



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on JKLF members involved in protests and/or being arrested/detained in December 2010

In December 2010 the *News* states:

“...the authorities arrested JKLF-R leader Javed Ahmad Mir and several party workers to prevent them from observing a hunger strike in the Abiguzar area of held Srinagar on the Human Rights Day to highlight rights’ violations by Indian troops” (News (11 December 2010) *Mirwaiz, Geelani, Shabbir Shah placed under house arrest*).

A document issued in December 2010 by the *Pioneer* notes:

“Police detained a group of separatists and put several others under house-arrest on the eve of World Human Rights Day, to prevent demonstrations against alleged rights violations. A coalition of civil society groups organised a sit-in to highlight the situation in Kashmir Valley. Authorities swooped down on a group of JKLF activists, led by Javed Ahmad Mir, in Abi Guzar locality, when they attempted to sit on a hunger strike near Residency Road. At least 10 group members were bundled into a police vehicle and detained for the day. Leader of another faction of JKLF, Yasin Malik, was also taken into custody when he attempted to bring out a demonstration in his native Maisuma locality” (Pioneer (11 December 2010) *Separatists held to preserve peace on Human Rights Day*).

Rights Vision News in December 2010 notes:

“The authorities placed the All Parties Hurriyet Conference Chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and senior Hurriyet leaders, Syed Ali Gilani and Shabbir Ahmed Shah, under house arrest on Friday, to prevent them from addressing Juma congregations and leading pro-liberation demonstrations. The authorities have not allowed Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Syed Ali Gilani to offer Juma prayers for last several months while Shabbir Ahmad Shah was not allowed to offer any Juma for last one month, Kashmir Media Service reported. On the other hand, the occupation authorities arrested JKLF-R leader, Javed Ahmad Mir, and several party workers to prevent them from observing hunger strike in Abiguzar area of Srinagar on World Human Rights Day to highlight rights’ violations perpetrated by Indian troops in the territory” (Rights Vision News (12 December 2010) *Pakistan: 3 APHC leaders put under house arrest again*).

The *Pioneer* issued a document in December 2010 which noted:

“Thousands of Shia mourners attended tazia processions across Kashmir on Friday, even as police and paramilitaries enforced curfew in sensitive localities of Srinagar city. Authorities disallowed traditional tazia procession from curfew-bound Abi Guzar locality but permitted huge gatherings of mourners in Zadibal locality of the city and Budgam pocket of central Kashmir. Curfew was imposed in jurisdictions of seven police stations of Srinagar city, including Kothibagh, Maisuma, Nowhatta and Khanyar. The twin purpose of imposition of prohibitory orders was to prevent revival

of traditional tazia procession and frustrate Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's programme to deliver Friday sermon at the Grand Mosque in the old city. Farooq, who heads the moderate faction of separatist Hurriyat Conference, is also the head preacher of Kashmir. On Thursday, he announced that he would defy curbs on him to offer Friday prayers at Jamia Masjid. He had shifted from his Nageen residence to ancestral Mirwaiz Manzil on Wednesday with an aim to prevent police's practice to put him under house-arrest. However, on Thursday evening, a large contingent of police forced him to quit Mirwaiz Manzil in Rajouri Kadal area, where most of his supporters live. He was relocated at his residence and prevented to venture out for the entire day on Friday. Mirwaiz has been prevented from delivering weekly sermon in Jamia Masjid for 14 consecutive Fridays. "This is interference in the religious matters of Kashmiri Muslims. We resent it," Mirwaiz said in a statement. Several separatist leaders - Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Shabir Shah and Nayeem Khan - were put under house-arrest. However, JKLF chairman Yasin Malik surfaced in Zadibal to address a huge gathering of Shia mourners. He was accompanied by middle-rung separatist leaders belonging to several outfits. A JKLF statement said Malik gave police the slip and secretly reached Zadibal before his Maisuma residence was cordoned off" (Pioneer (18 December 2010) *Clampdown in Srinagar*).

A report issued in December 2010 by the *United News of India* notes that:

"Curfew has been lifted in some parts of north Kashmir, where the restrictions were imposed after clashes between two sects of the same community left four people injured and damaged houses and orchards on December 20. They said curfew has been lifted at Inderkote and Sumbal till further orders are received. So far, there was no report of any untoward incident and people were out on streets doing their normal business, they said. The trouble started when a vehicle carrying Muharram mourners was attacked by some people at Inderkote, later spread to Sumbal. Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Mohammad Yaseen Malik along with leaders from both sects arranged a meeting between local residents on December 22" (United News of India (27 December 2010) *Curfew lifted in North Kashmir village*).

In December 2010 *Rights Vision News* notes:

"The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front-R (JKLF-R) has expressed serious concern over the arrest of Kashmiri youth by Indian troops and police personnel" (Rights Vision News (30 December 2010) *Pakistan: JKLF-R concerned over arrest of innocent Kashmiri youth*).

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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.

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