



India - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 31 May 2017

Information on the current security situation in India administered Kashmir

A report released in May 2017 by the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* notes:

“According to partial data compiled by the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), at least 60 terrorists have already been killed during the first four months and 28 days of the current year (data till May 28, 2017). During the corresponding period of the previous year, SFs had eliminated 53 terrorists. Significantly, this is the highest number of terrorists killed in this period (the first four months and 28 days of the year) since 2010, when at least 115 terrorists were killed in this interregnum” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (29 May 2017) *Jammu and Kashmir: Turbulence by Design*).

This report also states:

“The increased engagement between SFs and terrorists on the ground is indicative of the deteriorating situation in the State in evidence since the second half of 2016. J&K has already recorded 25 fatalities among civilians, the highest number during this period since 2008, at 26” (ibid).

In May 2017 the *Guardian* points out that:

“Nearly 100 civilians were killed last July and August during the most violent summer in Kashmir in five years. More than a dozen people have been killed this year in clashes between security forces and protesters armed with stones and sometimes crude explosives. Curfews and internet bans were imposed across Kashmir, including in the city of Srinagar at the weekend, after protests following the killing of a senior militant leader by Indian security forces” (Guardian (29 May 2017) *India army chief defends soldiers who tied man to vehicle and used him as a human shield*).

A report released in May 2017 by the *Los Angeles Times* notes:

“Stone-throwing protesters clashed with security forces across the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir on Saturday after Indian soldiers killed eight suspected militants as part of a months-long crackdown in the disputed Himalayan territory. At least one civilian was killed as police forces tried to subdue the protesters, and dozens of others were injured, according to medical officials” (Los Angeles Times (27 May 2017) *Violent protests erupt in Kashmir after Indian forces kill 8 suspected militants*).

This document also states:

“Anti-Indian protests in Kashmir have grown in size and intensity in the year since the Indian army killed a charismatic young militant, Burhan Wani, in a targeted operation in July. Scores of civilians have been killed and thousands injured, many blinded by pellets fired by Indian police and paramilitary forces struggling to maintain order in a territory that India and Pakistan have fought over for 70 years” (ibid).

Reuters in May 2017 points out that:

“India is struggling to contain a recent flare-up in protests against its rule in Kashmir, where deep-seated anger and calls for independence remain widespread” (Reuters (23 May 2017) *India says it attacked Pakistan army posts in divided Kashmir*).

In May 2017 the *Federal Office for Migration and Asylum of Germany* notes that:

“Around 1,000 civilians evacuated from Kashmir villages after shelling by Pakistani army. After continuing exchange of fire at the Pakistani border which has claimed the lives of at least two civilians, the Indian authorities evacuated around 1,000 residents of Jammu and Kashmir on 14 May 2017. Indian media reported that the Pakistani army had fired across the border, targeting Indian military positions and villages in Rajouri district” (Federal Office for Migration and Asylum of Germany (15 May 2017) *Information Centre Asylum and Migration Briefing Notes (15 May 2017)*, p.3).

A report issued in May 2017 by *Reuters* states:

“An Indian father and daughter were killed and about a dozen civilians were injured in the disputed Kashmir region on Saturday as India and Pakistan exchanged fire over their de facto border, said officials from each side of the frontier. India and Pakistan have accused each other of initiating the cross-border shelling. The father and daughter were killed in the Indian part of the disputed Kashmir region by Pakistani army fire, and three of their relatives were wounded, an Indian military spokesman said” (Reuters (13 May 2013) *Two Indians killed in Kashmir border firing*).

Human Rights Watch in May 2017 notes:

“The government's response to violent street protests in Jammu and Kashmir state since July 2016 has resulted in nearly 100 deaths and left thousands injured, including protesters, bystanders, and members of security forces” (Human Rights Watch (1 May 2017) *India: UN Review Should Condemn Crackdown on Rights*).

A document issued in March 2017 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of the previous year notes:

“Data compiled by the Institute of Conflict Management showed fatalities from terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir increased to 223 between January and October 2016 compared with 174 in 2015” (United States Department of State (3 March 2017) *2016 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – India*).

References

Federal Office for Migration and Asylum of Germany (15 May 2017) *Information Centre Asylum and Migration Briefing Notes (15 May 2017)*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/592433ea4.html>

Accessed Wednesday 31 May 2017

Guardian (29 May 2017) *India army chief defends soldiers who tied man to vehicle and used him as a human shield*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/29/india-army-chief-kashmir-protests-man-tied-to-vehicle>

Accessed Wednesday 31 May 2017

Human Rights Watch (1 May 2017) *India: UN Review Should Condemn Crackdown on Rights*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/tehis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=590987f84>

Accessed Wednesday 31 May 2017

Los Angeles Times (27 May 2017) *Violent protests erupt in Kashmir after Indian forces kill 8 suspected militants*

<http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-india-kashmir-20170527-story.html>

Accessed Wednesday 31 May 2017

Reuters (23 May 2017) *India says it attacked Pakistan army posts in divided Kashmir*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-pakistan-kashmir-idUSKBN18J1QD>

Accessed Wednesday 31 May 2017

Reuters (13 May 2013) *Two Indians killed in Kashmir border firing*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-kashmir-pakistan-idUSKBN18904U>

Accessed Wednesday 31 May 2017

South Asia Terrorism Portal (29 May 2017) *Jammu and Kashmir: Turbulence by Design*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/jammu-and-kashmir-turbulence-design>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Wednesday 31 May 2017

United States Department of State (3 March 2017) *2016 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – India*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/tehis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=58ec8a2613>

Accessed Wednesday 31 May 2017

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis

Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld