

# **KASHMIR CENTRAL**

A KZINE INITIATIVE

## **ISI OPERATIVES IN KASHMIR ON FAKE IDs**

**IDS OF ALL TENANTS,  
PAYING GUESTS MUST  
BE CROSS VERIFIED**



## BED OF NAILS

### The Price Of Being A Nationalist In Kashmir

**KASHMIR CENTRAL**  
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CENTRAL

It requires the highest degree of conviction, bravado and courage to be a vocal nationalist in Kashmir. One pays an unthinkable price for it. I am pained by the hundreds of accounts I have heard from nationalists who are feeling defeated.

The first challenge a nationalist in Kashmir faces is the social stigma. Since anti-nationalism and violence have enjoyed a degree of social sanction, a nationalist is bound to be abused by the society. His or her family is stigmatized. At many places, they are looked upon as traitors and untouchables.

The one who goes against the popular dominant narrative gets uprooted from his place of birth. Personal threat is so high that he cannot be at peace with his surroundings. He has to leave his place of comfort and settle in jail-like quarters at places considered secure in Srinagar or the respective district headquarters.

One has to sacrifice the pleasure of being with blood relations and the sweet neighborhood attached with memories. Most nationalists face abandonment even from blood relations. We are yet to come across a single vocal nationalist who survived unharmed at his place of birth and remained unfazed by the challenges.

Hundreds of people were killed by militants during the last 30 years. Some were politically and ideologically affiliated to the unionist narrative. Others stood out as ambassadors of peace and tranquility. Many were dutiful government servants, particularly in the police. They paid with their lives because they did not leave their home and hearth.

Those who chose not to compromise on nationalistic principles and left their home and hearth are facing the worst. Bundled in small rooms in protected hotels and government quarters with whatever the family strength, they are forced to remain isolated from the world. Many of them were killed when they ventured out of secured accommodations.

Standing out from the crowd exacts a heavy toll upon the family. There are innumerable instances where the children of protected persons could not get a good match because no one was ready to identify with them.

The nationalist constituency has also been dealt a severe blow by political vendettaism. Political regimes have played a pivotal role in othering the nationalists in Kashmir. For successive regimes, the priority has always been appeasing those with separatist ideology. Nationalists were devalued and demonized by those at the helm. The political bosses nurtured the culture of appeasement for petty considerations. The result was that the Kashmiris who identified as Indians had to pay a huge price.

Their suffering does not end by migrating to jail-like quarters, leaving their ancestral property, society and home. The real challenge starts thereafter. The system starts considering them a burden – unwanted and inferior. They have to beg for basic human needs. At the most, they are required at government functions to fill the seats and listen to pravachans of Babus. Beyond that the state finds no utility for them.

Examine the classic dilemma. The extremists are ready to hunt them down. The system constantly judges their integrity. The extremists kill them physically. Strangely, the system for which they work kills their spirit.

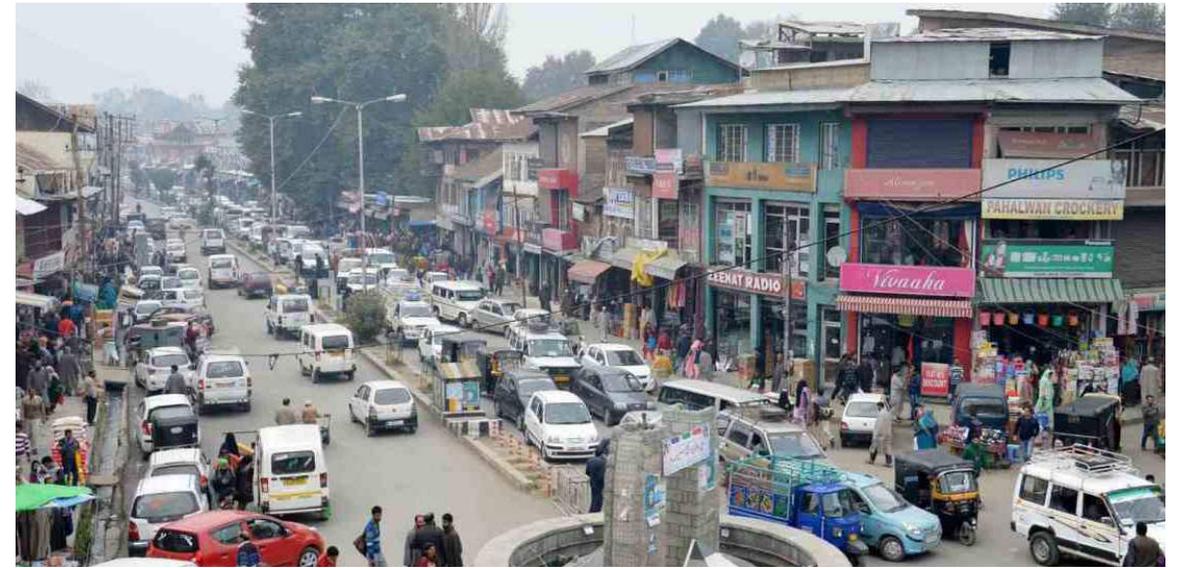
The silent majority stays silent because it keeps them safe. Those with the blood of Kashmiris on their hands and agents of a rogue foreign state are holier than thou, always held in high regard. They are not dislocated. They go with the flow and get everything – love, respect, position, power, community support.

The people who run the affairs of the state have been unable to understand and appreciate the high cost of being a nationalist in Kashmir.

Stigmatization of local police officers by the system, the terror players and the society is equally tragic. We shall focus on this in detail in a subsequent edition.

**Bashir Assad**

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razor sharp analysis

INCISIVE REPORTING

INVESTIGATE  
THE TERROR  
ECOSYSTEM

EXPOSE  
DECEPTION

RESTORE  
ORDER

MAKE A SPLASH

INCULCATE  
DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT

**Inputs From An OGW**

# **ISI Operatives Active In Kashmir**

**POLICE MUST  
STRICTLY ENFORCE  
CHECKS OF ALL  
TENANTS, PAYING  
GUESTS**

**Cross Check Aadhar Card, Voter I  
Card With National Database**



**ISI OPERATIVES CARRY FAKE AADHAR  
CARDS OR IDENTITY CARDS WHICH GET MADE EASILY.  
THE ISI OPERATIVES HAVE A SEPARATE NETWORK.  
THEY DON'T MIX WITH THE MILITANT CADRES**

by Iqbal AHMAD

**T**he police say that there are about 200 active militants all over Kashmir. These are only the militants that the police are counting. In a single district of Kashmir, there are up to a hundred ISI operatives. You can imagine how many there will be in all the districts put together.

Someone passes off as a migrant labour. Someone is a carpenter. Someone is a rehri wala selling socks, small items of clothing or other minor stuff. Only the Soyat attached with them knows their real attention. All these ISI operatives carry fake Aadhar cards or Identity cards which get made easily.

The way militants infiltrate into Kashmir, these ISI operatives also infiltrate into the Valley. The militants have a separate network. The ISI operatives have a separate network. They don't mix with the militant cadres. They are trained professionals.

The ISI operatives maintain a low profile. They do not use any local mobile network. Most of them are focused on recruiting the youth for militancy and strengthening the terror network.

On one side ISI maintains the terror organizations like Lashkar, Jaish, Hizbul Mujahideen or other smaller terror groups. On the other hand these men are pushed in. These are two parallel operations happening in Kashmir.

These trained ISI operatives fulfill diverse tasks for ISI. For decades we have been using the term Na-maloom bandook bardar. The unknown gunmen who carry out acts of assassination. Sometimes these ISI operatives are the Na-maloom bandook bardar.

They are the soyat in Kashmir. They are on the lookout for which boys can be picked up to join the OGW ranks, the militant ranks, or to be part of sleeper cells. These are the men who visit the houses which have suffered in any way due to the conflict. Perhaps a family member has been killed because he was an OGW or a militant. The families of stone-pelters. These men are always on the lookout for who can be a vulnerable target.



Then they play on the vulnerabilities. Somebody is poor and is desperately in need of money. They give money, inflame the youth against the state and prepare him for induction into the terror network.

Sometimes they work as spies. They are constantly sharing information with ISI regarding anything of interest in Kashmir. What are the big projects happening here. What are the political developments. Who is getting popular. What is the public mood. Which public figure is gaining support.

### **HOUSE OWNER MUST HAVE COMPLETE RECORD OF TENANTS**

The police and the security forces must ensure that each house owner must have complete record in black and white regarding the tenant or paying guest. This record must be submitted by the house owner to the police station of the area at the time of providing accommodation to any tenant or PG. The police must stamp on these papers – Received. Then a team from the police station must visit the premises and verify the tenant or PG staying there. The verification must be done for the tenant or PG. The house owner must

keep this stamped file in his possession.

As part of the verification, the authenticity of the Aadhar Card or Voter I card in possession of the tenant or PG must be tested. The government has the data base for all the Aadhar cards and voter I cards. The police will come to know whether the identity card provided by the tenant or PG is fake or real.

Enforcement part is the real differentiator here. Police must ensure that all house owners share information about tenants or PGs. Wherever any house owner has any tenant or PG, he must be asked whether he has provided information to the concerned police station, whether verification has been conducted, and the papers in his possession must be examined.

From the house owner, the police must take copies of the Aadhar card or voter I card. These again must be tested for authenticity. Through these intensive checks, the police will be able to weed out many dangerous elements who have taken up local accommodation.

### **IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE MOHALLA PRESIDENTS IN SECURITY ACTIVITIES**

At places where the mohalla presidents are pro-police or pro-state, they take a keen interest in ensuring that all residents abide by rules for tenants and PGs. The bigger problem is faced in those areas where Jamaat e Islami members or other anti-state persons are the mohalla presidents. In such areas, there is higher incidence of boys getting involved in anti-state behaviour like local stone pelting, but it is ignored or even encouraged.

## **Strict Adherence To SOPs For House Owners**

### **Must Provide Info On Every Tenant, PG**

**J**&K Police must strictly enforce the Standard Operating Procedures for tenants and paying guests all over Kashmir. There should not be any leniency or laxity on this count. Any laxity by the police or the security forces can lead to huge security risks for the state.

The ISI operatives pushed in by Pakistan stay in Srinagar, in the towns or villages all over Kashmir. Sometimes they stay for years together. It is extremely important for JK Police and for the Army to keep a close watch on people staying as tenants or as paying guests anywhere in Kashmir.

Accommodation is easily arranged for them through their older cadres in Kashmir. Someone goes to a house owner and says, "Ye bahir se aaye mehman hain hamare." They ask for accommodation and food for these men on payment of regular rent. They also tell the house owner not to tell anyone about them.

The house owner is not interested in who the man is or what he does. He is only interested in the money that is given to him for the accommodation and food.

The police and the security forces must keep a constant check in each and every house for each and every outsider living as tenant or paying guest. These checks are conducted even now. But the checks have to be far more intensive.

Usually when the scrutiny is conducted, the checking team examines the Aadhar card or the voter I card of the tenant or paying guest. If they see that the tenant or paying guest has Aadhar card, they move on to the next house for the search. This is where security gets compromised. Fake Aadhar cards and voter I cards are easily made by Pakistan's terror operatives.

**THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES MUST KEEP A CONSTANT CHECK IN EACH AND EVERY HOUSE FOR EACH AND EVERY OUTSIDER LIVING AS TENANT OR PAYING GUEST. THESE CHECKS HAVE TO BE FAR MORE INTENSIVE**

**THE ISI OPERATIVES MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE. THEY DO NOT USE ANY LOCAL MOBILE NETWORK. MOST OF THEM ARE FOCUSED ON RECRUITING THE YOUTH FOR MILITANCY AND STRENGTHENING THE TERROR NETWORK**

# Police Must Keep Cross-Checking Informers

## DOUBLE CROSSER ACTIVE IN SOPORE

Sopore has a police double crosser. Many know him by the name of Rafiq. He hails from Achabal.

Rafiq is a militant recruiter. The police got to know of his activities and arrested him. The police also tried to influence him to work on their side.

In order to gain the trust of the police, Rafiq played a game. About two months ago he told two militants to make beds in a panchayat ghar in Natipora, leave dry fruits and a grenade there.

Then Rafiq informed the police that two militants were staying at the Panchayat Ghar. When the police inspected the place, they found the grenade. In this way the local police network thought that Rafiq is giving them correct information and can be trusted.

Recently Rafiq had influenced a local youth to become a militant. The parents of the militants released a video, crying and telling their son to leave militancy and come back. But the young man has not surrendered. He is still active in militancy.



## Mufti - Code Name For ISI Operative In Sopore

Sopore has a Pakistani operative who is known by the code name Mufti. His role is that of a Soyat in Sopore or wherever he is stationed. Mufti identifies vulnerable boys. He influences them with jihadi radical ideas and moves them into OGW networks or militancy cadres. He also facilitates the movement of pistols in Sopore and adjoining areas.

The OGW told KASHMIR CENTRAL that police are not aware of Mufti's identity or face. He is known only through the inputs received on him.

**POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES MUST KEEP CONDUCTING REGULAR CHECKS OF THE MEN MOVING AROUND IMPORTANT INSTALLATIONS WITH REHRIS OR SELLING MINOR ITEMS**

## REHRIWALLAS OR OTHER VENDORS NEAR MAJOR INSTALLATIONS

Police and the security forces must keep conducting regular checks of the men moving around important installations with rehri or selling minor items. A Pakistani named Yunus used to sell socks, slippers and other small things in front of the police station at Sopore. He was popularly known as Yune Bhai. For a long time he remained stationed there. The police and security forces were not aware that a Pakistani operative often used to move around the police station with his rehri. Later he was killed in an encounter.

Similarly, a Pakistani Jaish terrorist by the name Mohd Sadiq Gujjar used to operate by the name of Aqeeb. He used to sell minor stuff on a rehri close to the Baramulla Police Station. His identity was not revealed for a long time. Later he was arrested by the police. Heavy ammunition was recovered from his possession.

**UNCLAIMED BAGS FOUND IN KASHMIR ARE DIVERSIONARY TACTICS. REAL ACTION IS INTENDED ELSEWHERE**

Over the last few days, unknown bags have been found in different parts of Srinagar. About a week ago, a bag with pressure cooker fitted with wires was found at Khawja Bazar area of Nowhatta, Srinagar. The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was called to the spot to examine the bag, and the grenade was defused.

Later, an unclaimed bag was found in Qamarwari area of Srinagar, and created a bomb scare. Police found the bag to be empty.

Sources in the OGW network reveal that these are diversionary tactics. The militants may be planning some major action elsewhere. The suspicion-arousing bags have been placed in Srinagar so that this area stays on high alert. But some major action may be intended elsewhere, and these are attention-diverting tactics.

Sources in the OGW network revealed that the alert must stay high at places where army or police concentration is high, and these may be considered as peak points.



Kashmir Observer

PHOTO COURTESY: KASHMIROBSERVER.NET

## **POLICE MUST KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON BIKERS**

Over Ground Workers conduct extensive recce of the area where a militant attack is planned. They study the points of approach and exit, the points from where the attack can be executed, and the CCTV cameras in the area. Recce on motor-bikes or other two-wheelers are most preferred.

The police and security forces must keep a keen eye on the movement of bikers. Sources in the OGW network reveal that militants or the over-ground workers prefer bikes. They find it easy to bypass nakas by moving through side lanes on a bike, which may be difficult on a four-wheeler.

## **FAVOURITE RECCE HOURS FOR OGWs - FROM ABOUT 4 PM TO 8 PM**

Militants and OGWs find it the easiest to conduct recce for future attacks from about 4 pm to 8 pm. During this time, the forces deputed at a naka are fatigued from being on duty since morning. In times of fatigue, they may not be as alert to any suspicious movement.

The OGWs know that during this time, there are lesser chances of their being stopped or caught. Hence these are considered opportune hours for movement.

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Your window to news, views, exposes, scoops  
and exclusive features that bring to you

**KASHMIR**

# **KASHMIR CENTRAL**

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# TERROR APOLOGISTS EXTRACT HUGE PRICE FROM KASHMIR

## They Nurture And Deepen Narratives Of Separatism And Militancy

## No One Called Their Bluff, Demolished Their Lies

by Bashir ASSAD

**T**he terror ecosystem of Kashmir had remained unchallenged for long. In mainstream media, MAC Letter, KZINE and now KASHMIR CENTRAL have challenged these terror propagandists and terror apologists. They operate under catchy, socially acceptable names and labels like journalists, activists, human rights defenders etc.

These are the so-called journalists whose bounden duty is to inflame Kashmiris at all times and provoke them for violence. They provide intellectual support to extremism and militancy.

Why? What is the reason that this clique should forever keep up their laments on Kashmir? The reason is the gains that they make from the conflict and from Pakistan.

In the mainstream media, the operations of this clique had never been challenged. Whatever lies and concoctions they had put out on Kashmir were accepted as gospel truth. Now when their lies are being questioned, the clique is feeling the heat and has set out to malign me.

**Note what Gowhar Geelani wrote.**

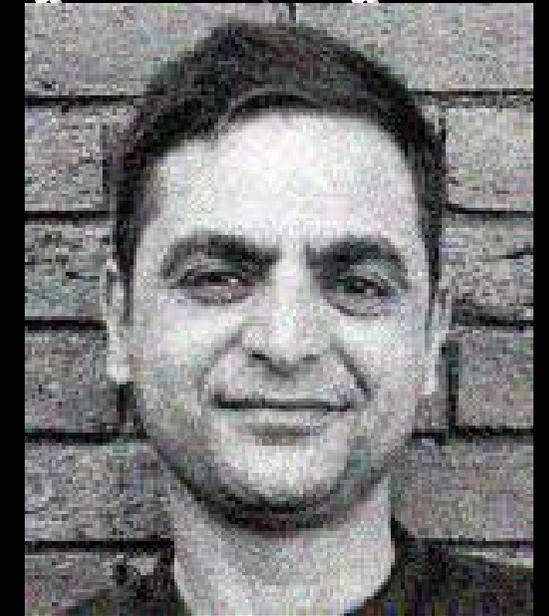
“This person has been a lapdog of several unionist political parties, later shifted to event management and organising seminars under the auspices of a nondescript NGO. Now everyone knows how he has put his loyalty on sale, of course for the highest bidder. A mediocre stenographer.”

**Here is something else that Gowhar put out.**

“Stenography, sycophancy and embedded servitude can never ever replace journalism of quality, integrity, courage, truth and fearlessness.

Pliant partners need support of the regime while journalists are supported by facts, votes by members and backing of legitimate associations.”

Evidently Gowhar sees himself as a journalist who is supposedly supported by facts.



**THESE ARE THE SO-CALLED  
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PROVIDE INTELLECTUAL  
SUPPORT TO EXTREMISM  
AND MILITANCY**

# THE DOCTORED FACTS OF GOWHAR GEELANI

Take a look at the doctored “facts” that Gowhar Geelani presents to you.

On November 24, a Kashmiri militant named Mehran who had attained the notorious tag of “killing machine” was neutralized by security forces in a shootout in Srinagar. Mehran had assassinated innocent civilians indiscriminately, sending shockwaves through Kashmir. Two other militants were also killed with him.

Some women passers-by who witnessed the shootout got hysterical. Unaware that a dreaded militant had been killed, they started shouting that three youths had been killed by the police.

Gowhar Geelani and his clique

started churning out tweet after tweet, dragging police action into webs of suspicion. The hysteria of the unaware passers-by was amplified by Gowhar and gang.

Gowhar has for long assumed positions which get easy traction in the western world. These spin doctors wear labels of ‘journalists’. For Pakistan, feeding these constituencies is peanuts.

I have said it before, and I say it now. Gowhar Geelani and others of his ilk are constantly striving for the international circuit bankrolled by Pakistan. In those circuits, these conflict entrepreneurs are given an intellectual halo and are hero-worshipped.

They are part of a global cabal

that sit in conferences on Kashmir and pontificate on how and why the conflict is getting prolonged. These cabals are sustained by conflict institutions propped up and funded by Pakistan. It’s not just the intellectual halo and the international acclaim in select circles that matters. This American expression is rude but accurate. It’s The Money, Stupid!

You have recently being decrying neutrality, Gowhar. Indeed there is no space for neutrality on Kashmir. Eldridge Cleaver, one of America’s leading black political activists, had famously said: “If you are not a part of the solution, you are a part of the problem.” Remember this wisdom when you don the cloak of a journalist.

**AFTER THE RAMBAGH ENCOUNTER IN WHICH DREADED MILITANTS WERE KILLED, GOWHAR GEELANI AND HIS CLIQUE STARTED CHURNING OUT TWEET AFTER TWEET, DRAGGING POLICE ACTION INTO WEBS OF SUSPICION. THE HYSTERIA OF THE UNAWARE PASSERS-BY WAS AMPLIFIED BY GOWHAR AND GANG**

FIRDOUS QADRI



# THE HYPOCRISY OF AAKASH HASSAN

Here is a wannabe for the global cabal who wants to wear the halo on Kashmir, bestowed by Pakistan. He describes himself as an independent journalist. Such a charming term!

Here’s Hassan’s rant at me.

“Exactly! The audacity to write these dangerous words comes with patronage from the powers that be. Last year, there was a two-page venomous propaganda article published against me—aimed to cause physical harm—in the magazine which this man is editor of.”

Ah! The venomous propaganda. Hassan, study the words you write in the garb of a journalist. You may get an insight into what venomous propaganda means. I only called your bluff.

What was that you said again? Aimed to cause physical harm? Not at all bro. You are part of the terror ecosystem. You are protected by those who jump on ISI’s command.

In the ninth edition of KZINE, which appeared in August 2021, we called Hassan’s bluff on his reportage on Kashmir. For a news portal titled The Polis Project, Hassan had written a report on Kashmir. The headline was this. Feels like death knell: In Kashmir, India wants to kill the spirit of journalism under the label of terror

**HASSAN’S MANTRA:  
LET’S PRETEND  
THERE IS NO  
PAK-SPONSORED  
TERRORISM**

Hassan’s constant attempt is to isolate Kashmir from the terrorism context. There is a constant attempt to erase the reality of



**IN THE NAME OF JOURNALISM, EXAMINE WHAT HASSAN IS CONTINUALLY TRYING TO PROJECT TO THE WESTERN WORLD. HE IS TRYING TO WHITEWASH THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF PAKISTAN-SPONSORED JIHADI TERROR IN KASHMIR**

terrorism. In the name of journalism, examine what Hassan is continually trying to project to the Western world. He is trying to whitewash the lived experience of Pakistan-sponsored jihadi terror in Kashmir.

Witness Hassan’s willful denial to acknowledge the roots of global terrorism planted by Pakistan in Kashmir to achieve its wicked goals. In his article of 1565 words, Hassan mentioned

the word ‘militants’ only once.

Hassan declares on his Twitter account that he is a Kashmiri. But he chooses to be completely oblivious to the elephant in the room – Pakistan-sponsored terror in Kashmir. This is what new-age journalism by Hassan in The Polis Project, a self-stated “hybrid research and journalism organization” dishes out – reporting that is blind to ground realities.

# THE PRETENCE THAT DRIVES GOWHAR, AHMER AND ILK



**GLOBAL CAREERS AS JOURNO-ACTIVISTS ARE BUILT BY DEEPENING THE PRETENCE THAT PAKISTAN-SPONSORED TERRORISM IS "THE RESISTANCE OF OUR BOYS"**

The clique of Gowhar Geelani, Aakash Hassan, Ahmer Khan and ilk has discovered it well. Global careers as journo-activists are not being built by those of us who are trying to heal Kashmir and build a future for our children here. Global careers are built by normalizing the bizarre. They are built by the pretence that Pakistan

sponsored terrorism is "the resistance of our boys". What are the platitudes Gowhar Geelani reserved for himself? Journalism of quality, integrity, courage, truth and fearlessness. What are the names they called me? Stenography. Sycophancy. Embedded servitude. Ah! The fruits of not playing their tired old games.



**IN HIS ENTIRE REPORTAGE, AHMER NEVER TOLD HIS MEDIA BOSSES OR THE WORLD THAT THE REPORTAGE WAS MADE DIFFICULT BY PAKISTAN-SPONSORED TERRORISM, AND THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO CONTAIN IT. IN AHMER'S REPORTAGE, THE CONSTANT MAKE-BELIEVE IS THAT THE STATE IS ALWAYS THE VILLAIN**

## **AAKASH HASSAN'S HIGH MORAL GROUND IS HOLLOW**

Watch Hassan take high moral ground. "An increasingly authoritarian state is now blatantly stopping journalists from reporting. Conditions have been created so one cannot think freely. The critical journalistic approach has been killed. This muzzling of voices disturbs me."

You're right Hassan. There is muzzling of voices in Kashmir all right. The militants are muzzling voices. They are silencing all dissent. You don't have the spine to say it.

In his article, Hassan mentions the killing of Mushtaq Ali. But you don't stand up for that. You don't have the spine to say that photo-journalist Mushtaq Ali was killed by terrorists who sent a parcel bomb to kill senior journalist Yusuf Jameel. You could have spoken of the assault

on media freedom by militants. You could have spoken about the chilling uncertainty that faced by all those who question the terror ecosystem. But that doesn't suit your agenda, does it?

## **LET'S PRETEND PAKISTAN DOESN'T DRIVE NARCO TERRORISM IN KASHMIR**

Global careers as journo-activists and so-called human rights defenders are built by ignoring that terrorism is a smokescreen for narcotics smuggling. They are built by glorifying and romanticizing young men who are rushing to meet death, even as they terrorize the local population.

Why should this glorification and romanticization of terrorists happen? Because this is the Pakistan agenda. Terrorism in Kashmir gives Pakistan Army legiti-

macy and relevance. The gravy train flows from Pakistan to keep the terrorism shoots green in Kashmir. Pakistan also keeps those channels flowing from where Hassan gets the dollars to keep up the strident tone on Kashmir. Aakash Hassan wrote is propaganda piece in The Polis Project. The expose by the Disinfo Lab titled Kashmir Inc: A Conflict Industry, published in early August, revealed that the Facebook page of The Polis Project is run from Pakistan.

## **AHMER KHAN DOES THE INNOCENCE ACT. IT DOESN'T SIT WELL ON HIM**

In his tweet during the intense discussion on me, Ahmer Khan wrote: "I was recently shown an article against me and my work by the same man. I don't even know him or his magazine."

Ah! The man doesn't know me

or my magazine. He has no idea we exist. Why did I have to demolish his lies?

In February 2021, freelance reporter Ahmer Khan was named the winner of the 2019 Agence France-Presse (AFP) Kate Webb Prize for his “coverage on the ground in India-controlled Kashmir during Delhi’s lockdown of the region”.

According to an AFP report, the award recognises journalism by locally hired reporters in Asia operating in risky or difficult conditions. The conditions were risky and difficult, yes. In his entire re-

portage, Ahmer never told his media bosses or the world that the reportage was made difficult by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, and the state’s efforts to contain it. In Ahmer’s reportage, the constant make-believe is that the state is the villain.

Such Pakistan-friendly reportage is so touching.

Khan made no mention of the clampdown enforced by Pakistan-sponsored militants. As a Kashmiri, he was fully aware of the barbarism unleashed by the terrorists. He made no mention of how the militants had intimidated the region’s population through constant threatening

posters. He did not write that the militants had gone all out to wreck law and order in Kashmir, and the state was trying to restore it.

With the award and in eulogizing Khan’s geo-politically blind news-reporting, AFP stood reduced. But why did we have to carry an expose on the naïve Ahmer Khan? The man had never even heard of me or my magazine!

In Kashmir mainstream media, the terror ecosystem was unchallenged. We challenged them. We showed them the mirror. Now they are aghast. Now they are scandalized.



## Gowhar Geelani Ko Gussa Kyon Aata Hai

Gowhar Geelani’s tweets reveal his seething anger against the state. One can fathom the reason for it.

On August 31, 2019, Gowhar was detained at the international airport in Delhi. He was not allowed to fly to Bonn, Germany following a tip-off from Intelligence Bureau. Gowhar said he was going there for a professional assignment.

At that time, Gowhar had told a news portal, “I am a published author, broadcast journalist, television analyst and political commentator. Last month, my book Kashmir: Rage and Reason was released by Rupa Publications. I do not understand what unknown crimes I have committed for which I was denied my right to employment, right to travel, and the right to free speech.”

## Kashmir Reeled In Shock Over Teachers’ Killings, Gowhar Was Doing The Cricket Waltz



Why do I call Gowhar Geelani a spin doctor and a stooge of Pakistan? On October 7, two teachers were killed in a terrorist attack at a government school in Sangam Eidgah area of Srinagar. The sheer brutality of the attack reverberated through the Valley. One could feel the trauma and distress in the air.

Everyone who got to know of the killings knew instantly that the directive had come from ISI, Pakistan. Gowhar couldn’t annoy

his masters by lashing out at the attack. He pretended that the gruesome attack has not happened.

As Kashmir grieved, Gowhar stayed busy doing the cricket waltz. He put out one tweet after another, dishing out advice to Pakistan cricket team. It was sickening. Full marks from ISI Pakistan for Gowhar Geelani. He tried his best to shift attention from the deplorable attacks. It is another thing his antics failed.

**PEOPLE LIKE GOWHAR GEELANI HOLD THE STATE TO RANSOM ON THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH. GOWHAR HAS NEVER USED HIS FREE SPEECH TO DENOUNCE PAKISTAN-SPONSORED TERRORISM IN KASHMIR. ONE CAN DISCERN THROUGH HIS WRITINGS THAT HE IS FIRMLY IN THE PAKISTAN FAN CLUB. PERHAPS GOWHAR MAY LIKE TO STUDY THE HISTORY OF FREE SPEECH AND EXPERIENCES OF THE JOURNALIST FRATERNITY IN HIS LA LA LAND PAKISTAN**

### THIS IS THE FIGHT

Let’s face it. This is the part of the fight in Kashmir. The fight between these Pakistan cheerleaders and those Kashmiris who want a Kashmir free of terror. These Pakistan cheerleaders will keep doing their dance. What do they have to lose? They have received enough funds to support the study of their children in peaceful, harmonious areas.

The poor Kashmiri continues to

be fooled. There are enough terror players who continue to fill his head with Pakistan propaganda.

Ahmer Khan mocks us, saying he doesn’t know us. That’s all right. We don’t make the claim that the world knows us. You continue your rants to make sure militancy is always glorified and the youth who move into militancy are always romanticized. The hands of you and your clique are coloured with the blood of

Kashmiris.

Whatever your fake positioning in western circles to ensure Advantage Pakistan, you do not have the proprietorship over the voice of the Kashmiris. Let us be clear that you are do not represent the interest of the common Kashmiris. You represent Pakistan. The fight is between you and those people in Kashmir who want a better future for their children.

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A KZINE INITIATIVE



# Your Glorify The Gun For Sons Of Poor Kashmiris.

## WHY?

Last year, Dr Noor Ul Owase Jeelani, a son of the soil and a renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, was part of a successful surgical feat with Israeli doctors. His proud uncle, Srinagar resident Javid Iqbal announced on Twitter: "World renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Noor Ul Owase Jeelani being my nephew is incidental, his outstanding surgical and above all humanitarian feat reported by international media deserves a loud applause".

Javid also has other laurels to his credit. After working in Iran for about 40 years, he returned to Kashmir some years ago. He constantly instigated and provoked young Kashmiris for "jihad against infidels" with gusto. Through his writings, fierce speeches and presentations, he inflamed passions among the local youth to take to arms and fight the "oppressor".

I was present at the conference where Javid was with his cronies and he loudly declared: "We will perish but not surrender!"

Why is Javid's example rel-

evant here? Javid's children are engaged in lucrative careers internationally. Did even a single member of his clan take to militancy for the so-called fight for Kashmir? No.

A similar question must be posed to Gowhar Geelani, Ahmer Khan, Aakash Hassan, Muzamil Thakur, Ghulam Mohd Safi, Shaista Safi, Zahid Safi and others

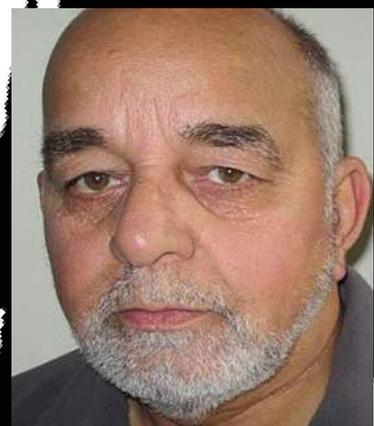
of their ilk.

Has even one member of your clan picked up the gun and joined militancy in the name of Kashmir? No.

All of you are Pakistan stooges, making big money in the name of Kashmir. Your children will always get education in the best educational institutions. You will always encourage your children to build flourishing careers and realize their dreams. But for the sons of the poor Kashmiris, you glorify extremism. You rationalize their picking up the gun. You deepen Pakistan's destructive narrative in Kashmir. Why?

By giving intellectual support to terrorism, you are fanning the fires lit by Pakistan in Kashmir. This is your hypocrisy. By fuelling the bloody conflict, terror apologists like you are destroying generation after generation in Kashmir. Have you ever paused to realize this unfortunate truth?

The sons of the poor are burning in these fires. They are dying so that your charade can continue.



Javid Iqbal

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**STOP TARGETING THOSE  
WHO STAND UP FOR  
DEMOCRACY AND PEACE**

# Pakistan- Sponsored Militancy Is Destroying Our Life

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**The Global  
Community Needs  
To Take Note Of This**



**The funeral procession of Ajay Pandita, a sarpanch in Larkipora area of Anantnag district. He was shot dead by militants**

**by Mareaya FAYAZ**

I am an ordinary Kashmiri woman who spends most of her time reading and writing, and working on my thesis. I never had a firm political opinion earlier. But the more I read about politics and the more I started dealing with people invested in politics, my opinions changed. I became more open to having political debates and discussing politics.

But this new awareness has left with me deep sadness. I have learnt that those journalists who expose Pakistan's involvement in disturbing the peace process in Kashmir are threatened by militants. I have learnt the well-being of their loved ones. I am writing about this to tell you the story of the other side. I want to tell you of people whose their lives and loved ones are threatened just because their political opinion differs from the rest. I want to tell you about how the threats issued by militants leave people close to them panicked and shattered. I am going through

the same. That is why I want to write about it to make you feel how I am feeling.

I was recently talking to a Kashmiri friend with whom I am very close. He has been associated with politics for a very long time because his father is an active politician. In 2019 he started getting involved in politics, for which he left his job.

Working as a political leader may be great in the peaceful areas of the world. In a place like Kashmir, it is not a good idea. Those who invest in peace – their every breath is watched and calculated by those who want to sabotage peace. But we still have some brave young hearts like my friend who want to beat all the odds to achieve something.

My friend was telling me about his daily routine. We are discussing this and other matters when he received a message on his phone. The colour of his face changed.

I asked him what the problem was. What hap-

**Those who stand up for peace and harmony in Kashmir are threatened by the terror elements. There is a constant assault on peace in Kashmir**

pened? He showed me the letter he received on WhatsApp. What I read is making me feel dizzy even now. I cannot stop thinking about it.

The message read: “We know who you work for. You have been under our target for a very long time. We know what you do and where you go.”

The letter said one particular thing which was deeply disturbing. It said: “When you go to the washroom increase your security. ‘Hum tumhe kute ki maut mareng’ (We will kill you like a dog). I was shivering and in shock by the time I finished reading the note that my friend had received on his phone.

### **WE ARE BEING TARGETED BECAUSE WE WANT PEACE**

The threat had been given from an international number. I was so deeply distressed. For some time both of us could not speak. Then I asked my friend – how do you feel about this? Then he responded to me in a gentle and soothing voice, perhaps trying to calm me, “Everybody has to die someday.”

I have not been able to sleep peacefully since then. How easy it is for someone who does not even belong to this country to threaten a citizen of this country. How easy it is for Pakistan to sabotage peace here and destroy lives.

Though the political leaders are provided security, it is very difficult for them to live a peaceful life. The threat that my friend has received is not an isolated incident of its kind. It has become the trend to threaten journalists, police, politicians and anybody who believes that democracy is the solution to the long-lasting conflict, and the fact that Kashmir needs young leaders who will work with the government to bring peace to the valley. Threats issued by the anti-national elements do not stop with the individual threats. They also threaten the families of their targets. Such barbarism is difficult to process.

### **THE DEVASTATING PAIN OF VIOLENCE**

The messages on my friend’s phone were pretty graphic. I cannot repress the memory of it. It keeps



**The distraught family of Constable Touseef Ahmad of JK Police. In November, militants shot him dead outside his residence at Srinagar**

**It has become the trend to threaten journalists, police, politicians and anybody who believes that democracy is the solution to the long-lasting conflict and the fact that Kashmir needs young leaders who will work with the government to bring peace to the valley**

## **CONSTANT ASSAULT ON PEACE IN KASHMIR**

**F**or decades now, militants have killed police officials, media personalities and political figures to constantly undermine democracy here. The global community needs to take note of this. Is it fair that Kashmiris should be killed because they are associated with one political party or another?

Is it fair that Kashmiris should be killed because they work for the police or the security agencies? Why should Kashmiris be targeted and killed for any reason? How many of us should die before Pakistan will stop its devious games here?

So many families in Kashmir suffer the pain of watching their loved ones die. The lists go on and on.

At some time, these people may have been threatened by the anti-human and anti-peace elements. Maybe they would have thought that it is just a threat. No one is so bad that he will kill another human being. Maybe like my friend they accepted the fact that everyone has to die sooner or later.

Why do we Kashmiris have to suffer this pain? My heart is so much in pain that I want to scream, I want to cry, I want my pain to my heard. Why is it okay that Kashmiris should be killed for following some political ideology? Why are those people targeted who uphold the Constitution of India, and uphold the integrity of our nation? Why?



**Sub Inspector Arshad Ahmad was shot dead at Khanyar, Srinagar**



**Shujaat Bukhari, the founding editor of Rising Kashmir and the president of Adbee Markaz Kamraz, a cultural and literary organisation in Kashmir, was killed in June 2018**

on haunting me. I am panicked to think of the consequences if the threats ever come true. It shall devastate me that a person so close to me, such a good human being is no more.

Equally, I cannot get over the feeling of despair regarding people who lost their loved ones who were killed by militants. I feel so helpless, so full of fear. You cannot do anything. You can just sit and pray that your worst fears are not realised. You just sit and pray that those we hold close are not threatened or killed by those who do not agree with them. The people who have the guts to challenge the status quo in Kashmir want to work in a democratic set-up. We want peace and harmony. We want freedom from all violence.

# REJECTING TOP SCIENCE ACHIEVERS BECAUSE THEY WERE NON-MUSLIMS HAS BEEN DEVASTATING FOR US



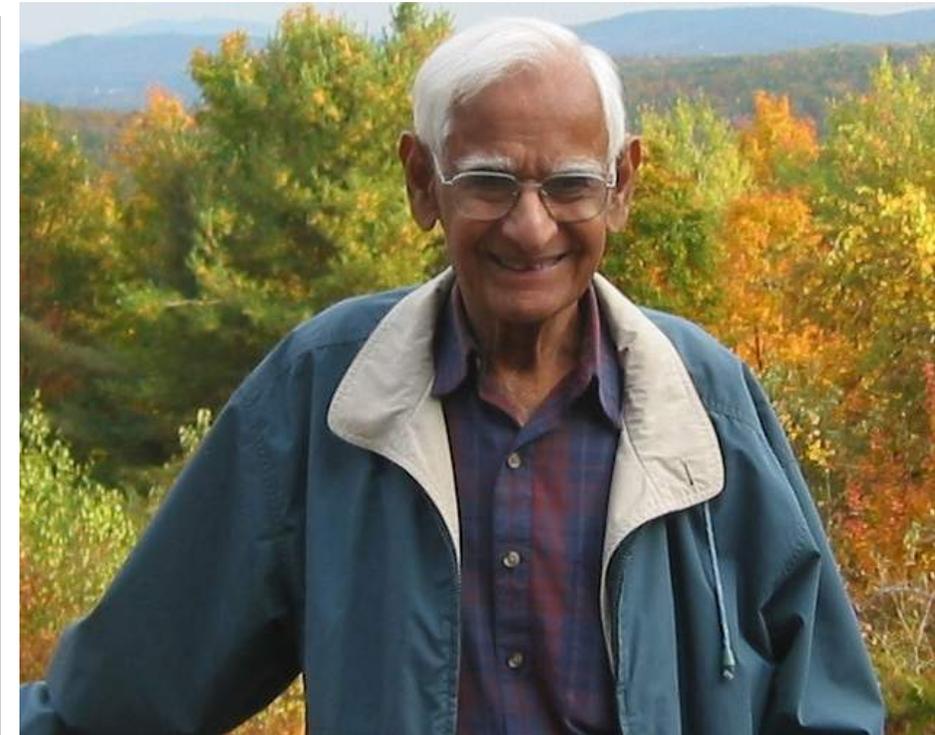
**Pakistani Nuclear Physicist  
Dr Pervez Hoodbhoy Writes In Dawn**

**Our best and  
brightest young people  
opt for medicine, law  
and business, not  
hard-core science  
because we haven't  
given them any  
Pakistani role models**

**N**obel Laureate Har Gobind Khorana was a Lahori with bachelor and master's degrees from Punjab University.

A Dawn article on Har Gobind Khorana (1922-2011) threw me back 50 years when I, along with 600 other students, had packed 26-100 (MIT's largest lecture hall) to hear him speak. Being clueless of the basics of molecular biology, I understood little and left halfway through. Curiosity had driven me there because this famous MIT professor had won the 1968 Nobel Prize and started a brand new field — protein synthesis via nucleotides. More interestingly, he was a Lahori with bachelor and master's degrees from Punjab University.

Alas! Lahore, to its misfortune, does not know — nor cares to know — who this man was. The same holds true for another of its sons, Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar (1910-1995), who became a Nobel Laureate in recognition of his definitive work on the death of stars. Today, a NASA satellite named Chandra scours the skies for neu-



**We did not tell our children about  
Dr Har Gobind Khorana,  
Dr Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar,  
Dr Sarvadaman Chowla, Dr Abdus  
Salam. They were all sons of the soil**

tron stars, black holes and other unusual astronomical objects.

### WHY SCIENCE EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN IS WEAK

The story of Abdus Salam (1926-1996) is too well known to repeat here. Winner of the 1979 physics Nobel, he studied at Government College Lahore and later taught at Punjab University. However, no road or landmark in Lahore bears Salam's name – or that of Khorana and Chandrasekhar. While a Government College-affiliated institution called the Abdus Salam School for Mathematical Studies nominally exists, to display his name on its signboard could be dangerous in a city often gripped by religious fervour.

Less well known is the story of Chowla and Chawla. At Government College, there have been two mathematicians in number theory. One was Sarvadaman Chowla, an accomplished mathematician who headed the mathematics department from 1937 to 1947. Being Hindu, he left Lahore after the rioting began and went to Princeton University, then the University of Colorado at Boulder, and eventually became professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He died in 1995 and was celebrated as a famous number theorist by the American Mathematical Society with several important theorems to his name.

The other was Lal Muhammad Chawla who graduated from Oxford in 1955 and then taught at Government College for many years. With rather modest professional achievements, he had only one well-cited paper. As a Google search of his publications reveals, Chawla was more interested in



## Science suffocates when scientists are judged by their religion, race, ethnicity or any criterion other than scientific achievement. Before Pakistan can produce any science worth the name, it will need to overcome its deeply held prejudices

writing religious books than advancing mathematics. However, the Government College math society is named after Lal Muhammad Chawla and not the more famous and much more accomplished Sarvadaman Chowla. No Hindu scientist is celebrated in Pakistan.

Rejecting non-Muslims of high professional merit has come at devastating cost to Pakistan. For one, it lost those who could have helped the newborn country establish a scientific base. For another, it became difficult to create institutional meritocracies. After Partition, many clever ones played the religious or eth-

nic card and undeservedly rose to positions of high authority. In time, they became institutional gatekeepers with catastrophic consequences.

The weakness of science education in Pakistan is too evident to belabour here. Unsurprisingly, our best and brightest young people usually go for soft stuff like medicine, law and business. Unlike in China or India, hardly any opt for tough, demanding, scientifically-oriented careers. So, how can we persuade our children towards them? What stories to tell them about science and scientists? Most importantly, who should be their role models?



In 1979, Pakistani scientist Dr Abdus Salam won the Nobel Prize for physics. He was disowned by his nation because he was an Ahmadi Muslim

### WHY DO WE DENY OUR HINDU ROOTS?

This brings up a civilisational problem. Over the last 300 years – which is how old modern science is – there are no Muslim sub-continental names associated with

## We Must Overcome Our Deeply Held Prejudices

Ideology and science are like oil and water - they refuse to mix. Science cares only about facts and logic, not personal likes and dislikes. History is replete with examples of failed attempts to fuse science with cherished beliefs. When Stalin sought to impose his Marxist views upon Soviet biology through his chosen tout, Trofim Lysenko, he nearly destroyed agriculture and forestry.

Soviet Russia's good fortune was that it had a scientific community robust enough to counter Lysenko's meddling. Pakistan has not been so lucky. It has an abundance of charlatans pretending to be scientists but just a few who deserve to be called such. While there is a science ministry, several scientific bodies, and hundreds of institutions that purport to teach or do research in science, no community of genuine scientists exists. High-sounding scientific bodies - such as the Pakistan Academy of Sciences - are a joke. They command no respect internationally and should be dissolved.

Every kind of intellectual endeavour, science included, needs an enabling cultural and social environment to flourish. Science suffocates when scientists are judged by their religion, race, ethnicity or any criterion other than scientific achievement. Before Pakistan can produce any science worth the name, it will need to overcome its deeply held prejudices. It must learn to value all who share the common heritage of humankind. The day we count Khorana, Salam and Chandrasekhar as our very own, Pakistan will have begun breaking the shackles of scientific under-development.

first tier (Nobel calibre) scientific accomplishments (after 1974 Salam must be excluded). Notwithstanding the valiant efforts of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-1898), Indian Muslims shunned science and the English language. Thus, even at the distant second or third tier level, one finds barely a dozen names.

Since one cannot find Muslim science heroes who belong to the soil, books for Pakistani children inevitably valorise Arabs from the Golden Age such as Al-Battani, Ibn-e-Shatir, Ibn-e-Haytham, etc. While these luminaries of Muslim science were genuine path-breakers, they do not serve well as role models. For one, persons from centuries ago cannot inspire today's children. For another, excitement is inspired by those "of your own kind". Arabs, however, are visibly

different from people around here.

Ancient Hindu scientists could have found some place in Pakistani books. However, they are excluded on ideological grounds because "woh hum main say nahin hain" (they are not us). Instead, many Pakistanis anxiously seek ancestral roots in Arabia, Afghanistan and Central Asia. But modern laboratory tools are ripping apart dearly held myths of racial origins. Now several genetic marker studies are suggesting that the subcontinent's Muslims have descended primarily from local Hindu converts with only a few per cent admixture of Arab or Central Asian genes. Excluding Hindu scientists from our books is absurd.

*(This article first appeared in Dawn, a Pakistan daily)*

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## **KASHMIR CENTRAL**

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