

## **Appendix 1**

**September 18, 2016**

### **Free Khurram Parvez: An Open Letter to Civil Society**

We, the undersigned, call for the immediate release of Khurram Parvez, a distinguished and courageous human rights defender, and write in support of the enclosed statements issued by Advocate Parvez Imroz (please see overleaf).

As we write this, Khurram Parvez has been remanded to preventive custody in a sub-jail in the highly militarized Kupwara District of Kashmir. He is expected to be produced before the court on 21 September 2016.

An executive magistrate in Srinagar issued the order against Khurram Parvez, invoking Sections 107 and 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) (pertaining to detention for breach of peace and design to commit a cognizable offence).

The actions against Mr. Parvez are symptomatic of the escalated repression in Kashmir by institutions of state since July 8.

We note with horror that since July 2016, over 80 persons have been killed, over 11,000 persons have been injured, over 1,000 persons have been arrested and over 100 ambulances have been attacked. For 70 days now, curfew has been imposed in various parts of Kashmir.

Pellet cartridges with about 400-500 pellets each have been fired, aimed above the waist, permanently blinding youth at civilian protests. Communication systems have been repeatedly shutdown; mobile Internet and pre-paid calls have been repeatedly banned, post-paid phone lines have been suspended for a number of days, and even newspapers have been shutdown for a couple of days.

The rights to freedom of speech and movement and the right to dissent and self-determination are being imperiled.

We are gravely concerned by the repeated abrogation of international law and the disregard for India's constitutional provisions, and by the unceasing targeting of civilians and the continued denial of their civil and political rights.

We urge that the above conditions of collective internment within Kashmir require urgent attention and intervention.

#### **The undersigned:**

1. Abdul R. JanMohamed, Professor, English Department, University of California, Berkeley
2. Ahmed Sohaib, Jamia Millia Islamia

3. Amitava Kumar, Helen D. Lockwood Professor of English, Vassar College
4. Angana Chatterji, Feminist Scholar
5. Ania Loomba, Catherine Bryson Professor, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania
6. Arundhati Roy, Author
7. Ather Zia, Anthropology and Gender Studies Program, Assistant Professor, University of Northern Colorado
8. Basharat Peer, Writer
9. Basil Fernando, Asian Human Rights Commission
10. Bijo Francis, Asian Human Rights Commission
11. Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Chair and Distinguished Professor, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Dean's Professor of the Humanities, Syracuse University
12. Deepti Misri, Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies, University of Colorado-Boulder
13. Dibyesh Anand, Professor of International Relations, University of Westminster
14. Fawzia Afzal-Khan, Professor of English and University Distinguished Scholar, Montclair State University
15. Gautam Navlakha, Member of People's Union for Democratic Rights.
16. Ghazala Jamil, Jawaharlal Nehru University
17. Ghazi Shahnawaz, Jamia Millia Islamia
18. Gloria Steinem, Co-founder Ms. Magazine, Writer, Feminist Organizer
19. Goldie Osuri, Associate Professor in Sociology and Director of Undergraduate Studies, University of Warwick
20. Haley Duschinski, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Law, Justice & Culture, Ohio University
21. Harsh Mander, Writer and Activist
22. Kavita Krishnan, Politburo Member, CPI (ML)-Liberation and Secretary, All India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA)
23. Mallika Kaur, Lecturer, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley
24. Manisha Sethi, Jamia Millia Islamia
25. Mansi Sharma, Activist
26. Mary Aileen Diez Bacalso, Secretary General, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances
27. Mihir Desai, Senior Counsel, Supreme Court of India and Mumbai High Court
28. Mirza Waheed, Novelist
29. Mohamad Junaid, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
30. Mona Bhan, Associate Professor of Anthropology, DePauw University
31. Mridu Rai, Professor of History, Presidency University, Kolkata
32. Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor & Professor of Linguistics Emeritus, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
33. Paola Bacchetta, Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Pedagogy, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of California, Berkeley
34. Paramjit Kaur Khalra, Patron, Khalra Mission Organization
35. Partha Chatterjee, Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University
36. Piotr Balcerowicz, Professor and Chair of South Asia, University of Warsaw
37. Rahul Govind, Delhi University

38. Rajvinder Singh Bains, Counsel, Punjab High Court and Haryana High Court
39. Richard M. Buxbaum, Professor Emeritus, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley
40. Ruchira Gupta, Women's Right Activist, Founder of Apne Aap and Adjunct Associate Professor, Center for Global Studies, School of Professional Studies, New York University
41. Sanghamitra Misra, Delhi University
42. Sanjay Kak, Filmmaker
43. Shabnam Hashmi, Social Activist, Anhad
44. Shohini Ghosh, Sajjad Zaheer Professor, AJK MCRC, Jamia Millia Islamia
45. Shubh Mathur, Independent Scholar
46. Suddhabrata Sengupta
47. Suvir Kaul, A. M. Rosenthal Professor, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania
48. Tanweer Fazal, Jawaharlal Nehru University
49. Teesta Setalvad, Civil Rights Activist, Journalist and Educationist
50. Urvashi Butalia, Writer
51. Veena Das, Krieger-Eisenhower Professor, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University
52. Vrinda Grover, Lawyer, Supreme Court of India

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**URGENT ATTENTION**

**UNLAWFUL ARREST AND DETENTION OF KHURRAM PARVEZ**

*16 September 2016*

Noted human rights defender, Khurram Parvez, was arrested and detained at around 12:30 am today in Srinagar, Indian-administered Kashmir. He has been detained, without formal arrest or notifications, and in violation of his rights to information, and legal counsel. He has not been provided with any written document, court order or the reasons for his detention. His arrest today follows his detention on 14 September at the New Delhi international airport for approximately two hours. Following which, he was barred from travelling to Geneva, Switzerland. Khurram Parvez is the Programme Coordinator of JKCCS and its spokesperson, and Chairperson of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, a collective of 13 non-governmental organizations from ten Asian countries that campaign on the issue of enforced disappearances. Khurram Parvez was scheduled to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> UN Human Rights Council Session in Geneva to brief UN bodies, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and foreign governments on the atrocities committed by Indian state forces in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly over the last two months. Khurram Parvez is presently detained at the *Kothi Bagh* Police Station in Srinagar.

The unlawful detention of Khurram Parvez is a violation of internationally recognized and non-derogable civil and political rights, and India's own constitutional guarantees. It is a clear indication of reprisal, an attempt to intimidate and restrain Khurram Parvez and his human rights work. In doing so, it seeks to isolate him and silence the critical concerns of Kashmir from being heard by the international community. Unlawful arrests have been consistently used by the Indian state in Jammu and Kashmir to repress all space for dissent.

Tellingly, the action on Khurram Parvez closely follows India's rejection of the UN High Commissioner's request for access to Jammu and Kashmir for a UN fact-finding mission.

The unlawful arrest and detention of Khurram Parvez, and denial of his right to lawyers, represents a real and imminent security threat that requires urgent attention and action. An urgent appeal has been sent by JKCCS to the President of the UN Human Rights Council, UN High Commissioner, and Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

The unlawful arrest and detention of Khurram Parvez is a threat to the principles that Khurram Parvez so courageously represents through his long-standing human rights work in Indian-administered Kashmir: of truth, justice, equality and fundamental rights and freedoms. Khurram Parvez must be released immediately and his rights and freedoms restored.

Advocate Parvez Imroz

## **Appendix 2**

### **Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons**

#### **Press release**

**September 17, 2016**

APDP strongly condemns the unlawful detention and arrest of Human Rights defender Khurram Parvez. Khurram was to travel to Geneva to attend the 33rd session of the UN Human Rights Council to brief them on the human rights atrocities committed by the Indian State in Jammu and Kashmir.

Parveena Ahangar Chairperson of the APDP said that this illustrates the strident and manipulative Indian state policy by which they continue to deny our truth and impose their lies. Not only do they commit atrocities but they also want to hide them from the International community.

We demand that Khurram Parvez be immediately released.

We also demand that the people of Kashmir should be allowed to protest and express their demands for justice and self-determination without fear of reprisal or intimidation. Thousands of political prisoners who are being harassed and have been slapped with the draconian PSA are released and the draconian PSA be withdrawn.

Parveena Ahangar expressed her deep anguish at the current spate of violence and brutality unleashed on the people of Kashmir. In the last 70 days the Indian forces have killed 85 people, injured and maimed thousands, more than 500 (mostly teenagers and children) have suffered severe and permanent eye damage caused by the “non lethal” pellet guns. “We at APDP understand the pain and grief of the affected families their loss is irreparable”, she said.

APDP salutes the people of Kashmir who are showing immense courage and resilience as they continue their valiant resistance against the gigantic State machinery. The entire population is under siege. We are being intimidated and harassed as curfew is being enforced and all communication channels blocked. Hospitals are attacked and ambulance drivers beaten. Our journalists and photographers are being attacked. Armed forces are forcibly entering our homes, humiliating us, beating us brutally and targeting our assets. On the most auspicious occasion of Eid ul Azha we were forced to stay indoors and could not even participate in congregational prayers.

APDP fervently appeals to the International and the Indian Civil Society and Human rights community to respond to this brutality, which has been continuing for decades now and put pressure on the Indian State to allow the ONHCR fact-finding mission to visit Kashmir and assess the current situation.

As we continue to face state repression and the impossibility of justice; it becomes imperative that an international mechanism be set up to investigate human rights violations which include enforced disappearances, extra judicial killings, firing on unarmed protestors, torture, sexual violence, and unknown and mass graves.

Parveena Ahangar