprise the victims who were busy in shops or at other business establishments or were out attending to their job. These victims were all civilians engaged in earning their day-to-day livelihood.

(e) Lastly, it reveals the extreme level of degradation to which the Indian force has fallen when one finds at least four such victims who were shot at point-blank range and then thrown into the burning fire. Does humanity in the world find such an example elsewhere also?

(f) The State terrorism is so unsparing that even the state's police personnel are not safe, One **Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Shah**, s/o Ghulam Ahmad Shah, r/o Trehgam Kupwara, posted at Police Station Sopore, who, while on his duty of collecting the dead bodies of the victims of the state terror, was shot at, though he had a narrow escape and was only injured in the face.

(g) In the Sopore massacre the civilians killed were:

- **Seven** in the age group of 50 and Above
- **Thirty-three** in the age group of 20 - 50
- **Five** under the age of 20

Public reaction and Protests after the Sopore Massacre 1993

The Border Security Forces (BSF), after running amuck in Sopore, tried in vain to cover up the incident by not allowing anybody to go in or out of the area. But a large number of people gather outside the town of Sopore. A complete strike (hartal) was observed by the people in the entire valley against the brutal killings of innocent persons and destruction of property worth crores on **7th January 1993**, while the curfew was imposed by the government. While the Governor **MR. G.C. Saxena** visited the site large number of people came out and started demonstrations against his visit. Senior resistance and political leader **Syed Ali Shah Geelani** also visited the site and met with the relatives of victims. On January 7th, 1993 the government ordered the shifting of the **94th Battalion** of **BSF** from Sopore. The shifting of the battalion from Sopore itself speaks that the BSF was guilty of the offenses. A strong and charged crowd of around **50000** people defied the curfew restrictions after Friday prayer and held a demonstration under the leadership of **Syed Ali Shah Geelani**. The Indian Army resorted to firing, lathi charges, and teargas shelling on the protestors injuring about **18** people. Protest rallies were held in London (U.K) demanding the world community to urge upon the Indian Government to the genocide of Kashmir Muslims and implement the U.N resolutions.

STATEMENTS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION, MAINSTREAM POLITICIAN & HURRIYAT LEADERSHIP

Mr. Richard Buser, the U.S. State Department Spokesman “Sopore tragedy is part of Indian reprisal”.

Asia Watch: An American-based Human Rights Organization “We condemn the Sopore killings very strongly”.

Amnesty International: “Amnesty is concerned at the reports of the killing of at least 53 people in Sopor Kashmir by paramilitary forces and at the inadequacy of the government's response to effectively investigate the killings”.

Mohammad Sidique Khan Kanjoo, Pakistan's Foreign Minister “Indian leaders have given a free hand to their unleashed forces to make the Muslim population target of their barbarism”.

P.V. Narasimha Rao:- (Prime Minister of India) “Sopore incident is very unfortunate.”

G.C. Saxena (then-Governor J&K State) “It is unfortunate.”

B. S. Bedi (then-D.G.Police J&K) “The security forces lost their control which resulted in the unpleasant happening”.

Hakim Manzoor, the then-District Commissioner, Baramulla District wherein Sopore falls “Disturbed Areas and TADA Acts have bestowed the forces with utmost

powers. The Sopore happening is the outcome of such surplus powers”

Syed All Shah Geelani: “The Kashmir freedom movement cannot be crushed by such oppressive measures. The Sopore incident is open day-light proof of State Terrorism let loose by India in Kashmir. It is a planned genocide”.

Mirwaiz Moulvi Umer Farooq “The tragic episode at Sopore has come to us as a challenge”.

Employees and Workers Confederation “We express our deep shock and regret over the killings of innocent persons and burning of property by unleashed Indian Forces”.

A.G. Lone, Chairman J&K People's Conference. “It was the worst incident and has exposed the cowardice of Indian forces and the hollowness of much-talked Indian democracy”.

Mian Abdul Qayoom, the President of Kashmir High Court Bar Association- “The Sopore incident provides proof of state terrorism. We condemn the action of the BSF in Sopore”.

Sopore Massacre in The Local Press

Facts are Facts: The then-only English paper published from Srinagar in its Jan. 19-26 issue said that the powers vested to the forces by virtue of the Disturbed Areas Act are responsible for such operations. “There is no accountability at all so they don't hesitate to go to any extent in their excesses against the people”. There have been many tragedies of

this nature, of course the one at Sopore being by far the greatest, where inquiries were instituted but nothing fruitful has come out of these inquiries so far.

The weekly Srinagar flash Jan 19,1993

Kashmir Burns: Just when the army was talking of "Operation Goodwill" has come to the shocking development of deaths by bullets or burning in the locality of Sopore in Kashmir Valley. Even as the versions of Wednesday's unfortunate incident may vary, it goes without saying that it has been an unprecedented tragedy which is bound to give a new dimension to the alleged excesses by the security forces. It is difficult to believe that the fire in one particular house would spread over an area reportedly of one kilometre. Even if it is assumed that there was an arms dump in the locality, it cannot be said it was so big that almost the entire area got blasted and burnt. It is incidents like these that make observers say that while the people crave for respite from violence unending killings, it is the security forces which push them into the militants Lap. The authorities concerned have denied a number of allegations against the security forces but they cannot close their eyes to the valley-wide response to a call the other day for complete bandh against custodial deaths.

Kashmir Times Jan-8, 1993

Indian media on Sopore Massacre

Role of BSF criticized: The Communist Party of India (CPI) has demanded an inquiry by a parliamentary delegation headed by the

Home Minister into devastating fire at Sopore in the Kashmir Valley.

In a statement here, the central secretariat of the CPI expressed concern over the reports of deaths of 50 persons in the fire and cross firing in a day-long encounter between the security forces and militants. This was not for the first time that innocent people had been killed in such encounter, it said. The Jammu and Kashmir Governor. G.C. Saxena, could not "heal the wounds of the people" by visiting the affected areas, said.

A parliamentary delegation consisting of members of all political parties should be immediately deputed to visit the town to help restore normalcy, the statement said.

Sopore Massacre and Human Rights Organizations

Most of the human rights organizations of the world have quickly and sharply reacted to this incident.

Amnesty International, the U.K.-based organization issued an initial report vide its extra-ordinary hand out No: UA 05/93. Al index ASA 20/03/93. did. 8-1-93, 0 Sopore. In this report the Amnesty has expressed deep concern over the extra-judicial killings of people at Sopore by paramilitary forces and at the inadequacy of the Government's response to effectively investigate the killings. The organization is concerned that the investigation lacks independence required for a fully effective and impartial investigation.

Another report was published by the **South Asian Human Rights Centre** New Delhi. In its detailed report the Documentation Centre has testified that the Sopore incident was the result of unilateral decisions of the army administration of the State and that the killings of over 50 people were not a result of cross firing but was due to the intentional terrorism let loose by the BSF. The report also testifies that the shops and buildings were not burnt due to the fire in an ammunition store of militants (as claimed by State Government) but was due to intentional lighting of the property by the BSF.

Asia Watch, an American-based human rights organization, in its report on Sopore

showed a grave concern over the Sopore incident and condemned the killings very strongly.

¹<https://kashmirlife.net/justice-denied-sopore-1993-issue-42-vol-10-198302/>

²<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/kashmir/sopore-massacre-when-57-civilians-were-killed-400-shops-and-75-houses-burnt-down>

³<https://content.time.com/time/subscriber/article/0,33009,977469,00.html>

⁴<https://kashmirlife.net/justice-denied-sopore-1993-issue-42-vol-10-198302/>

List of Civilians Killed by Border Security Force (BSF)

S. No	Name	Age	Profession	Circumstances under which killed
1.	Haji Ghulam S/O Jabbar	72	Shopkeeper	Shot and then burnt
2.	Mr Abdul Majid Sofi S/O Mohi -ud- din	37	Govt employee	Shot in bus then burnt
3.	Mr Mohammad Altaf Ganai s/o Ghulam Rasool Ganai	25	Shopkeeper	Shot in head and then burnt in his shop
4.	Mr Abdul Majid Gadoo s/o Ghulam Ahmad Gadoo	30	Watch mechanic	Shot in his shop and then burnt
5.	Mr Muhammad Ashraf wani s/o Ghulam Hassan wani	36	Salesman	Shot while transacting business of his employer
6.	Mr Mohammad Ashraf Kangoo s/o Ghulam Hassan Kangoo	16	Salesman	Shot while transacting business of his employer
7.	Mr Mohammad Siddique	40	Watch mechanic	Shot while transacting business of his employer
8.	Mr Ghulam Nabi Zargar s/o Ghulam Qadir	45	Prop.Shaheen studio photographer	Shot in his shop and then burnt
9.	Mr Ghulam Mohammad Wani s/o Abdul Khaliq Wani	28	Shopkeeper	Shot while in shop
10.	Mr Mohammad Ashraf mir s/o Ghulam Qadir mir	22	Private employee	Shot while in his shop
11.	Mr Ghulam Nabi Bhat s/o Mohammad Abdullah	36	Owner softy ice cream shop	Shot while helping injured people in the presence of SSP Baramulla
12.	Mr Ayub s/o Khazir Mohammad	30	Shopkeeper	Shot while in his shop
13.	Mr Javid Ahmad Bhat s/o Mohammad Saleem	35	Employee M/S shaheen studio	Shot while working in the shop
14.	Mr Farooq Ahmad Banday	28	Medical agency owner	Shot aboard the bus JKY 1901
15.	Mr Gulzar Ahmad sheikh s/o Abli Sheikh	36	Business	Shot while collecting dead bodies

16.	Mr Javid Dar s/o Abdul Salam	30	Business	Shot while passing the road
17.	Abdul Ahad liloo s/o (Alias Kanjwal)	70	Shopkeeper	Shot while in his shop
18.	Ghulam Rasool Shalla s/o M Shaban Shalla	38	Fruit grower	Shot while loading the fruit in truck JKQ 6057
19.	Bashir Ahmad Shalla d/o Ghulam M Shalla	28	Fruit grower	Shot while loading fruit in truck
20.	Mohammad Ashraf Shalla s/o Mohammad Maqbool Shalla	18	Student	Shot while loading fruit in truck
21.	Sajad Ahmad Shalla s/o Abdul Razak Shalla	18	Student	Shot while loading fruit in truck
22.	Zahoor Ahmad Khan s/o Mohammad Shafi Khan	55	Govt employee Headmaster	Shot while passing by
23.	Abdul Khaliq malik s/o Ghulam Mohiudin Malik	50	Driver	Shot while passing by road
24.	Mohammad Ismail Bhat	45	Insane	Shot while passing by
25.	Mohammad Saudullah Parah	20	Traveller	Shot while private visit to town in bus JKY 1901
26.	Ghulam Rasool Hajam s/o Mohammad Hajam	30	Barber	Shot and burnt in his shop
27.	Habib ullah Mir s/o Hamza Mir	45	Peon in bank	Shot in front of his place of work
28.	Ghulam Mohammad war s/o Mohammad sultan war	55	Farmer	Shot in front of bank
29.	Abdul Rashid war s/o Ghulam M war	33	Farmer	Shot in front of bank
30.	Ghulam Rasool sofi s/o Muhammad sultan sofi	35	Private employee	Shot while transacting business
31.	Mrs Misra begum w/o Assadullah lone	37	Farmer	Shot while travelling in the RTC bus JKY 1901
32.	Muhammad sultan lone s/o Kabir lone	35	Farmer	Shot while travelling in RTC bus JKY 1901
33.	Ghulam Mohi Udin s/o Assadullah	38	Laboratory	Shot while travelling in RTC bus JKY 1901

34.	Abdul Rashid soft s/o Abdul Khaliq	38	RTC driver	Shot while on duty
35.	Sana ullah Rather	35	Nil	Shot while aboard bus JKY 1901
36.	Nasir Ahmad Shahri s/o Wali M shahri	36	Nil	Shot while aboard on bus JKY 1901
37.	M Hussain Mir s/o Ghulam ud din	38	Nil	Shot while boarding bus JKY 1901
38.	Abdul Razaq Chaikoo s/o Ghulam M Chaikoo	37	Namda seller Hawker	Shot while passing by
39.	M Ashraf Ganai s/o M Maqbool Ganai	37	Watch mechanic	Shot in his shop and burnt
40.	M Delawar Khan s/o M Shaban khan	40	Farmer	Shot while boarding on bus JKY 1901
41.	M Shaban Ganai	55	Employee in town area committee	Shot while attending his routine job
42.	M Maqbool Dar s/o Karim Dar	55	Fish seller	Shot while selling fish
43.	Bashir Ahmad Wani s/o Ghulam Ali wani	42	Employee wildlife	Shot while going to job
44.	Pir Ahmad Khanday s/o Abdul Rehman	38	Nil	His body was found underneath debris
45.	Gulla Khan	38	Nil	Shot after directing him to come out from bus JKY 1901

(IKS)

List of civilians injured by BSF

S. No	Name	Age	Profession	Circumstances
1.	Noor Uddin s/o Ghulam Mohammad	45	Shopkeeper	Injured on his shop
2.	Tariq Ahmad kanjwal s/o Abdul Ahad kanjwal	32	Shopkeeper	Injured in his shop at chowk Sopore in front of his father
3.	Mohammad Shafi Patigaroo s/o Ab Aziz	30	Shopkeeper	Injured while on his shop
4.	Asad ullah Lone s/o Abdul Aziz	35	Nil	Injured while traveling in bus JKY 1901
5.	Haji Abdul Ahad Misger	50	Shopkeeper	Injured on his shop
6.	Bashir Ahmad Khanday s/o Khazir M Khanday	25	Nil	Injured on road while passing by
7.	Javed Ahmad Lillo s/o Ghulam M Lillo	15	Student	Injured in vegetable shop
8.	Mohammad Akbar sofi	70	Shopkeeper	Injured in shop
9.	Abdul Ahad Mir s/o Asad ullah Mir	45	Shopkeeper	Injured by fire burns when his shop was lit by BSF and RS 8500 looted from his shop
10.	Mrs Mehra begum w/o Ghulam Ahmad	40	Nil	Injured while passing by
11.	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir s/o Abdul Ahad Mir	25	Nil	Injured while passing by
12.	Nisar Ahmad Bulaky s/o Khazir Mohammad	25	Nil	Injured while passing by
13.	Pawan kumar	30	Conductor Truck JKQ 6057	Injured by BSF while loading fruit on truck
14.	Mohammad Shafi Gazi	30	Shopkeeper	Injured while at shop
15.	Ghulam Hassan Bhat	30	Nil	Injured while passing by
16.	Mohammad Ramzan Baig s/o Ghulam baig	23	Private employee	Injured in front of his place of work

(IKS)

Details of property damaged/burnt by BSF

S.No.	Name & Address	Description of property	Estimated cost (in lacs)	Description of stocks burnt	Estimated cost (in lacs)	No. of persons rendered
1.	Haleema Begum w/o Attequallah	5 shops 3 storey building	5.20	Medicines, ECG, x-ray machines	15.00	5, 1 shot dead
2.	Anjuman Moinul r/o Islam Auqaf Building	2 storeys shop	0.96	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Mrs shah begum r/o Momkak	2 storeys shop	0.60	Hosiery retail of Mohd Amin Langoo	3.0	1
4.	Ghulam Nabi r/o Mom Kale Rajbagh	2 storey shop	0.60	Hosiery retail of cosmetics	3.0	2
5.	Haji Khalil Joo r/o Rajbagh	2 storeys 2 shops	3.60	Office central bank Police office	1.0	Nil
6.	Zamrooda begum r/o Sofi Hamam	2 storeys 2 shops	1.0	Textile fabric retail shop	3.0	2
7.	Ghulam Nabi Untoo r/o Sofi hamam	2 storeys 3 shops	1.50	Textile fabrics retail shop	3.00	2
8.	Rehman Joo dand R/o Khankah	2 storeys 1 shop	.60	Textile retail shop	3.00	1
9.	Kh Nooru R/o Khankah	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Shawls, Dupatta	.60	1
10.	Ghulam Ahmad dand	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Hosiery	1.90	2

11.	Auqaf Islamia	1 storey 6 shops	1.80	Hosiery, fruits	1.20	6
12.	Ghulam Nabi langoo r/o Momkak	1 storey 2 shops	.80	Warehouse	.30	Nil
13.	Shah begum r/o anjuman islam	1 storey 2 shops	.80	Warehouse	.20	Nil
14.	Auqaf islamia	1 storey 4 shop	3.00	Fruits, barber, tea stall, electrician, medical agency	3.0	6
15.	Hafiz ullah amin R/o New colony Sopore	3 storeys 2 shops	5.00	Textile wholesale retail shop	30.0	9
16.	Ghulam Nabi Ganai r/o Bilal colony	2 storeys shop	3.00	Nishat textile wholesale	12.00	5
17.	Ghulam Rasool Mir R/o Iqbal nagar	2 storeys shop	2.50	Cloth + textile wholesale	15.00	4
18.	Mohammad Amin Lara r/o colony	2 storeys shop	.50	Wholesale vegetable	0.15	1
19.	Mohammad Shafi Lara R/o colony	2 storeys shop	.50	Readymade garments	0.50	1
20.	Ali M Janwari r/o Momkak	2 storey 1 shop	1.00	Kiryana shop	1.00	2
21.	Bashir Ahmad r/o hathi shah	2 storeys 2 shops	1.50	Pandith shops, hosiery, watch shop	2.00	2
22.	Bashir Ahmad langoo	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Footwear retail	1.90	2
23.	Habibullah Antoo r/o sofi hamam	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	General provision store	4.00	2

24.	Ishtiyaq Ahmad Dar r/o Hathi Shah	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Provision store	5.00	1
25.	Ghulam Rasool Gada	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Barber shop	0.45	3
26.	Abdul Gani Malik r/o Teliyam	2 storeys 3 shops	3.00	Ready made garments retail shop	10.70	9
27.	Anjuman momin ul islam sopore	3 storeys 17 shops	30.00	Hardware, provision store, watch seller, fruits , Godown, cloth, wholesale, barber shop	500	30
28.	Showkat Razzak pandit r/o takiabal	2 storeys 5 shops	5.00	Hosiery retail, radio Philips wholesale dealer, textile retail, crockery retail, hotel, fixture, furniture shops	29.00	12
29.	Abdul Khaliq Bhat r/o Badam Bagh	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Crockery retail, his godown	5.50	2
30.	Mohammad Ramzan Bhat r/o Sopore	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Hardwre, godown	5.00	4
31.	Haji habib ullah wani r/o Momkak	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Plywood, teakwood, furnishing godown	5.00	2
32.	Haji Gh Mohammad lone	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Camping tents	5.00	4
33.	Bashir Ahmad r/o Noor bagh	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Shop was closed	2.00	Nil

34.	Haji Mohammad Kar r/o sofi hamam	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Radio dealer with godown in 2 nd story	3.00	2
35.	Haji Ghulam M qadir Bhat r/o KhajaGilgit	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Fruit agency	0.50	2
36.	Zoona Begum	2 storeys 1 shop	0.60	Goldsmith, gold furniture and fixtures	2.00	2
37.	Bashir Ahmad zargar r/o Noor bagh	3 storeys 4 shops	5.00	Watch Co hosiery cloth merchant radio dealer, offices (I.T.S.T) Bombay radio	20.00	6
38.	Auqaf Building Shalla Pora	2 storeys 4 shops	3.00	Radio dealer, Tailor shop, provision store and other tailor	4.00	4
39.	Abdul Rashid Pandit r/o Takni bai	2 storeys 11 shops	8.00	Hotel, cloth merchant, cosmetics, medicines gas dealer, fruit merchant, hosiery	20.00	40
40.	Lal Din Malik r/o Shah pora	2 storeys 2 shops	1.50	Hotel crockery, tailor, tea stall	10.00	7
41.	Ghulam Ahmad bafanda r/o Shah pora	1 storey 1 shop	.50	Medicines	2.00	2
42.	Reyaz Ahmad Malik r/o Shah Pora	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Opticals	2.00	4
43.	Abdul Khaliq Sofi r/o Doabgah	2 storeys 2 shops	1.00	Stove mechanic shop	0.50	3

44.	Mohammad Shabaz Malik r/o Shah Pora	1 storey 1 shop	0.50	Medicine	2.00	2
45.	Nazir Ahmad Malik r/o Shah Pora	1 storey 1 shop	.50	Stove repairs	.50	2
46.	Manzoor Ahmad Malik r/o Shah Pora	2 storeys 2 shops	1.00	Fruit shops	.40	1
47.	Abdul Aziz Liloo r/o Shallapora	1 storey 1 shop	.50	Fruit shop	.20	1
48.	Mohammad Shaban Ahangar r/o Shallapora	3 storeys 2 shops	1.00	Black smith	0.50	3
49.	Saif udin Malik r/o Bandipora	2 storeys 2 shops	1.00	Cloth	3.00	6
50.	Mohammad Ashoor Mallah r/o Shallapora	1 storey 3 shops	1.00	Cycle shop, welding shop	2.00	4
51.	Ghulam Nabi Mallah r/o Shallapora	2 storey 1 shop	1.50	Motorcycle, fruit dealer	1.00	4
52.	Abdul Salam Dar r/o Shallapora	2 storeys 6 shops	3.00	Printing press, tea stall, tailor, book shop, black smith	15.00	18
53.	Abdul Hamid Antoo r/o Muslim Peer	2 storeys 7 shops	5.00	Crockery shop, butcher shop. Textile shop, fruit shop, electric goods shop, provision store, furniture and fixture for hotels	11.40	9
54.	Abdul Ahad Liloo r/o Muslim Peer	3 storeys 10 shops and	7.00	Tobacco+ provision, barber shop, dry	8.45	13

		residential house		cleaner, watch service shop, garments shop, Godown, Book shop, gas cylinder, hosiery		
55.	Abdul Rashid Lone r/o Machipora	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Fruit commission agent	.50	5
56.	Ghulam Hassan Ganai r/o sofi Hamam	2 storeys 2 shops	2.00	Pesticide dealer shop, diesel, paper	3.00	3
57.	Zahoor Ahmad shah r/o Armpora	1 storey 1 shop	1.00	Medical retail shop	3.00	2
58.	Muhammad Sultan	3 storeys 3 shops	4.50	Tv dealer, building material, electric goods, alfa lab, tailor shop, godown, transport office	9.00	19
59.	Nazir Ahmad ganai r/o Muslim peer	1 storey 1 shop	1.00	Stores	20.00	1
60.	Haji Gul shah r/o Jalalabad	3 storeys 5 shops	5.00	Tailor shop, grocery, butcher's shop, Godown, other stores, textile poshish	6.60	9
61.	Haji Ghulam Rasool shah r/o Iqbal nagar	3 storeys 3 shops	2.00	Paints, hardware, tin sheet	5.50	4
62.	Abdul Aziz Lone r/o iqbalabad	3 storeys 2 shops	2.00	Godown, other stores and residential	2.00	X
63.	Nazir Ahmad Antoo	3 storeys 2 shops	3.00	Godown, textile printer	1.00	2

64.	Haji Habibullah dar r/o Muslim Peer	1 storey 3 shops	1.00	Type institute, ornamental needle works	1.20	7
65.	Haji Ghulam shah r/o iqbalabad	3 storeys 3 shops	2.50	Godown, electric motor winding shop, Godown 2 nd storey, medical store	3.50	4
66.	Abdul Aziz Shah r/o iqbalabad	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Provision store	1.00	1
67.	Haji Ghulam mohammad Nadroo r/o Muslim Peer	2 storeys 2 shops	1.50	Godown	1.00	X
68.	Haji Abdul Samad dar r/o Dangerpora	2 storeys 2 shops	2.50	Fruit commission shops, furniture, gas agency, steel crockery	6.18	3
69.	Abdul Sattar Khan r/o chankipora	3 storeys 2 shops	2.00	Tea stall, fruit commission	.70	4
70.	Haji Mohammad Sikandar War r/o warpora	3 storeys 2 shops	3.00	Fruit shop	10.70	2
71.	Abdul Khaliq Dar r/o Bagat	2 storeys 2 shops	2.00	Fruit commission shops	.50	2
72.	Abdul Gani Pandit r/o chankipora	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Electric shop, store	4.00	2
73.	Auqaf building	2 storeys 8 shops	4.00	Butcher shop, Godown, provision store, 2 nd storey school	1.60	3

74.	Haji Habib Ullah Dar r/o Muslim Peer	2 storey 3 shops	2.00	Provision store, Godown, Fruit commission	1.90	3
75.	Mohammad Akbar r/o warpora	2 storeys 3 shops	2.00	Provision store, 2 hardware store, 2 nd floor hotel	2.50	8
76.	Haji Gul Shah r/o Jalalabad	2 storeys 2 shops	2.00	Radio repairing, textile shops, tailoring	4.50	7
77.	Abdul Ahad Kar r/o Harda Shira	2 storeys 1 shop	1.00	Fruit shop	.10	X
78.	Town Area Building	2 storeys 3 shops	2.00	Foot ware, camping agent	3.25	2
79.	Anwar Ahmad Pandit	3 storeys 23 shops	24.00	Medical, radio sale, textile shop, hosiery, footwear, hardware, photographer, fruit seller, provision store, dry cleaner, resturants, barber, radio stores, tea stall	30.40	29
80.	Cinema hall samad talkies	2 storeyed	30.00	Provision stores	20.00	2

(IKS)

Details of Residential Houses Burnt by BSF

S.No.	Name	Description of property	Estimated Cost	No. of family rendered
1.	Ghulam Malla s/o Ghulam Mohiudin r/o Shallapora Sopore	3 storeyed house A class	3 lac	One family
2.	M Ashoor Malla r/o Shallapora	2 storeyed C class	1 lac	One family
3.	Abdul Ahad Liloo r/o Muslim pora	3 storeyed A class	6 lac	One family
4.	Hafiza D/O M Malla R/O Shallapora	2 storeyed C class	1.50 lac	One family
5.	Ghulam Nabi Malik R/O Shallapora	2 storeyed B class	3 lac	3 families
6.	M Anwar Malik	3 storeyed B class	5 lac	4 families
7.	Riyaz Ahmad Malik	1 storeyed (kitchen) A class	075 lac	One family
8.	Ghulam Ahmad Malla R/O Muslim Peer	2 storeyed A class	6 lac	One family
9.	Mohammad Syed Antoo R/O Muslim Peer	3 storeyed A class	5.5 lac	One family

(IKS)

Details of Vehicles damaged by BSF

S.No.	Particulars & Vehicle No.	Brief Details	Estimated Damage
1.	Passengers bus No JKY 1901	The bullet shots are visible and its window panes broken	Rs 1 lac
2.	Passengers bus No JKY 1899	Completely burnt along with all belongings of the passengers	Rs 4.5 lac
3.	Maruti Car No. JKE 8485	The car was burnt completely. The passengers abandoned the vehicle along with all belongings including rs 65000/-	1.5 lac Cash 065 lac
4.	Truck no JKQ 6057	The truck was completely burnt along with full truck load of fruits	4.0 lac fruit Rs 1.5 lac

(IKS)

DIVISIONAL FIRE OFFICER'S DIARY

Extract of daily diary dated 6-1-1993 of the Fire Station Sopore. Report No: - 18 Time 11.50 hours Information of time call 11.50 hours. This time the sentinel of appliances room raised the alarm indicated that fire had broken out at Main Chowk Sopore and in the meantime the BSF personnel also inform about the fire at Main Chowk. 11.50 hours with reference to report 18 the station turned out to the ground of fire along with the crew and the fire appliances.

Extract of daily diary dated 6-1-1993 Fire Station Sopore.

11.40 hours with reference to report No. 18 of daily diary dated 6-1-1993 the station returned from fire ground of Main Chowk Tehsil Road Sopore along with fire appliances and crew except one Water Tender and guns. Since the fire station Sopore along with all officers and men were busy on the fire ground the various incidents which took place during the period could not be entered daily diary from time to time. Now a detailed report is being entered in the daily diary.

While making turn out, the fire service personnel could see the smoke rising very high in the sky themselves. On reaching near the main entrance of the fire station BSF Post State Bank of India the fire ambulances were stopped by BSF personnel and did not allow to proceed to Chowk where fire had broken out towards all seriously and firefighting operations were not allowed to start. The additional SP of Sopore was also present on spot and requested the BSF personnel to

allow the firefighting operations but this request was also turned down and later on the fire service personnel were allowed to extinguish the fire, but during this period about an hour was lost and wasted. Since fire was fast spreading towards all the sides and first priority was to give a positive and proper check so that the fire could not spread towards the other remaining property/population. It is pertinent to mention here that on the arrival at the scene of the fire extinguishers the property which was already involved in fire fully destroyed in fire.

Considering the seriousness of fire, the reinforcement was requested from the Head Quarters Srinagar, and the Director, J&K Fire Services was informed who then rushed towards the scene of fire. Almost all the fire stations at command in Sopore were pressed into service and left to their own stations after extinguishing the fire. The road leading to police station was blocked by a bus and a truck burnt in the centre of the main road near the cinema gate and Shalapora Road respectively.

Sd.---

(A M Ganai)

Divisional fire officer

Fire station, Sopore

Probe into Sopore incidents yet to take off

*(From
Noorul Qamrain)*

SRINAGAR, Jan 13- The inquiry ordered by the State government into Sopore killings and carnage may not take off, according to official and journalistic circles of the Kashmir Valley.

The masses have not been satisfied and response is negative as they have experience of the fate of previous inquiries ordered by the State government.

Governor Girish Chander Saxena assured the people that and whosoever may be responsible for firing and arson at Sopore would be brought to book. But the official sources said that it would be difficult to fix the responsibility on the para-military forces. They argued it would "tell upon the morale of security forces" who were fighting an undeclared war with the militants in an extremely difficult situation.

The massive security operations in the Valley to flush out militants have triggered, like many times in the past, allegations of excesses, killings, and arson by the security forces. According to official data, in 87 incident the State government ordered inquiries against the security forces.

A senior police officer said that at least in 12 instances in which either criminal cases were registered against the security forces or courts of enquiry ordered, the jawans have been punished under the law of the land. Giving details, he said that a DSP of the Kashmir police, two sub-inspectors and nine members of the CRPF had been suspended in

connection with May 21, 1990, incident when funeral procession of Maulvi Farooq was fired upon by the security forces.

He said some security officials were suspended and the cases were pending in the court of law in connection with the alleged killing of a bride at Doru village in south Kashmir by the security forces. The police officer said that two officers of NSG have been sentenced by court for imprisonment for years together in connection with the gang-rape of a foreign tourist of Canada, Miss Laura Lambia.

But human rights activists and some senior lawyers of Srinagar High Court argue that despite court directions in various cases no action has been taken against the security forces involved in criminal cases and alleged excesses. They confront with court orders and evidence in support of their argument.

On October 12, 1990, when the security forces allegedly torched the main market of the border town of Handwara in which at least 25 persons were killed by indiscriminate firing of security forces, the then DGP, JN Saxena, said in a press conference that enquiry into the incident would be completed in ten days and the persons responsible would be booked. But no action has been taken so far nor has the inquiry been completed, highly placed official sources said.

Similarly, the State government ordered an enquiry into the alleged killing and arson at Mashali Mohalla in downtown by the security forces. The incident took place on August 6, 1990. The then Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar was told to submit the report. According to the report of the DC

Srinagar, random firing by the BSF jawans of 75 battalion resulted in the death of nine persons. The worst-hit family was that of Bashir Ahmad Beigh who was killed before his wife, Mehbooba Begum, along with two sons and Mehbooba was also fired upon and is presently in the hospital.

The report was submitted by the DC Srinagar, according to official record, on August 11, 1990. Now the dust has settled down on the report and no action has been taken so far.

The fate of the inquiries into arson and killings in Sopore and down-town in the month of October 1990 is unknown even as hundreds of families in Srinagar and Sopore were rendered homeless allegedly by the security forces when they torched their houses.

The inquiry of the Chotta Bazaar killing was handed over to the CBI. The prestigious agency never started the inquiry into the incident which happened on June 12, 1991, when CRPF jawans went berserk killing at least 33 civilians in Srinagar.

Before ordering this probe, the authorities also ordered inquiry into June 8, 1991, incident when the security forces opened fire on the funeral procession of two persons near the shrine of the great saint Hazrat Peer Dastgir Sahib, killing at least 15 persons. The fate of this inquiry is also not known, according to the official circles.

In Kunanposhpora alleged mass-rape case, the inquiry was mysteriously suspended even after the then Divisional Commissioner, Mr Wajahat Habibullah, demanded stern action against the army jawans involved in the

mass-rape in a confidential letter to his superiors which was leaked to the press. The incident evoked concern from all human rights groups.

A magisterial inquiry, which never saw the light of the day, according to the official sources was ordered into the alleged gang-rape of five women by the security forces on December 5, 1991, at Hillar Bahi village in Anantnag district in the south of Kashmir. According to the official records, only in one case of sexual assault have the to the security personnel been punished in early 1990 when the CRPF personnel gang-raped two women at Channapura locality on the outskirts of Srinagar city.

In many alleged rape and molestation cases, inquiries have been ordered but never initiated, allege human rights activists. They confront with evidence like incidents at Pazipora, Uri, Keran and Pulwama. The activists allege that the police refused to lodge FIRS against the security forces especially in the year 1992. They said that in many alleged custodial deaths the police straightway refused to lodge FIRs against the security forces and these activists again confront with instances.

With this track record of inquiries and commissions ordered into the allegation of excesses the latest ordered into the Sopore incident has only raised eyebrows among the masses in general and in human rights and journalistic circles in particular. Would the guilty be punished is a big question.

(Kashmir Times, Jan -14, 1993)



