



## **India: International human rights groups reiterate call for release of detained Kashmiri human rights defender Khurram Parvez on his birthday**

**18 June 2025.** On the eve of the 48<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Khurram Parvez**, a globally respected human rights defender from Indian-administered Kashmir, we, the undersigned organizations, [renew](#) our call for his immediate and unconditional release. Khurram has now spent over three and a half years in arbitrary detention under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) – an Indian counter-terrorism law that has been widely condemned by experts and the United Nations (UN) for violating legal rules and norms, including by enabling prolonged pre-trial incarceration.

Khurram is the Program Coordinator of the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) and former Chairperson of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances. He was [arrested](#) on 22 November 2021 by India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) and charged under multiple sections of the UAPA and Indian Penal Code. In March 2023, he was further implicated in a second case, alongside Kashmiri journalist and former JKCCS researcher [Irfan Mehraj](#). The case, originally filed in October 2020, [seeks to](#) punish their human rights work as “funding terror activities” and the “propagation of secessionist agenda[s].”

In June 2023, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) [issued](#) an opinion ruling that Khurram's detention was arbitrary and without legal basis, and urging the government of India to release him immediately and to provide reparation. Multiple other UN Special Procedures have [highlighted](#) Khurram's case as a reprisal for his human rights work including his engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms. They find his detention a violation of binding international law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Nonetheless, Khurram continues to be held in a maximum-security prison in New Delhi, India.

Khurram's continued incarceration is emblematic of Indian authorities' systematic criminalization of human rights work, denial of the rights to freedom of expression, and the silencing of dissent in Indian-administered Kashmir. Khurram has for years documented human rights violations, including in Indian-administered Kashmir. His work, and that of JKCCS, is widely respected and recognized internationally, as demonstrated by Khurram's receipt of the [Martin Ennals Award](#) in 2023 and the [Reebok Human Rights Award](#) in 2006.

As Khurram marks another birthday behind bars, we, the undersigned organizations, call on the government of India to immediately and unconditionally release Khurram Parvez, as well as Irfan Mehraj and all human rights defenders unlawfully imprisoned by Indian authorities for their human rights work.

We urge Indian authorities to fully comply with their international legal obligations, including by ending their ongoing and longstanding abuse of counter-terrorism legislation to target civil society and dissent.

**Signed:**

Amnesty International

Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

CIVICUS

FORUM-ASIA

Frontline Defenders

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), in the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)

Kashmir Law and Justice Project

World Organisation Against Torture, in the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders