



Media Analysis Center, Kashmir

- The free flow of negative content on Kashmir and its wide circulation on social media is damaging Indian interests locally, nationally and internationally. There is urgent need to counter this content in an organized and efficient manner.
- **Media Analysis Center, Srinagar** - a civil society initiative of Lehar Foundation - is an organized initiative to counter negative propaganda and content on Kashmir locally, nationally and internationally.
- Media Analysis Center (MAC) shall generate content which shall aggressively counter the lies being peddled regarding Kashmir in the domestic, national and international media.
- The content produced by MAC shall include news reports, features, videos and documentaries.
- The purpose is to break the toxic plot that keeps feeding malicious, negative news on Kashmir and circulating the same to deepen stereotypes of oppression and alienation. The attempt is to bring in a reality check on Kashmir and refresh the narrative in a positive, inclusive direction.
- MAC shall also provide a platform to bring together positive and happy voices of aspirational Kashmir youth, within Kashmir or outside. The Kashmiri voices of positivity and growth within India shall act as a force multiplier for the youth within Kashmir.

Open Letter to Ruwa Shah

Grand-daughter of Syed Ali Shah Geelani

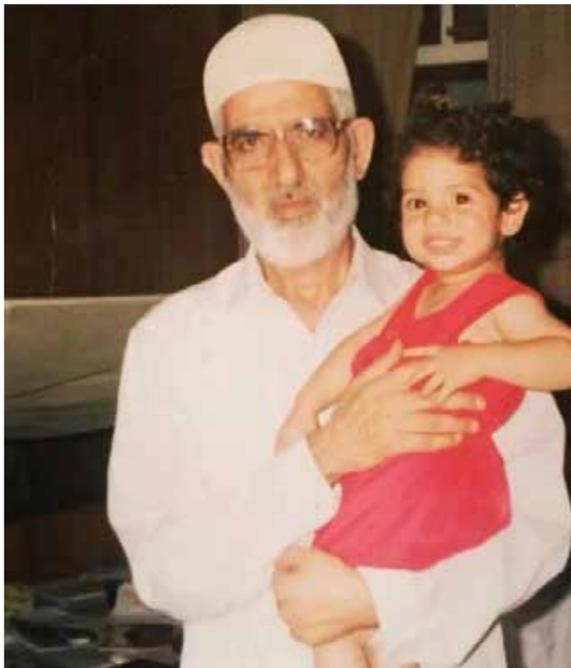
■ BASHIR ASSAD

Dear Ruwa,

I wish you success, happiness and prosperity in life. This, of course, has never been the wish of your beloved grandfather Syed Ali Shah Geelani for the sons and daughters of poor Kashmiris.

It is good to know from you that you are studying in the Turkish city of Kayseri. You write in your much-shared article in Al Jazeera, "I am trying to live my life and follow my dreams, because I know that is what Aba would have wanted for me." Of course you are aware, dear Ruwa, that this is something which Syed Ali Shah Geelani, whom you lovingly call Aba, never wanted for other Ruwas of Kashmir.

I fully endorse your that statement that your Aba is one of the most prominent figures in the "Kashmir resistance movement." Nobody can match Syed Ali Shah Geelani in turning the entire Kashmir into a graveyard. He made fathers in Kashmir shoulder the coffins of their beloved sons. Had it not been for your Aba's unrelenting efforts, those poor fathers too could have seen their



The writer and her grandfather, Syed Ali Geelani
[Photo courtesy of Ruwa Shah]

sons living their lives, excelling in education and following their dreams.

Why? Because for decades, your Aba used the ordinary youth of Kashmir as cannon fodder for his so-called resistance movement. How about the children of Syed Ali Shah Geelani's own household?

Not for them the guns or militancy. Ruwa, her brothers and sisters have the luxury of studying in Turkey or other peaceful and prosperous places.

Your beloved Aba filled up graveyards upon graveyards in Kashmir with the bodies of blossoming Kashmiri youth by deeply poisoning their mind. In addition, nobody can match your dear Aba in hatching conspiracies to kill his political opponents, colleagues and counterparts.

How fortunate you are, Ruwa Shah, to be the grand-daughter of Syed Ali Geelani. "Aba is much more progressive than anyone who only knows him as an orthodox leader would assume," you write. He persuaded your parents to allow you to study journalism and pursue higher education.

Dear Ruwa, how unfortunate are those hundreds and thousands of Ruwas who lost their uncles or brothers to the deadly ideology propagated by Syed Ali Shah Geelani. I got to know from reliable sources that Aba had plans to relocate his whole extended family to Istanbul. His sponsors, I was told, had managed to provide plush property in Turkey to his extended family.

Dear Ruwa, it is sad to know that you spent days without talking to your family and getting updates about the health of Aba. When you finally managed to get your mother on the phone, she confirmed that the condition of your Aba was worsening and he wanted to be surrounded by family. You also know, of course, that over the last 30 years, your Aba presided over the death of thousands of budding youth of Kashmir. Their families could not surround them with love and care as these youth breathed their last.

You have correctly stated that rumours

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of your Aba's poor health have been doing rounds for many days. You are aware that during his lifetime, Aba brought death, destruction and devastation upon tens of thousands of ordinary families in Kashmir by feeding them toxic rhetoric. In his death, one can only expect destruction.

You flourish in Turkey, pursuing higher education and your dreams. Your Aba destroyed the peace of mind of thousands of Ruwas of Kashmir, who sat home and cried because their brothers took up the gun and never returned.

Indeed you are fortunate. You went to Turkey on an Indian passport and returned home honorably on the same passport after 17 months to see your Aba. Do spare a thought, dear Ruwa, for those poor Kashmiri youth who were instigated and indoctrinated by your beloved Aba to illegally cross the border for arms training and get killed.

You are right, dear Ruwa, that "unlike Turkey", everything looks colourless and dusty in Kashmir – like a scene from a dystopian movie. It is because the colours of life have been snatched from Kashmir by your Aba, who sold to us deathly dreams.

Consider this, Ruwa. Isn't it amazing that your Aba gave good education to all his sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters. You excelled in every field. Your Mamu went to Pakistan on legal documents for a medical degree. The same Aba sent thousands of other poor young men of Kashmir to Pakistan, illegally crossing the border to pick up the gun and spreading blood on the streets of Kashmir. The unfortunate fathers and grandfathers who lost their sons and grandsons to the deadly ideology spread by your Aba could not get even oxygen support.

Good to know that you used to bring gifts for your Aba. Your Aba gifted guns and grenades to the youth of Kashmir for 30 years. He asked you to meet the prisoners including your father and give them the message on his behalf that their sacrifices will not be wasted.

I also have a message for your father. Please ask him how much cash he received from a notorious double dealer called Waheed Para in September 2016 at Peerzoo Restaurant in Srinagar, and for what purpose? A close aide of Waheed Para told me that the amount was Rs 5.60 crore.

Ruwa, your Aba did everything overt and covert to turn Kashmir, the most beautiful place on earth - into hell. There were many Kashmiris who disagreed with his destructive ideology and they were vocal about it. He got them killed. Syed Ali Shah Geelani muzzled the voices of dissent to stay relevant and powerful. Such was his dedication that he did not spare the people who did not subscribe to his views.

Dear Ruwa, please introspect. You will find that in the name of Islam and in the name of freedom for Kashmir, your Aba damaged Islam and destroyed the freedom of Kashmir.

I am pleased to know that your Aba is

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receiving good medical care. You reveal in your article that a team of doctors sent by the authorities is visiting Aba on daily basis to monitor his health.

Let me remind you of something revealed by former RAW chief A S Dulat in his book *Kashmir the Vajpayee Years*, published in 2015. Dulat wrote in the book that the Indian state spent magnanimously

in providing health-care to your Aba, Syed Ali Shah Geelani. You are factually incorrect in attributing the care received by your Aba to the abrogation of Article 370.

The Indian state was also magnanimous in providing you a passport and enabling you to go to Turkey for higher studies. This was despite the fact that your beloved Aba left no stone unturned to bleed India by a million cuts.

Aba wishes to be buried in the Martyrs Graveyard in Eidgah, Srinagar, you write. Perhaps you are aware, Ruwa, that Maulana Mohammad Farooq, Abdul Ghani Lone and many others who were killed at the behest of your beloved Aba – they all lie buried in the same graveyard

You are a fellow Kashmiri. Indeed I am happy to observe your conviction, direction and focus. You must follow your dreams, because you know that is what Aba would have wanted for you. My pain is this: Why didn't Aba want the same thing for generations of Kashmiris? And finally, why are you are selling to us the same unrealistic and irrational dreams which your Aba sold to Kashmir through his entire life?

DDC Elections a bonanza for J&K politicians: The new hook to power

Also Witness the Son-Rise in Kashmir

The DDC elections in Kashmir are a bonanza for all politicians of the Valley cutting across party lines. In the newly-formed Union Territory, the District Development Councils are being seen as the local seats of power.

Politicians who have been ministers or MLAs earlier are now contesting elections to be members of District Development Councils. In addition, politicians are making the most of this opportunity by fielding as many relatives as possible. It's not just sons and daughters of politicians who have been brought forth as candidates. Mother in law, sister in law, son in law, daughter in law – politicians are roping in as many relatives as they can manage to contest the DDC elections.

Witness the robust race among political families in J&K to be candidates for the DDC polls. It is election time. And power is addictive, so it is a family race for district power in Kashmir.



Festival of Democracy in Kashmir

Badalta Kashmir towards the path of prosperity and development



**NC CANDIDATE
ADVOCATE AMEENA
CANVASSES IN
GULGAM VILLAGE IN
KUPWARA DISTRICT**

The power of positive, democratic aspirations shines through



DDC POLLS, ELECTIONS FOR PANCHES, SARPANCHES

With each vote that is cast, Kashmiris tell the world that it is business as usual in the Valley. The wheels of economy must move. The society must flourish. Formation of DDC shall strengthen grassroots democracy.

Politicians and Their Relatives in DDC Elections

S.No	Name of the Candidate	Relation with Political leader	Constituency
01	Naseer Ahmad Mir	Son of Gh.Ahmad Mir, former Minster and state Congress Chief	Dooru
02	Sabhat Gulzar	D/O Gulzar Ahamad Wani , X MLA congress	Shangus
03	Khalida BeBi	W/O Gulzar Ahmad khatana , PDP leader and former chairman Gujjar Bakarwal Board.	Larloo
04	Bashir Ahamad Bhat	Brother of Saifuddin Bhat X MLC, NC leader	6 khan sahab
05	Advocate Tasaduq Rehman	S/O Ab.Rehman Veer, Former Minster and PDP leader	Bijbehara
06	Shah-i-Jahan Ahmad Dar	S/O Ab. Rashid Dar, former Congress MLA	Zangeer
07	Sameena Hussain	D/O Peer Mohmmad Hussain, Former Minster and NC leader	Achabal
08	Aarifa Sayeed	D/O Mohd.Sayeed Khan	Achabal
09	Abbas Rather	Nephew of Yousuf Targami	Qaimoo
10	Salman Sagar	S/O Ali Sagar former Minster and NC leader	Contesting from Srinagar
11	Immad Mir	S/O Raffi Mir former MLA and JKAP leader	Pehalgam
12	Irfan Manhas	S/O Zaffar Manhas X MLC and JK AP leader	Keller 2 Shopian
13	Insha Showket Dar	DIL of Ali Dar, X MLC & NC leader	Chadoora
14	Safeena Beigh	W/O Muzafar Beigh , Former Dy. Chief Minster	Wagoora
15	Shoib Nabi Lone	S/O Gh. Nabi Lone , Former Minster and X MLA himself	Wagoora
16	Irfan Panditpori	S/O Mohd.Sultan Panditpori, X MLA & MLC	Qaziabad , lengate
17	Menya Gulzar	Cousin of Menya Altaf , former Minster & NC leader	Kangan B
18	Noorani	Cousin of Menya Altaf former Minster and NC leader	Kangan
19	Gowhar lone Hanjoora	S/O Gh. Nabi Lone Hanjoora former Minster & PDP leader	Chari-shareef



WELCOMING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS



THOSE WHO 'OTHER' KASHMIRIS: REMEMBER THIS PIC

Remember Kashmiris braved militant threats, Pak-propped terror - again and again, over decades - to reach polling booths

Remember Kashmiris reposed their trust in democratic institutions. Stop the 'othering'.

Pic: The Real Kashmir

Politicians and Their Relatives in DDC Elections

20	Mukhtar Ahmad Bandh	S/O Mohd. Khalil Bandh , former Minster and PDP leader	Litter Pulwama
21	Sham lal chowder	Former Minster & BJP leader	Suchetgarh
22	Taj Mohuddin	Former Minster & congress leader	Uri
23	Shakti Raj Parihar	Former MLA & BJP leader	Marmat & Gundana
24	Charanjeet singh jasrolya	Former MLA & BJP leader	Kuthva
25	GarorAm Baghat	BJP leader	RS Pora
26	Bharat Bushan	BJP leader	Balwaal
27	Chowder Akram	Congress leader & Nephew of Mian Altaf	Ponch
28	Shahnavaz chowder	Secretary Jk PCC	Ponch
29	Shabir Khan	Former Minster & Congress leader	Manjkoot
30	Ab. Ghani Malik	Former Minster & NC leader	Mahoor
31	Aijaz Ahmad Khan	Former Minster & JKAP leader	Tharoo
32	Mumtaz Khan	JKAP Leader	Mahoor A
33	Dr Shahnaz ganie	X MLC and NC leader	Mandi
34	Qamar chowder	Former minster & JKAP leader	Rajouri
35	Shah Mohmmad Tantray	X MLA & PDP leader	Loran Ponch
36	Mohd. Ali Chowder	Nephew OF Qamar Chowdery	Thanamandi
37	Mohd. Maqsood Chowdery	Nephew of Qamar chowder	Thanamandi
38	Reyaz Chowdery	Son Of Bashir Naaz X MLA	Loran
39	Nasreena Firdous	Mother Of Shoib Lone	Wagoora
40	Firdousa Akther	W/O Usman Majeed Former Minster & JKAP Leader	Bandipora
41	Kounsar Shafiq	Relative of Nizam Uddin bhat X MLA & PDP leader	Bandipora B
42	Begum Ateeqa Jaan	W/O Gh . Mohmmad jan Former MLA and mother of NC leader Aijaz Jan	Mandi
43	Jahan Bi	Daughter of BJP leader and former Minster Ab. Ghani Kohli	Mogla
44	Mir Tajamul Ishfaq	Son of Gh . Hassan Mir Former Minster and JKAP Leader	Tangmargh
45	Zeshan Rana	Son of NC leader & X MLA Javeed Rana	Mahander



110-YEAR-OLD CASTS HER VOTE AT KREERI BARAMULLAH IN KASHMIR

The powerful pull of democracy. In the winter of 2020, as the world continues to grapple with Covid, Jammu and Kashmir go to polls to elect members of District Development Councils, Panches and Sarpanches.



KASHMIRIS PROVE NAYSAYERS WRONG BY SAYING YES TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN THE VALLEY

Domestic and international media consistently painted Kashmir in shades of gloom. It suited vested agendas. But DDC polls, seen as political test in Kashmir, have seen a healthy turn out.

THE PROMISE OF DEMOCRACY GOES DEEP

With resolution and the determination to vote, Kashmiris speak up. Development and prosperity are the universal drivers of life.