

## 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.

# KASHMIR'S TERROR ECOSYSTEM



**SOME LAWYERS  
OFFER FREE LEGAL  
SERVICES FOR**



**SEPARATISTS,  
STONE PELTERS,  
OGWs**

# Terror Advocates Glorified As Human Rights Activists

## Nexus terrorizes young lawyers, creates deep fear psychosis, forcing them to defend anti-state elements

**K**ashmir's hardcore separatists, stone-pelters and over-ground workers who aid terrorism are given free legal aid by a nexus of some top lawyers. This cozy system has continued for more than three decades.

For nearly 30 years, a section of lawyers have represented a poisonous violent ideology in the courts of law in Kashmir. Strangely, this section of lawyers practice and argue the same Indian constitution in order to defend the outlaws, anti-constitutional elements.

The entire careers of these lawyers have been built on anti-constitutionalism. The irony: a section of the media calls them *watchdogs of the judicial system of the country*. They have flourished financially because of huge monetary benefits involved in the business of protecting defiant perversity in Kashmir. A hawkish anti-India stand has been a direct route to riches in Kashmir, courtesy Pakistan.

### Kashmir's So-Called Human Rights Activists

Prejudiced sections of the media have consistently projected these lawyers as human rights activists. The fact remains that these lawyers and their friends in Kashmir media suffer from selective amnesia. These lawyers protest the abuses of human rights, if any, by the security forces. But they protect habitual offenders of human rights in Kashmir - the terrorists and their Over Ground Workers (OGWs). They never speak up for those killed, maimed, harrassed by



the terrorists.

These so-called human rights champions never spoke up for the human rights of Kashmiri boys and girls brutalized and killed by terrorists on suspicion of being police informers. This was despite the fact that these ghastly killings were video-graphed by terrorists and circulated on social media.

Why did these lawyers adopt a duplicitous approach and never stood up for common Kashmiris who were ruthlessly gunned down for being associated with mainstream political parties? While the sons and daughters of separatists and their affiliates studied in elite institutions in India and abroad, the children of poor Kashmiris within the Valley were robbed of their precious school years because of hartals and protests organized by the terror ecosystem.

Why did these lawyers never speak up for the human rights of Kashmir's children and youth? Why did these lawyers never state

that the human rights of Kashmiris were violated by constant hartals in Kashmir that lasted for weeks and months?

It is because these so-called human rights lawyers represent the bandwagon of violent ideology originating from Pakistan. The call of religion is Pakistan's smokescreen. Making Kashmir bleed is Pakistan's master strategy. A bleeding Kashmir bleeds India. Exactly what Pakistan wants. On Pakistan's strategy board, Kashmiri lives don't matter.

### Mir Shafqat Hussain - Key Man of Hurriyat And JKLF

Besides Mian Qayoom who represents Syed Ali Geelani's Hurriyat Conference and is known for his ISI connections, a prominent face of these lawyers and so-called human rights activist has been Mir Shafqat

Hussain, who died in January 2020. Mir Shafqat made a fortune from the so-called conflict which has been falsely imposed upon common Kashmiris.

From the beginning of his career, Shafqat loudly protested the alleged human rights violations by security forces, particularly by J&K Police, and filed multiple petitions in J&K High Court against them.

Shafqat ran a law firm by the name Mir Shafqat Hussain & Associates. Like all other so-called human rights activists in Kashmir, Shafqat never bothered to speak up for Kashmiris who were tortured and killed by terrorists. He never spoke about the terror mafia sponsored and supported by Pakistan – because this was not part of his agenda. It would not fetch him anything.

Mir Shafqat was considered to be the key man of Hurriyat and Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). He visited several countries and attended high-profile conferences. His singular focus was the alleged human rights violations by the Indian security forces. He never uttered a word about the atrocities committed by terrorists upon ordinary Kashmiris.

Shafqat used to provide free legal aid to those involved in anti-state activities, especially those booked under The J&K Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). During his career, Shafqat filed scores of habeas corpus petitions seeking the release of anti-state actors like hawkish separatists, terrorists and stone pelters.

For Shafqat, all nationalists were pseudo-Kashmiris. He always targeted them on one pretext or another. Mir Shafqat was diagnosed with cancer and died in January 2020 at New Delhi.

## Mir Urfi – Silent On Brutality Inflicted by Terrorists

After the death of Mir Shafqat, Advocate Mir Urfi took over the command of his law firm. Advocate Mir Urfi, Advocate Wajid Haseeb and others are taking the legacy of this firm ahead and are contesting the cases of individuals involved in anti-national and terrorist activities.

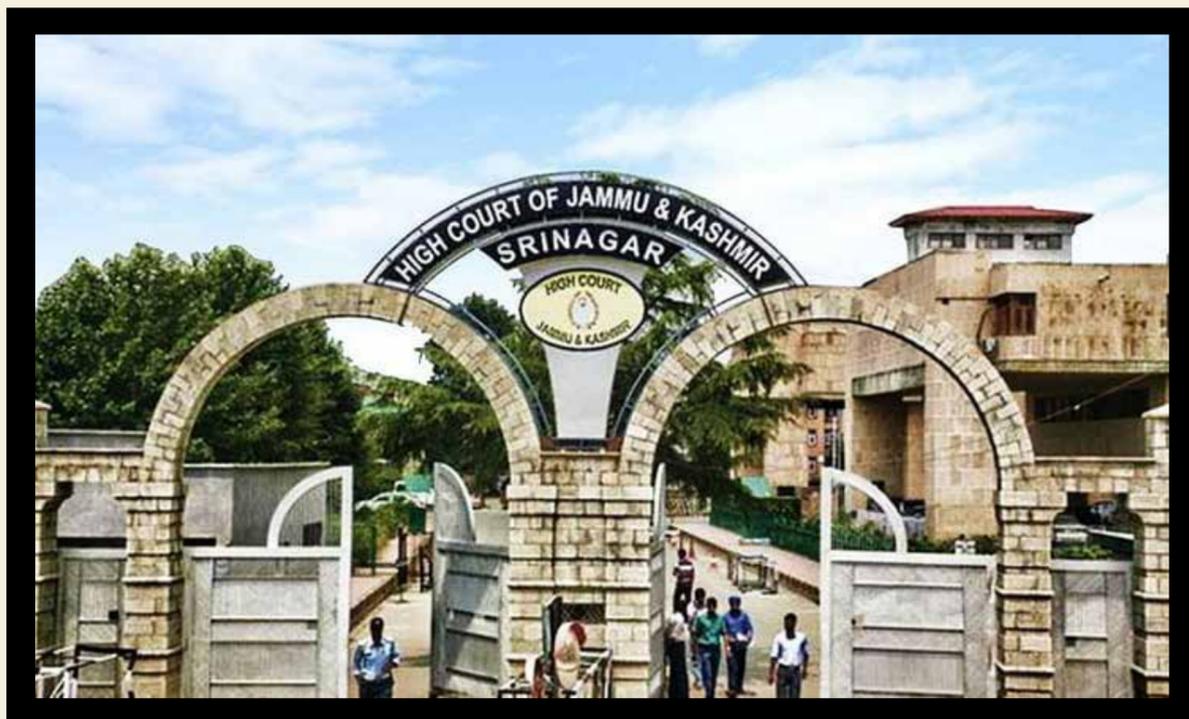
# Mir Urfi Glorifies Terror Ecosystem in Kashmir

In her interviews to the media, Mir Urfi has consistently projected the Indian state as an oppressor. Several of her interviews are available online. Mir Urfi believes that stone pelters, over-ground workers and dreaded terrorists are innocents. They are supposedly fighting for a cause, and they are being implicated falsely. Mir Urfi tacitly says that Kashmir is not a part of India and Kashmiris are not Indians.



She has consistently projected separatists as leaders of the masses.

Mir Urfi also glorifies terrorists and their supporters. She is a terror apologist, and tacitly encourages Kashmiri youth to join terrorist ranks. She propagates enmity and hatred against the state among common Kashmiris. Mir Urfi believes that young Kashmiris joining politics are agents of different enemies, and elections are a farce. From her statements in her interviews, it seems that only a militant holding a gun in his hand is a true Kashmiri and is a role model for other Kashmiri youth. Mir Urfi projects separatists as the representatives of people, and mainstream politicians as an imposition by New Delhi. She leaves no stone unturned to project the Indian state as the oppressor and the enemy of the people.



Advocate Mir Urfi supports these anti-nationals in Srinagar District Court, particularly in the TADA {Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act} Court at Srinagar.

Like her mentor Mir Shafqat Hussain, Mir Urfi is projected by local media as a protector of human rights. Like her mentor, she too is double-faced. She has never spoken up against the pain and brutality inflicted on Kashmiris by terrorists.

Advocate Mir Urfi and Advocate Wajid Haseeb have filed multiple writ petitions seeking the release of hard core criminals who have been responsible for the sufferings of common Kashmiris. They have been claiming innocence of hawkish separatists Masarat Alam Bhat and Noor Mohd

# Some Lawyers Of The Terror Ecosystem

**M**eet with some more lawyers of Kashmir who protect and nourish the terror ecosystem in Kashmir. Amongst them, they have played diverse roles. They have been staunch advocates of the secession ideology. These are the lawyers most at the forefront in taking up militancy-related cases. Their approach is to provide sustained legal recourse on a pro bono basis to all those accused of militancy or of collaborating with terrorists. There are others besides the ones named below.

## Mian Abdul Qayoom

Longest-serving president of Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA). His legal firm provides assistance to amateur lawyers to take up cases defending stone pelters and OGWs. All this is done with the facade of encouraging young and aspiring lawyers. Abdul Qayoom's firm is creating the next-generation legal ecosystem for the protection of anti-state actors in Kashmir.



Abdul Qayoom and his cohorts have maintained the self-proclaimed stance of being sole proprietors of Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA).

Some local businessmen are also involved in this anti-India network. Hawala money is circulated to young unknown lawyers as a basic litigation expense to defend anti-state elements.

Mian Qayoom has been personally lying low, fearing state action against him. But his anti-national activities have not come to an end. He is at the top of the food chain of those who create a deep, unshakable fear psychosis among young lawyers who want to refuse to litigate cases in favour of anti-state elements. The next-gen lawyers want to pursue civil matters of infrastructure and finance law. Mian Qayoom and his cohorts professionally suffocate them and choke their legal career. The young budding lawyers are forced to toe the terror line for their professional and social survival.

Lawyers with a nationalistic outlook are routinely

denied membership of the Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA).

## Advocate Nazir Ronga

Currently the Convenor/Chairman of Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA). He has been grooming young lawyers to take up cases claiming innocence for stone-pelters, OGWs and other anti-state elements. Ronga was affiliated with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Hurriyat Conference. He has consistently claimed innocence for separatists, over-ground workers and stone-pelters. He had organized seminars, rallies and other programs aimed at creating large scale law and order problem during the mass agitations of 2008, 2010 and 2016.

Ronga is also a former president of the Kashmir High Court Bar Association (KHCBA). He is enjoying a convenient position politically by seeding his men into Kashmir's few mainstream political parties to ensure that he is able to escape the wrath of the state.



When Ronga was booked by the government under the Public Safety Act following the abrogation of Article 370, the documents for action against him stated that he was affiliated with Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Hurriyat Conference. As a lawyer, he had consistently tried to defend the separatists in courts and claim innocence for them. He had also organized seminars, rallies and formulated various programmes with a purpose to fuel young brains in the wrong direction. His focus has not been allowing lawyers to focus on legal matters. His focus has been to make the Bar Association a fertile political platform for anti-national sentiments and an internship space for grooming the pro-separatist agenda.

Many terror apologists in the domestic and international circuits shall dismiss these allegations as "merely voicing an opinion" or calling it a "vicious defamatory campaign". They shall ignore these honest opinions of the innocent Kashmiri youth pursuing the legal career who are otherwise scared to speak up.



Image Source: <https://bit.ly/355vj3C>

# Time to Call Their Bluff

**T**his cabal of anti-state lawyers think nobody will ever call their bluff. They want to project Kashmir as a monolith where everybody supposedly thinks the same. And nobody, in their opinion, thinks much.

Welcome to a reality check. Kashmiris know very well how to think for themselves. Kashmiris know very well the games you are playing. How you and your cabal are enriching yourselves while poor Kashmiri youth are supposed to die for the cause on which you are building fortunes.

Qalwal who have caused untold violence in Kashmir. Advocate Mir Urfi and Advocate Wajid Haseeb have claimed innocence for hundreds of stone-pelters and over-ground workers.

If this law firm with about 10 members does not charge anything from their clientele - most of them facing criminal charges - how is their survival possible? The fact of the matter is that these lawyers provide legal services for these criminals for which they receive funding from unknown and undisclosed sources.

## Monopoly on Habeas Corpus petitions

After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, only the law firm Mir Shafqat Hussain & Associates was allowed to file Habeas Corpus petitions in Kashmir. If any other lawyer dared to appear in High Court or District Court for such cases, he was slapped with a show cause notice and was expelled from basic membership of the High Court Bar Association. Mir Shafqat Hussain & Associates filed around 200 habeas corpus petitions in the Srinagar wing of J&K High Court without charging anything from the litigants.

Mir Shafqat Hussain & Associates, led by Mir Urfi, advocates almost 90% cases filed in the TADA Court. Mir Urfi even appears in those cases which aren't associated with her law firm, in order to support the anti-state elements.

There are several such lawyers in Kashmir with affiliation across the border who are part of the terror ecosystem. These lawyers take up militancy-related cases in the District Courts and the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. They argue in favour of militants, hardcore separatists, over-

ground workers, stone-pelters etc for free, or sometimes take just token fee. Their law firms are dedicated to the protection anti-state actors in courts of law.

The reasonable question of an ordinary Kashmiri youth is – if no money is taken from these anti-state actors, where do these lawyers earn their revenue from?

The answer is known to all in the Kashmir division of the J&K High Court. The revenue comes from the gravy train that flows from Pakistan.

## From K File: The Conspiracy of Silence by Bashir Assad

In January 2005, a conference was organized at Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi, by the Nelson Mandela Chair, which was then headed by Radha Kumar. Some Pakistani guests were also participating in the conference. There were about 20 participants from

Jammu and Kashmir, including politicians, lawyers and civil society members. I was among them.

We were in the middle of the conference when we received the news that MLA M Y Tarigami's nephew had been killed by militants. Tarigami was among the participants at the conference. Soon, he left the conference hall, and Professor Radha Kumar moved a resolution expressing sympathy with him for the loss. The resolution was circulated among the participants for their signatures. The participants including the Pakistani guests endorsed the resolution and signed it.

The president of Kashmir Bar Association Mian Qayoom and some other lawyers from the Valley refused to sign the resolution. Radha insisted that it was moved simply because the deceased was related to one of the participants. The conference had an ethical and moral obligation to express sympathy with the bereaved participant. Mian Qayoom remained adamant about not

# J&K High Court BAR ASSOCIATION

Photo courtesy: The Hindu

## The Delusion In The National Media

In November 2019, the article of Ms Freny Manecksha was published on The Wire. <https://thewire.in/law/kashmir-justice-system-limbo>

Ms Manecksha wrote in her article, "Ironically, Qayoom, the longest-serving president of the Bar Association of Kashmir, along with Nazir Ahmed Ronga, former president of the BAR and Abdul Salam Rather of Baramulla, District Bar Association, have all been charged under this same draconian PSA, labelled by Amnesty as "the lawless law".

All through the article, Ms Manecksha made a strong case for Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom and Advocate Nazir Monga. She was pained by the government action against these "human rights activists".

Ms Manecksha did not take cognizance of the devastation and untold misery created in Kashmir by the terror ecosystem staunchly supported by terror ecosystem stakeholders Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom and Advocate Nazir Monga.



**In her writeup in The Wire, Ms Freny Manecksha is blind to the devastation and untold misery created in Kashmir by the terror ecosystem advocates and duplicitous, so-called human rights activists like Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom and Advocate Nazir Monga.**

**Ms Manecksha conveniently ignores the elephant in the room - terrorism in Kashmir. She ignores the devastation that terrorists, terror advocates and terror apologists have caused to the ordinary Kashmiris.**

signing the resolution. The participants from the separatist camp followed suit and denied to endorse the resolution. I intervened and said to Qayum that by not signing the resolution, he was according approval to such killings.

Kashmir High Court Bar Association Demand for Nizam-e-Mustafa in Kashmir.

In 2008, the Kashmir High Court Bar Association marched at Lal Chowk in Srinagar, chanting Yehan kya chalega? The shout back from all the lawyers participating in the march: Nizam-e-Mustafa. The lawyers were shouting out for the imposition of Islamic laws and the Sharia laws in Kashmir. They were shouting in support of the creation of an Islamic state in Kashmir.

### DISCLAIMER

(Both these articles are based on inputs by practising lawyers at the courts of Kashmir. In good faith, the information shared by the people interviewed is carried in the article verbatim.

The views expressed are a compilation of facts and narrations, interviewed from the practising lawyers in Kashmir wishing anonymity for their safety, who endorse the subject matter)

# TERROUR ADVOCACY

## Forcing Young Lawyers To Defend Anti-state Elements

**A**ccess to justice is fundamental for the legal justice system. Lawyers are expected to play a cardinal role in acting responsibly. Kashmir offers a unique case study. For about 30 years, a handful of legal practitioners have adopted a selective approach driven by secessionist political ideology and thought averse to the spirit of the Constitution of India.

Speaking about legal practitioners often comes with legal consequences too. But a popular opinion of the youth is important and must be told. Kashmir's young lawyers have a lot to share on the undercurrents of politics in the courts.

Hardcore separatists, stone-pelters and over-ground workers (OGWs) who aid and abet acts of terrorism against the state damage India's sovereignty and integrity. These anti-state elements can be tried and convicted legally. But a section of lawyers offers them a comfort zone for free legal recourse. These legal practitioners have taken it upon themselves to strengthen the resolve of such anti-state elements. They encourage such elements to break the law and commit grave offences against the sovereignty and integrity of the state.

When the burden on our courts is impacting every single newly filed case, habitual offenders who commit heinous crimes against the state should get a strong message at the social level to desist them from taking to extremes. Terrorism, stone-pelting and being a proud OGW is the tip of the iceberg.

There are people deeply involved in crimes involving moral turpitude and financial crimes that strengthen the roots of terrorism in Kashmir. It also involves crimes related to narco-terrorism. Such people ideally should not

enjoy the patronage of any legal practitioner.

Providing them with a free legal recourse without evaluating the gravity of the crime is an anti-state act. It fails the collective efforts of the members of civil society, the elected representatives and government institutions to bring Kashmir back to normalcy.

Kashmir is undoubtedly an integral part of the nation. These secessionist lawyers hold this statement with a high degree of contempt. The involvement of some advocates in anti-state advocacy has an adverse social impact upon bright and promising youth entering the legal system.

Young lawyers practicing at the Kashmir courts are surprised to see the tentacles of this anti-state advocacy in the legal system here. For nearly 30 years, lawyers who are sentimentally aligned with Pakistan have been tacitly endorsing the terror network in Kashmir. They have been brewing this anti-national sentiment and strengthening the terror ecosystem. They have consistently uniformly



**KASHMIR HIGH  
COURT BAR  
ASSOCIATION**

claimed innocence for all anti-state elements in the district courts and the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, charging little or no money.

The entire careers of these lawyers have been built on these cases. Every anti-state activity in Kashmir finds its roots in the deep network of Hawala. In this way, aiding and protecting criminals strengthens the Hawala networks linked to Pakistan and the Gulf.

## Kashmir's So-Called Human Rights Activists

Typically influenced by secessionist elements, leaving behind the professional integrity, a section of Kashmir's lawyers have consistently claimed to be champions of human rights. But a basic question is ought to be asked.

Why a selective approach is adopted in defending cases? An Indian Kashmiri is left in a lurch. He is denied legal access and is blindly condemned for being a proud Indian Kashmiri. Why?

Why did these lawyers never recognise the very basic fact that the human rights of Kashmiris were squarely violated by constant hartal culture and acts of terrorism in Kashmir?

All of it deeply affecting a poor man, his family, pushing his future into a deep ocean of mechanised uncertainty.

If thought is given, the trend is observed and pages of recent history referred, it is because of these so-called self-proclaimed human rights lawyers have sworn allegiance to Pakistan. When the wrong doers are encouraged, their spirits get emboldened.

One of the major faces of such anti-state legal practitioners was Mir Shafqat Hussain. The foundations of Mir Shafqat's advocacy was laid on the so-called conflict and safeguarding people involved in acts of terrorism, stone-pelting and narco-terrorism. Basic issues that called for litigation were ignored by him as they lacked the glamour quotient and would not make a star out of an otherwise obscure and mediocre lawyer. He never uttered a word about the atrocities committed by terrorists upon ordinary Kashmiris. In this way, he betrayed the role of being an upright human rights advocate.

Mir used to get money for the cases he fought from unknown sources. A major chunk of funding would come across the border. The channels of his financial transactions are openly known to his coterie.

During his career, Shafqat filed scores of Habeas Corpus petitions seeking the release of anti-state actors like hawkish separatists, terrorists and stone pelters.

For Shafqat, all nationalists were anti-Kashmiris. He always targeted them on one pretext or another. He shamed them publically and created a fear psychosis among right-thinking Kashmiris.

Like Mir Shafqat, his protégé Mir Urfi broadly takes up the cases of those who have painted Kashmir red with blood and have tragically impacted the life of an ordinary Kashmiri.

It is the prerogative of a lawyer to contest matters of his or her choice. But existing in the legal fraternity only to safeguard the terrorists through a legal recourse is tacit support to encourage anti-national elements. These lawyers enable the anti-nationals to get away without the legal consequences of their crimes, without any risk and responsibility.

# Curbing The Career of Young Lawyers

These self-proclaimed *legal titans* claim that they are pursuing a *cause*. They force young Kashmiri lawyers to align themselves with the anti-national ideology. These anti-Constitution lawyers advocate the glorification of gun culture, shielding terrorists and killing innocents is the way to nourish Kashmir.

The majority of young Kashmiri lawyers and even law students, wishing anonymity, say that they are routinely terrorized by this select bunch of senior lawyers. For hundreds of such young lawyers, litigating matters of common nature is a distant dream. "These lawyers make fame by contesting high profile terrorist-related matters and eventually grab the civil matters as well, leaving us to die. If we speak, the cost is life. We have seen so many right-thinking lawyers lose their life," said one promising lawyer who eventually dropped litigation and opted for a different career as these so-called human rights activists crashed his dreams – like that of hundreds others.

For the record, recall the killing of public prosecutors across Kashmir. How instead of contesting such matters on merits alone, a political campaign is initiated against the government standing counsels, many times resulting in their assassination.

Safeguarding individuals known for their brute involvement in innocent killings cannot be termed as advocacy. Through this, the future of every Indian Kashmiri is at stake and life is at risk. Hundreds of young lawyers who aspire to rise and shine are silenced by the deep fear psychosis that has been created for many years by this anti-state cabal of lawyers.

