



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.

Let The Axe Fall On Anti-State Elements Among Government Employees

REASONS

Representational image only / AP

Why MY Tarigami Is Stridently Opposing STF Action



■ BASHIR ASSAD

On April 21, the Jammu and Kashmir UT Administration decided to set up a Special Task Force (STF) to identify and scrutinize cases of employees found guilty of being involved in activities detrimental to national interest, and those which compromised national security. The Administration decided that the services of the employees found guilty of such conduct could be terminated. This decision of the UT Administration has evoked criticism from many quarters including some politicians and trade union leaders.

The STF has been empowered by the

government to compile records of such employees and refer these to the committee headed by the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir. This committee was constituted by the government on July 30, 2020. The STF shall identify and scrutinize cases of government employees found involved in activities detrimental to national interest and refer these to the government for action under the provision of Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution of India. The STF has also been empowered to engage with the Terror Monitoring Group (TMG) for identifying such employees.

The critics of STF argue that it is arbitrary and draconian. Some even suggest that there are already many provisions in law to take action against erring government employees.

Communist leader MY Tarigami stridently responded to this administrative decision. According to Tarigami, a sword of uncertainty now hangs on the heads of employees, and this can be exploited by their superiors. Tarigami further stated

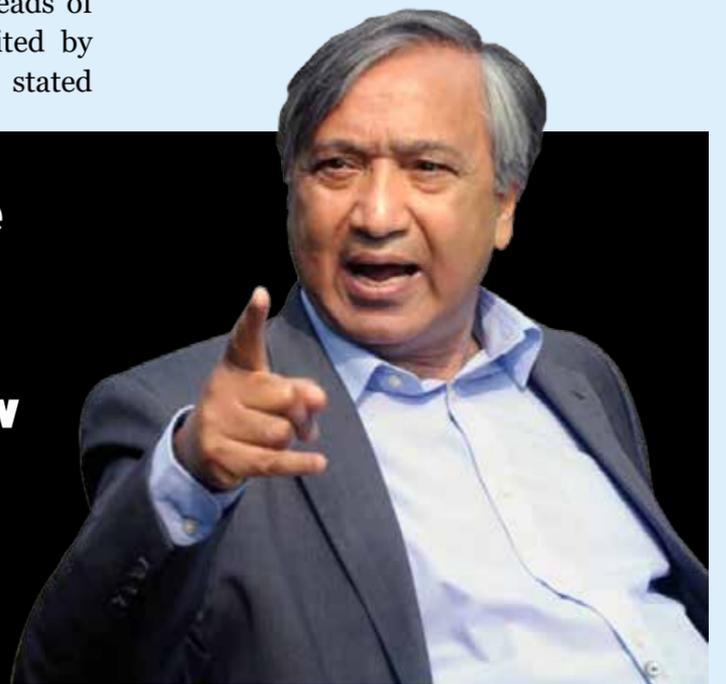
that the dismissal of an employee without holding an enquiry is against the principles of justice and basic rights.

Soon, many other politicians and union leaders jumped into the fray. They claimed that the employees of Jammu and Kashmir are living under constant fear post abrogation of Article 370. This latest decision has added to their anxieties, claimed these politicians and union leaders.

Is the decision to constitute the STF arbitrary and draconian to the extent that it can be exploited? Or does the Constitution empower the government to take action against its employees whose conduct is prejudicial to the interests of the state?

Let Constitutional experts and legal luminaries debate upon these questions. As for the politicization of an administrative order by political elites like MY Tarigami, it is important for readers to understand the context.

Tarigami, who has cleverly maintained the image of Mr Clean, actually has personal fears. Let the government constitute a Special Investigative Team to examine how Tarigami secured the appointment of his relatives in government services through backdoor channels



The State Must Be Magnanimous, Not Stupid

This is the question I posed to the employee union leaders: Government employees unions have been highly vocal in highlighting human rights abuses by the government forces. Did you ever utter a word about the atrocities committed upon the people of Kashmir by terrorists? Why should these unions now raise a hue and cry if the government employees who are genuinely involved in anti-national activities are shown the exit? They have taken the State for granted for too long. This cannot continue indefinitely.

None among the union leaders had any answers to my questions. Some of them even bowed their heads. The plea they offered was that the state must be magnanimous and forgiving.

The State has been magnanimous, I agree. In dealing with the anti-national elements in Jammu and Kashmir, the State has also been stupid. India allowed itself to be held ransom by different sections of Kashmir society, particularly the government employees. This state of affairs cannot and must not continue.

Reasons for Tarigami's Opposition

Tarigami, who has cleverly maintained the image of Mr Clean, actually has personal fears. Let the government constitute a Special Investigative Team to examine how Tarigami secured the appointment of his relatives in government services through backdoor channels. So much so, that Tarigami has even broken records of securing government jobs for his illiterate or poorly educated kith and kin. Tarigami's fear is genuine.

Tarigami secured the appointment of his daughter-in-law Fareeda in the Social Welfare Department with the help of the then Director Social Welfare GM Boda.

Boda, without issuing a formal appointment letter, fallaciously transferred Fareeda from north Kashmir to Srinagar and then to Kulgam district as a regular Class IV employee in the Social Welfare Department. Interestingly, Fareeda does not have the qualification to be appointed as a government servant.

In the same manner, Tarigami secured a government job for Firdaus Ahmed Rather, son of Abdul Razak Rather, in the Armoured Wing of JK Police. Firdaus is the son of Tarigami's brother. He is illiterate.

Mohd Ashraf Bhat and Bilal Ahmad Bhat, who are closely related to Tarigami, are employed in JK Police. They are the sons of Bashir Ahmad Bhat, the brother of Tarigami's wife.

Javed Ahmed Rather is the son of Tarigami's brother Ghulam Ahmad Rather. Javed was appointed through backdoor channel by Tarigami in the J&K Health Department. He is presently posted at Tarigam village in Kulgam district. Javed is illiterate. Besides being a government employee, he is also a small-time contractor.

MY Tarigami: Kashmir's Mr Clean – Supposedly

Since 1996, when Tarigami was first elected to the J&K Legislative Assembly from Kulgam constituency, he remained close to all the chief ministers – be it Farooq Abdullah, Mufti Mohd Sayeed, Ghulam Nabi Azad or Omar Abdullah. Personal benefits flowed.

Examine how Tarigami worked the strings of nepotism and favouritism. His son-in-law, Dr Mohd Shafi Koka, did MBBS from Russia. Koka was brought

Govt Employees in Kashmir: All Talk of Rights, No Talk of Duties, Responsibilities

In order to understand the ground-feeling regarding the constitution of the Special Task Force, I circulated a questionnaire among scores of employees and union leaders.

The problem in Kashmir, particularly for the last 30 years, has been this. We have consistently found fault with the State. Lashing out at the State has been normalized. I agree that since India is a democratic nation, every citizen has the right to criticize the state for decisions or actions considered wrong.

The issue is that in Kashmir, we talk only about rights. There is no talk of our duties and responsibilities towards the State. I interacted with many trade union leaders on this issue. I reminded them of the role of many of their accomplices in south Kashmir during the District Development Council elections in held in December 2020. I reminded them of how the polling staff – all of them government employees – cursed and abused the voters who came to cast their votes.

I reminded them of government teachers who have normalized the indoctrination of young minds in government schools. I also reminded them about how the organizations of government employees endorsed hawkish separatist Syed Ali Geelani's strike and shutdown calls for more than three decades.



Photo courtesy: ANI

into administrative line and showered with out-of-turn promotions. Thanks to Tarigami, Koka rose to the level of Deputy Director Health, Jammu and Kashmir. Arunima, Tarigami's lone daughter, was also appointed in the Social Welfare Department.

The list goes on. Tarigami got favours for his trusted comrades Ghulam Nabi Malik and Mohd Afzal Parray. Malik's three daughters and Parray's illiterate wife – all were bestowed with government jobs through backchannels. Mind you – this is Kashmir's *Communist* leader and the Mr Clean of Kashmir.

This is only the tip of the iceberg.

In the early 1990s, alongside the Kashmiri Pandits, political workers of Kashmir also started migrating to Jammu for fear of terrorists. GOI started a scheme to provide relief to the migrants registered with the newly-constituted Relief Department of J&K government. Tarigami got multiple ration cards of the Relief Department in the name of all of his family members who migrated or did not migrate to Jammu.

Tarigami's nexus with terrorists of Hizbul Mujahideen and Jaish e Mohammad has been highlighted in an earlier MAC Letter. Read Kashmir's Militant-Politician-Policemen Nexus on mackashmir.com: <http://mackashmir.com/kashmir-militant-politician-policemen-nexus/>

The problem with the elites in Kashmir – including politicians and babus – has been this. In order to hide the skeletons in their cupboards, they create smokescreens and hoodwink the common public. Here, we will not talk about Tarigami's land-grabbing. Enough has happened on that front to merit a separate write-up altogether.

Fear of State Action is Essential

Union leaders claim that there is realization among government employees in Kashmir that course correction is required. They argue that the employees must not be judged by their past associations and affiliations. How will the State ascertain that these government employees have indeed undergone a change of mind and heart?

Let us draw a parallel with what Kashmir

Questionnaire discussed with employee union leaders

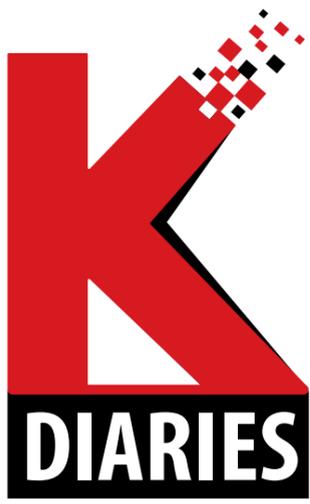
- ✓ Why should state not take action against government employees whose acts are detrimental to national interest?
- ✓ Don't you think rights and responsibilities are directly linked to each other?
- ✓ As an employee of the State, aren't you legally, morally and ethically duty bound to protect the interests of state?
- ✓ As an employee of the State, can you afford to go against national interest?
- ✓ Isn't it obligatory for the state to take action against you if you are found guilty of instigating or provoking people against the state, or violating national interest in other ways?

witnessed in the last few decades. Terrorists and separatists issued the diktat to political workers, Sarpanches or Panches to declare that they were no more associated with the State. The concerned political worker, Panch or Sarpanch had to issue a declaration in the local newspapers that he was no longer associated with the government. Why should the same not happen now? Government employees and union leaders guilty of actions against national interest must issue a statement in the media that they are no longer affiliated with separatists and extremists.

The erring government employees claim

that they have undergone a change of heart. The moot point is: Is it the fear of the state which is making them opt for a tactical retreat? Is there no real change of heart? Be that as it may, such fear is essential to ensure that government employees behave responsibly and are cognizant of their duties. Government employees are legally, morally and ethically duty-bound to protect the state and its interest. If they do not, they must be fearful of the state. By this logic, I firmly believe that punitive measures including dismissal are justified against government employees found guilty of gross violation of service rules.





THE TALES OF KASHMIRIS KILLING KASHMIRIS

We Kashmiris are living in a state of war against ourselves. Common Kashmiris are being killed by common Kashmiris. Pakistan and its proxies are making us fight by selling the dreams of 72 virgins (hoors) waiting for us in heaven, while they fatten themselves with our blood. May peace prevail in Kashmir



THE KASHMIRI WHO LOVED PLAYING **BAJI** - AJAY DEVGUN'S ROLE IN **SINGHAM**



■ SAMEER SHEIKH

This is the story of Mohammad Asif Nazki, an ordinary Kashmiri who lived in Achabal with his family. His parents doted on him, his wife loved him, his four-year-old son waited for him every evening. Asif loved being called *Baji*, inspired by Ajay Devgan in *Singham*. Asif was a Special Police Officer (SPO) with JK Police. He was only 28 when he was killed in an ambush by militants on a police vehicle. A Station House Officer (SHO) and five other security men were killed in the attack.

Today, young Mohammad Asif Nazki is only a name in the long, tragic

list of Kashmiris killing Kashmiris over a manufactured conflict. But for his family members, his memory is one of life-long pain.

It was on June 16, 2017. After a hectic working day, Asif was driving back the SHO from Anantnag towards Achabal. At about 6:30 pm, their vehicle was attacked in an ambush laid by a group of militants of Lashkar e Taiba (LeT) near Thajiwara. Asif, the SHO and five security personnel

were killed in the attack. Asif had joined JK Police about ten years ago. He had got married to Parveena in 2012, and the couple had been blessed with a little boy, whom they named Sehran.

The last call with the son

The killing of Asif left the people of his village deeply grieved. He had spoken to his wife Parveena about half hour before he got killed. He had been away from



Asif's father Iqbal Nazki



Asif's son Sehran

home for nine days. Speaking to his wife, he promised that he would be home soon.

Asif then spoke to his father, Mr Mohd Iqbal Nazki, telling him that he was coming home. He said he wanted to speak to his mother too. Asif's mother Shareefa was busy in some work outside the house. She told her husband that she would meet Asif when he came home. And in this way, the poor old woman lost the last chance to speak to her son. He was killed some time later.

The Midnight Funeral

The funeral was conducted after midnight, at about 2 am. Hundreds of people attended it. Though a wave of fear flashed over the faces of the people attending the funeral, there was also anger against the brutality of the militants. Shangus and Achabal observed a shutdown for four days after the attack. Asif's father later visited Achabal, where his son was posted and enquired from the shopkeepers there if his son owed them anything.

Parveena recalls how Asif used to distribute toffees and chocolates to the children in his neighbourhood. Now she wants to raise her son to be a find man like his father, and fulfill Asif's dreams. Parveena curses the militants and their actions. The day when Asif's killers (Bashir Lashkar and two other men) were killed in an encounter at Anantnag, Parveena says that she could find some peace.

Parveena now in JK Police

“After Asif's death, Sehraan often used to ask me, ‘Where is Baji?’ Even though he is a little boy, he remembers the place where Asif's body was given ablutions. Pointing to that place, Sehraan often says, ‘My Baji was killed here’. The little child does not know that this is the place where Asif's bullet ridden body was washed,” says Parveena. She is now working with Jammu and Kashmir Police. She is serving the country on behalf of her husband who laid down his life for the country.

Mr Mohd Iqbal Nazki says that since the last four years, after Asif was killed, he is not able to sleep at night. “Asif's death has left a deep wound in my heart. Whenever he came from duty, he used to sit with us and enquire about our well being. He never came home empty-handed. He always brought with



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Asif's mother Shareefa remains in poor health after his death. Her eyes have suffered because of excessive crying and poor sleep. The old lady says she often remains lost in the dreams of her son



Asif with his mother Shareefa

him fruits and vegetables. He used to get our medicines, pay for the consultation charges of doctors. He was the crutch of our old age. Many times, I go to his grave and weep. May his soul rest in peace,” says the old man.

Asif's mother Shareefa remains in poor

health after his death. Her eyes have suffered because of excessive crying and poor sleep. The old lady says she often remains lost in the dreams of her son. “I have two more sons, but Asif was the eldest among the three. I have lost *Aadnuk Yaar*, my dearest one,” she says.

Shareefa passes her time at the shop of readymade garments owned by her other son. She keeps telling people she meets about the *pheran* Asif bought for her for Eid, the slippers which he brought at the time of wedding. The old lady can only talk about her deceased son. What will Asif be doing at this time in heaven? Has God awarded him for his good deeds? What would he have suffered when the bullet pierced his chest, cutting his internal organs? – the old lady keeps herself engaged with such talk. Then, pained by this thought, she starts singing lullabies in Asif's name. “My heart and my soul will get peace when I will meet Asif. I am restlessly waiting for the day when I will cease to be and enjoy a moment with my loving son,” she often says.