



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.

Madam Mufti Cries Too Much What Is She Trying To Hide?

■ BASHIR ASSAD

Madam Mufti,

I write to you in response to your recent statements after the arrest of Waheed Para by NIA (National Investigation Agency) and subsequently by CIK (Criminal Investigation Kashmir).

I am amazed and so are thousands of people in Kashmir who know you well. The central theme of all your recent statements has been that you are holier than thou. You are the judge, jury and executioner. You are free to judge anybody and everybody but none should judge you. You have stretched this *I Me Myself* monologue too far. I have run out of patience. Hence this letter.

Why are you so disturbed by the arrest of Waheed Para under UAPA? Is it because if Para reveals your nexus with militants and their mentors in Pakistan, your political

career will be finished? You are attempting to build pressure through the media on investigating agencies and trying to influence investigation. Your aim seems to be to somehow discredit the investigations to hide your sins.

Madam Mufti, the institutions you subverted all these years are now toothless tigers. Had they been powerful and resilient, you would have been behind bars since long. So don't try to sell the story that the CID is implicating people.

The track record of CID is disappointing and discredited. What can be expected that it shall undertake concrete investigation and take cases to logical conclusion?

In fact, J&K CID has the legacy of sitting

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over files and facilitating issuance of passports to militants and extremists. This reminds me of how you facilitated travel documents for militants like Amir Khan, Abid Baba, Rashid Gadhanjipora and others to send them to Pakistan.

Harbouring Killers

I am also reminded of how you harboured notorious killer Amin Baba @ Abid Baba who killed many innocents in your home constituency? You sheltered him at your Bijbehara and Nawgam residences before he was sent to Pakistan. Hope you remember the meetings with Amir Khan and other militant commanders from 1999 to 2004, facilitated by your trusted workers like Salam Reshi and Peerzada Mansoor.

Madam Mufti, you used Waheed Para as a pawn to have access to militant commanders since 2010. You thought you were safe because the dead don't speak. You got steadily emboldened to tread this path without worrying about the consequences. You knew that militants don't live long, and they are the only witnesses of this nexus.

By indulging in this business you encouraged many of your colleagues in PDP and even in your Cabinet to establish links with militants and their Over Ground Workers (OGWs).

Your Many Financial Scams

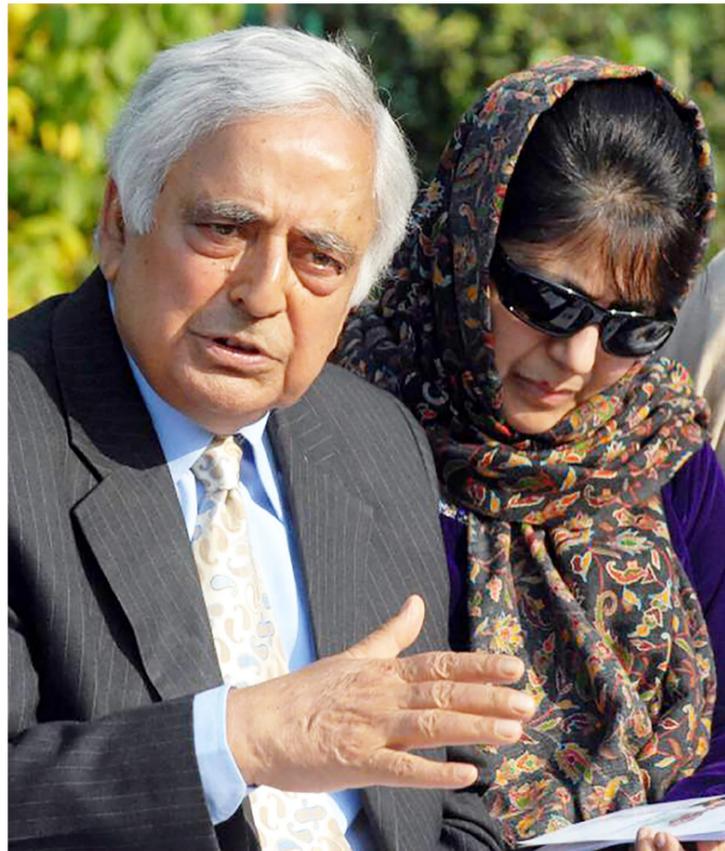
Madam Mufti, the people of Jammu and Kashmir know only about scams like JK Bank appointment scam, SPO appointment scam, Sports Council appointment scam, Khadi and Village Industry Board appointment scam. People don't know about your passport scam. Still you blame the CID for 'falsely implicating' people.

You should instead be thankful to CID for being so lackluster, rather complicit, and never cracking down on criminals like you.

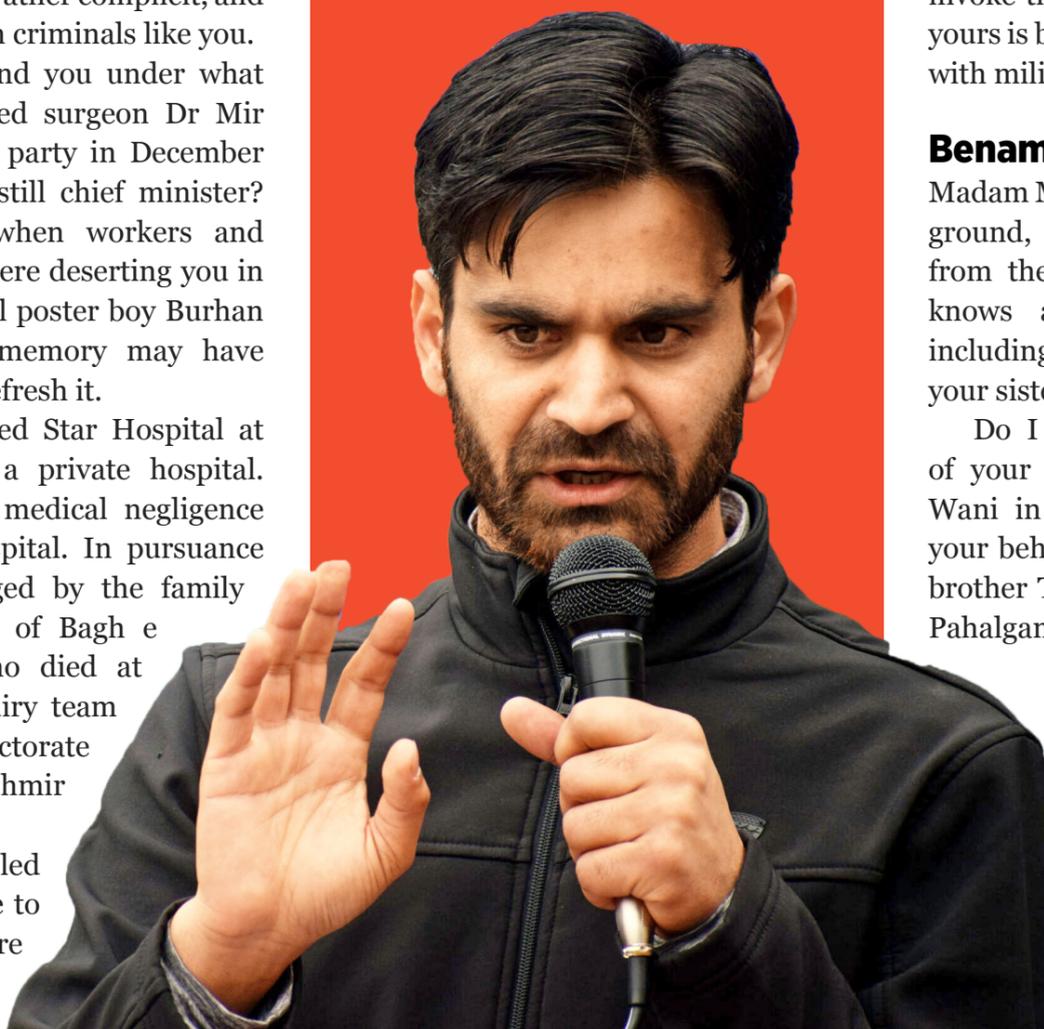
Do I need to remind you under what circumstances renowned surgeon Dr Mir Samiullah joined your party in December 2016 when you were still chief minister? That was the time when workers and leaders of your party were deserting you in the aftermath of Hizbul poster boy Burhan Wani's killing. Your memory may have deceived you. Let me refresh it.

Dr. Samiullah owned Star Hospital at Sanatnagar Bypass - a private hospital. It was sealed due to medical negligence at the part of the hospital. In pursuance to the complaint lodged by the family of a patient (resident of Bagh e Mehtab, Srinagar) who died at Star Hospital, an inquiry team was constituted by Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK).

After a detailed inquiry, the team came to the conclusion that there



I hope better sense prevails and you come out of self-deception. It is unlikely. How will you survive without playing with the lives of people? It is your profession and your area of expertise. You have been trained for it by your "statesman" father



had been negligence on part of the doctor and the hospital authorities, leading to the death of the patient. The inquiry also revealed that the hospital was unregistered and was functioning illegally. This information is in public domain. What is not in public domain, I will remind you soon.

It is so funny to see you constantly reminding the guardians of law to uphold law. This is like Phoolan Devi calling upon the Indian state to uphold the law of the land.

Vitiating Kashmir

Why do I equate you with Phoolan Devi? Do you remember the death of poor Bilal Najar of Khanabal during the 2010 agitation?

Let me make it easy for you. Bilal was district president PDP youth wing for Anantnag. He would lead violent mobs from the front on your directions.

Police were angry with him. When he was warned by the police to stay away from the agitation, Bilal went into hiding in Jammu. With his hiding, the protests lost intensity in Anantnag town. You contacted him through his friends and brought him back to provide fresh impetus to the protests.

After all, it was the matter of dislodging chief minister Omar Abdullah. You didn't want that protests should fizzle out until Omar resigned. You and your "statesman" father would order pizza from Pizza Hut at Rajbagh, after the report of daily casualties reached you. Both of you would feel sad the day there was no causality.

While leading stone pelting mobs from the front, Bilal got critically injured in retaliation from the security forces and succumbed in SMHS Srinagar.

Madam Mufti, you collaborated with criminals. You vitiating Kashmir. And you invoke the law of the land when a pawn of yours is being grilled for being hand in glove with militants!

Benami Properties

Madam Mufti, don't cry and take moral high ground, attempting to exonerate yourself from the charges of corruption. Kashmir knows about your benami properties, including the one registered in the name of your sister Mehmooda living in the US.

Do I need to remind you of the role of your close relative, KAS officer Riyaz Wani in purchasing benami property on your behalf registered in the name of your brother Tassaduq and sister Mehmooda in Pahalgam, Dhara Harwan and elsewhere.

Let me narrate to you an interesting story. Farooq Shah, then Secretary for Tourism, told this to me in his office chamber after taking diktat from one of your family members. He said, "Bashir do you know the number of ministers for

Tourism?” I was confused. He promptly started naming the ministers: “Gulshan Ji, Mehbooba Mufti, Tassaduq Mufti, Sartaj Madni, Mrs Madni, Mrs Farooq Indrabi - all working on cross purposes.”

Perhaps I don't need to remind you how your daughter Iltija would keep Secretaries on toes to release the bills in JKPC. How she would ensure the bills are released to contractors like Zubair Sheikh against commission both in cash and kind. Sheikh was doing valuable jobs for you and your family, after all. Among other things, Zubair Sheikh would get dresses from Dubai for you and your daughters.

Your maternal uncle Sartaj Madni's loot of the state exchequer with your blessings is not a secret in Kashmir either. Again one of

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the reasons, perhaps, why you cry so much. You have so much to hide, Madam.

Do I need to provide you the list of the people who would take cash from you as chief minister and then transfer it to you from their business accounts on commission basis? Sameer Azad; Sajad, the son of Talib Hussain and so on - the list is too long.

You blame the investigating agencies for registering “fraudulent cases” against your pointmen. I hold the same investigating

agencies responsible for not doing enough to book your rogue accomplices for hawala transactions, corruption, nexus with militants, disturbing law and order and hobnobbing with the enemies of the country.

I hope better sense prevails and you come out of self-deception. I don't expect it though. How will you survive without playing with the lives of people? It is your profession and your area of expertise. You have been trained for it by your “statesman” father.

Time to Draw THE RED LINES IN KASHMIR

Time has come for the state to assert its authority. It must adopt the strategy of **OFFENSIVE DEFENSE**. When the situation is so critical, the state should not be content with a reactionary approach



During the pre-370 era, the line between the mainstream and separatist camps in Kashmir was blurred. With the advent of multiple regional players, the blurred line faded further. The result was competitive separatism. There were no checks and balances imposed by the state. And in certain cases, the state was complicit.

There was an unstated, sacred political understanding between PDP and Jamaat-Islami, and between National Conference and JKLF. Terrorist groups were ideologically close to one or the other school of thought – Jamaat or JKLF. They were the power-brokers in Kashmir. The politics

of boycott, threats and intimidation were essential components of the power game. This led to two power centers in Kashmir. One wore the mantle of the legitimate political process. The other covertly drew power through the barrel of the gun.

The instruments of state power became part of this malignant mesh. A politician, a bureaucrat, or even a low-level government employee could claim allegiance to the Constitution of India and also be a separatist – playing the dual game openly. The employees unions, trade bodies, university and college associations – all were on the bandwagon. They were Indians

by profession, and separatists by belief.

The belief strengthened and deepened courtesy the institutional support system. Separatist ideology influenced the political structures. It got entrenched into the administrative and bureaucratic system.

Another major underlying factor which needs to be highlighted is conflict entrepreneurship. The so-called stakeholders developed huge vested interests in the bloody conflict. The most cherished institutions got contaminated by the conflict economy. Their leadership got involved in the business of conflict. There were no boundaries. Everything was intermingled.

TIME TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN FRIENDS AND FOES

Post the abrogation of Article 370, the state should realize the heavy cost of this causal intermingling. Time has come to draw the red lines. Order has to be restored. Intervention by the adversaries of the state has to be minimized. The state is duty-bound to protect its citizens from the saboteurs. The state must remove the filth from within the system, the society, and also from the thought processes.



The state should differentiate between the friends and the foes. Do's and Don'ts have to be clear and categorical. Voices oscillating between the two should not be tolerated. The so-called mainstream regional political forces, government officials, media persons, trade bodies keep ranting against the state. They dare to do so because of their conviction that

response to their acts will be lackadaisical and timid. Their belief is that even if they are booked under relevant laws, it will take years for the case to reach closure in the courts.

Time has come for the state to assert its authority. When the situation is so critical, the state should not be content with a reactionary approach. The state must adopt the strategy of OFFENSIVE DEFENSE. The state must not wait for the events to occur and then respond. The state must launch an offensive to weed out unscrupulous elements before they engage in a heinous act.

HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL



- 1 The UT Administration should initiate a massive profiling of all the unscrupulous elements in politics, administration, police, media and other fields. Track record of individuals should be ascertained with reference to observation of law and order, information about assets both movable and immovable, sources of income and all other relevant information to monitor and assess each individual case.
- 2 It should be ascertained whether the person or persons under the scanner are honestly paying taxes and filing IT returns.
- 3 Previous cases - registered or pending - should be part of the individual's profile.
- 4 All the persons under scanner who have criminal cases against them in any court of law should be indexed under various categories based on their profession.
- 5 Pending cases should be expeditiously pursued and fresh cases registered if warranted under law.

RED LINES OPERATIONAL

- Stop incitement to violence and terrorism
- Stop promoting Pakistan's interests
- Stop funding, hobnobbing, glamorizing terrorism and fanaticism
- Stop supporting fundamentalism
- Stop anti-state propaganda
- Respect law of the land
- Support in building peace
- Help identify unscrupulous and anti-social elements
- Report crimes of any nature to law-enforcing agencies

RED LINES POLITICAL

- Stop instigating people around emotive and irrational political maneuvering
- Seek support of people purely on value-based, constructive political agenda
- Help the state in shaping a better future for the people
- Stop pronouncements on foreign policy, other issues outside individual domain
- One may criticize the political parties and the political establishment, but no India bashing to be allowed
- Don't create confusion among the masses by talking about issues which are irreversible and irrevocable
- Have faith in the nation and its people
- Discourage political turncoats, create a congenial atmosphere for new breed of honest, upright and futuristic leaders

REDLINES POLICING

- Every law-abiding individual should feel safe and protected
- Harassment of any civilian by the police and security forces should not be tolerated. The guilty should be punished to restore the faith of the common masses in the system
- Officers or officials found guilty of implicating the innocent on false grounds for prize and promotions should be punished
- Corrupt officers in the police and civil administration should be weeded out for better functioning of the system

