

Ms. Agnes Callamard,  
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights,

**Subject: Seeking your urgent intervention in securing the immediate release of Mr. Mian Abdul Qayoom, President of the Kashmir Bar Association**

Dear Ms. Callamard,

**We seek your intervention in securing the immediate release from detention of President of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Mr. Mian Abdul Qayoom.** Mr. Qayoom is the most respected lawyer in Kashmir. He has been arbitrarily detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) since August 4, 2019. Mr. Qayoom is 76 years old and suffers from various chronic health issues, including diabetes, diminished kidney function and severe nerve damage. He was scheduled for open heart surgery at the time of his detention. While detained, he has lost substantial weight. He is now confined to a wheelchair. **Per recent media reports and direct communication with his family (who have received non-public communication from the relevant authorities), Mr. Qayoom has now also suffered a heart attack.** He is critically, acutely ill and his health appears to be rapidly deteriorating under prolonged detention.

Throughout his career, Mr. Qayoom has been a fearless advocate for victims of rights violations. He has provided representation (including on a pro bono basis) for people arbitrarily detained pursuant to the PSA. He has been an advocate against arbitrary detention in Kashmir. For his tireless advocacy and service, he has repeatedly been the target of politicized prosecutions and previous detentions.

Members of the J&K High Court Bar Association have [demanded his immediate release](#). Attached is the text of the recent press releases issued by the Kashmir Bar Council.

Although he filed an appeal on August 21, 2019, there has not been much response from the J&K High Court or the Government of India. There is widespread concern in Kashmir regarding Mr. Qayoom's situation which has only been heightened by the recent [death of another Kashmiri detainee](#) in an Indian prison.

As you are no doubt aware, since August 4, 2019, India has arbitrarily detained thousands of people in Kashmir. Over the past 5 months, Mr. Qayoom has remained in detention and was moved from Kashmir to a jail in India hundreds of miles away from his home. Qayoom's detention order clearly states that he is being held for his criticism of the security forces, and for his political views. His PSA grounds of detention read: "We apprehend that you (Qayoom) will motivate people to agitate against abrogation of Article 370." His [detention reflects a](#) strategy used to silence lawyers in Kashmir for many years. Under the PSA, people can be jailed for up to two years without trial. This "lawless law" has been [condemned by both the United Nations](#) and [Amnesty International](#).

We urge you do all that is possible to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Qayoom from detention. He is being arbitrarily detained for political reasons. His health situation is critical and deteriorating. He requires immediate, proper medical attention and the care of his loved ones. His needs are urgent. Please act urgently.

Please let us know if you need any other information.

Sincerely,

**Kashmir Scholars Consultative Action Network**

Dean Accardi, Assistant Professor of History, Connecticut College,  
Connecticut, USA

Raja Qaiser Ahmad, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Binish Ahmed, Ph.D. candidate, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

Omer Aijazi, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto, Canada

Dibyesh Anand, Professor of International Relations, University of  
Westminster, UK

Mirza Saaib Beg, Lawyer, London, UK

Mona Bhan, Associate Professor of Anthropology and the Ford Maxwell  
Professor of South Asian Studies, Syracuse University, USA

Emma Brännlund, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International  
Relations, University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), UK

Farhan Mujahid Chak, Associate Professor, Qatar University, Qatar

Huma Dar, Adjunct Professor, California College of Arts, USA

Haley Duschinski, Associate Professor, Ohio University, USA

Iffat Fatima, Filmmaker, India

Mohd. Tahir Ganie, Assistant Professor, School of Law and  
Government, Dublin City University, Ireland

Javaid Hayat Khan, Ph. D. Independent Researcher and Analyst,  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Serena Hussain, Associate professor, Coventry University, UK

Khushdeep Kaur, Ph.D. candidate, Temple University, USA

Shrimoyee Nandini Ghosh, Lawyer and Legal Researcher, India

Mohamad Junaid, Assistant Professor, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, USA

Hafsa Kanjwal, Assistant Professor of History, Lafayette College, USA  
Fathima Kanth, Ph.D. candidate, University of California, San Diego, USA

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Laura Lucia Notaro, Consultant, Sustainable Development, Milan, Italy

Inshah Malik, Assistant Professor, Kardan University, Kabul, Afghanistan

Deepti Misri, Associate Professor, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

Preetika Nanda, Research Scholar, India

Immad Nazir, Research Scholar, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany

Goldie Osuri, Associate Professor, University of Warwick, UK

Idrisa Pandit, Independent Scholar, Waterloo, Canada

Samina Raja, Professor, University of Buffalo, USA

Torrún Arnsten Sajjad, Department of Community Medicine and Global Health, University of Oslo

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