

# The Bleeding and Burning Kashmir: Violence, Terrorism and Freedom Struggle

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## Abstract

Efforts have been made to discuss various issues which Kashmir Valley had faced in the past six decades – Violence, Terrorism, Aggression and Bloodshed. Political conflict in the valley have marked a high degree of militarization and the presence of herse laws giving special powers to military forces makes Kashmiri people victims of violence. This article puts a view that how India and Mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir had and are trying to suppress the slogans and voices Kashmiri people and Separatists that are demanding nothing but Freedom.

**Keywords:** Freedom, Jamat-I –islami, Kashmiri pundits, Ragdo Ragdo, Violence etc.

## Introduction

The temporary accession by then the cruel and tyrant ruler of Kashmir-Hari Singh in 1947 and finally the recognition of accord by Sheikh Abdullah in 1972 who brought Kashmir to India makes the Kashmir terrible and one of the most conflicting militarized areas of the world. From 1947 Kashmir Valley is burning; there is violence, terrorism and bloodshed which is largely because of India than by Pakistan and Pakistani backed infiltrators. Innocent Kashmiri people have been butchered, beaten, tortured, killed and not only that women in the valley are raped and tormented. In these six decades, people of Kashmir are fighting for their own cause and for protecting their own identity and for this they demand nothing but only and only “AZADI” (Freedom).

## Objectives:

1. To highlight the political conflict and the freedom struggle of Kashmir.
2. To highlight the various laws and acts which gives special powers to troops in J&K.?
3. To highlight the various incidents which have created violence in Kashmir?
4. To examine the view of Mainstream and Separatist parities in JK.

## Methodology

Both published and unpublished secondary data has been utilized for the purpose of study. The data on violence, terrorism and freedom struggle in the context of Kashmir issue were also analyzed. The data is collected from various journals of political sciences, from news papers and from internet.

## Discussion

Since from the time of temporary accession with India, the valley of Kashmir has been a disputed territory for more than six decades. In this period the valley and the people of Kashmir have witnessed violence and aggression in every moment of life. Kashmir have witnessed massive bloodshed in these six decades, but there is also a genuine freedom struggle going on against the repressive Indian state by the Kashmir's who are alienated equally with India.

The valley witnessed high profile violence in 1989 when the retired bureaucrat and former governor of the state-Jagmohan were appointed. During his second term, pundits (Kashmiri Hindus) were pushed out from the state. It was the policy of the Indian govt. and Jagmohan to take Kashmiri pundits for a limited period to outside state to suppress the freedom struggle, movement and the Kashmiri Muslims. The Indian govt. at that time leaved no stone unturned in this regard and used many tactics for this purpose. The agencies run and aided by India in Kashmir burnt the houses of innocent pandit community, looted their property, killed many of them to show the world that the incidence was supported, created by kashmiri separatist leaders and militants, although a hand of some separatists was also in that very violence. In fact in early1990s when pundits felt insecure given the killings of community members, secular JKLF tried to explain that the killings of prominent pundits were not communal but merely for political reasons like media bias and sentencing of Maqbool Bhat. Kashmiries came out in large numbers and demonstrated in support of their pundit brethren as they still do at every time innocent Hindus are killed, as witnessed in2003 massacre at Nadimarg. Several Hindu temples in

Kashmir have been built by Hindus with the active collaboration of their Muslim brother's e.g. in Budgam district. This means that Kashmiri people in general and separatists in particular are not communal. Then what are these forces whose target is the minority population? I would like to answer this that there are many agencies and people who are working for their selfish and motivated interests. They may and could be Indian sponsored renegades to communalize the conflict.

Terrorism in Kashmir during 1990s was touching the sky. It was not only cross border terrorism but also the state sponsored terrorism. Many terrorist groups came into existence, notable among them were special operation group (1994) and the Ikhwan-ul-Muslemeen (pro-governmental militia in the state of Jammu and Kashmir composed of mostly surrendered militia) created, supported and aided by Indian govt. and Indian army. These militant and terrorist groups have beaten, hooked, and tortured the Kashmiri people. From 1995 to 2000 Kashmir have witnessed a worst period of bloodshed by these two groups. These ikhwanis along with Indian forces looted the property, raped the women and killed thousands of Kashmiri people especially those belong to Jamat-I-Islami (Islamic group demanding complete freedom) and united Muslim front. Notable among them were former MLA Mr. Abdul Razaq Mir. Later on these ikhwanis were adjusted by govt. of India in various Indian army battalions. These Indian supported terrorists groups not only made a huge loss to development and humanity in valley but also tried to totally crash the freedom struggle of Kashmir valley in which they did not succeed.

The Kashmir valley has witnessed much more terrorism from India sponsored and less from Pakistan. Several remarks can be made here,

Let's have a look. Indian security forces as stated by Human Rights watch Report 1993 says that have assaulted civilians during search operations, tortured and summarily executed detainees and murdered civilians in reprisal attacks. US State department report in 2010 stated that in Jammu and Kashmir Indian army have carried out extra judicial killings of civilians and suspected insurgents. It has also described killings of and abuse being carried out by insurgents. For the first time in 2010, statistics presented to the Indian government's cabinet committee on security showed that the number of civilian deaths attributed to the Indian forces was high than those attributed to terrorist actions. The soldiers of 44<sup>th</sup> rajputana rifles of the Indian army on 23 February 1991 launched the search operation in a village kunan poshpora in the kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir and allegedly gang raped 53 women of all ages and in June 2009 Indian forces raped a girl and her sister in law namely Asia and Nelofar. If it is not terrorism then what it is? In Jammu and Kashmir Indian forces have been given special powers under the armed forces special powers act (AFSPA) which gives protection to the armed forces personnel from being prosecuted. The Indian armed forces in the state of Jammu And Kashmir State are free to do whatever they want to do. They can kill anybody and rape any woman they want, nobody can do anything or make harm to them because of these special powers. In fact every tactics have been used by Indian forces in the valley like beating the detainees, electrocutions and several interference to suppress the Kashmiri people and freedom struggle. Apart from that 70-80 percent detainees were not Islamic insurgents or Pakistani backed insurgents but civilians.

Kashmir freedom struggle: Kashmir from the very beginning has fought and raised slogans and voices against illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India. Hari Singh and his Dogra rule were not so coercive and cruel as it is in present, the Indian rule in the valley. Sheikh Abdullah somehow succeeded in putting an end to the dogra rule but unfortunately strengthen the temporary accession of Kashmir with Hari Singh had signed with India in 1947. It was the great mistake of Sheikh Abdullah who had fought a lot against the both-before 1947 against the dogra rule and after 1947 against India, when he said in an interview with the London times on 8<sup>th</sup> march 1972, "there is no quarrel with the govt. of India about accession, it is over the structure of internal autonomy, one must not forget that it is he who brought Kashmir to India otherwise Kashmir could have never been part of India".

During early years of 1990s, Kashmir's freedom struggle witnessed the period of weapons and guns which some anxiety youth used against the Indian imperialism in Kashmir. These people used violent methods for achieving the goal (freedom) includes throwing grenades on army vehicles firing on army personnel's and sometimes suicidal attacks etc. These people were regarded as terrorists and were killed. Apart from that large part of the civilian population was also killed in fake encounters by Indian army. At present figures shows that more than 1, 00000 persons were killed and more than 1, 0000 persons are being disappeared.

But now in the new millennium, Kashmiri people do not take guns and weapons in their hands. Now they are not throwing bombs on army personnel's. They are simply and peacefully protesting against illegal occupation of Kashmir. When Kashmiri people are gathering, demanding Azadi (freedom) are to preserve existing status quo, Indian forces openly fired upon them as was happened in 2008, 2010 and 2012. Let's discuss briefly these incidents

In 2008, it was the question of land transfer to the Amarnath shrine board which broke violence in Kashmir valley. People raised voices against this to protect article 370. They demonstrated Hartals, strikes, Bandhs. But when people were organized at some place, Army, CRPF, and police forces open fired upon them.

In that very case more than 100 people were killed and at least 300 persons were detained under Public Safety Act. the kashmiri younger generation showed anxiety and anger against the armed forces and threw stones upon them and discovered a new movement known as RAGDO RAGDO movement which was so popular that in the every tip of tongue of kashmiri, there was a word which was Ragdo Ragdo Bharat Ragdo(rub the India rub the India).it was a slogan which described the whole hatred of kashmiri people against India. People of valley used this slogan with zeal and enthusiasm. During 2010 Kashmir unrest, the central reserve police force(C R P F) killed 112 people including many teenager protesters at various incidents. In 2012, Kashmiri people again raised voice against illegal occupation of Kashmir by India raised the slogans “Hum Kya Chetah Azadi” (we want freedom). Kashmir witnessed a strike period for more than a month. In that period, the freedom struggle was at the peak which at last failed because the lack of sponsors among the Kashmiri people and lack of well developed political leadership. The Indian brutal forces openly killed more than 100 innocent youth, detained and tormented in hundreds of people. In all these incidents Kashmiri people in general and the youth in particular do not have guns and grenades in their hands but a stone and in their counter side there was bullet.



(Protesters are pelting stones upon security forces after the killing of a youth in Srinagar)

Main stream and Separatist: Main stream political parties were Kashmir issue and the sacrifices of martyrs for attaining power. Mainstream political parties during the campaigning of so called polls are deceiving the innocent kashmiries by claiming that they will resolve the Kashmir conflict. The Mainstream parties have lust for power and to remain in power they can cross any boundary. The presence of Armed Forces Special Powers Act(AFSPA), Terrorists and Disruptive Activities prevention act(TADA), Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002(POTA) ,Public Safety Act(PSA),Removal of various provisions of Article 370 from time to time is the calamity of the Mainstream that have turned Kashmir into miseries. It was the tyranny rule and oppressive laws of the mainstream of Jammu and Kashmir and the India that have compelled the youngsters in 1990s to take weapons.

The Separatists in Jammu and Kashmir believed that India and Pakistan should engage in trilateral talks with leaders of Jammu and Kashmir rather than any bilateral negotiations. According to Separatists, "Jammu and Kashmir nor is part of India neither remained a part of India and was handed over to India through deceitful politics". Separatists demanding a united Kashmir independent of both India and Pakistan .They have always charged and blamed the Indian Govt. on human rights violations and disturbances in the state. However separatists in Kashmir are not well organized and lack a well developed political leadership and policies. Despite the fact separatists are more famous and popular among kashmiries than mainstream political leaders and their leadership is always treated as alternative govt. Notable among them is Syed Ai Shah Gellani whose words are not only obeyed by the local people but are always considered as laws which they strictly follow without any compulsion.

**Conclusion:** violence, bloodshed, terrorism which Kashmir valley witnessed from last six decades was more by Indian forces than by Pakistani backed infiltrators. India and the Indian main stream parties in Jammu and Kashmir are exploiting Kashmir issue, resources, and made a huge loss not only to development but to humanity as well by killing thousands of people. The separatists in Kashmir hold the view that Kashmir is a disputed territory that is handed over to India through deceitful politics. Separatists are also considered responsible for bloodshed because use of violent methods in early 1990s and some of their wrong policies and programs for attaining the freedom from India.

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