

# Why is india targeting human rights defenders? Is it connected with a plan to further commit crimes?

India is eliminating and silencing human rights defenders in India. It forced out Amnesty International. It raided Delhi Minority Commission and the Hersh Mander's offices. It Allowed Stan Swamy, a 84-year-old human rights activist to die in jail. Sixteen prominent human rights defenders are currently arrested on politically motivated terrorism charges.

Human Rights Watch says Indian authorities intensified their crackdown on activists, journalists, and other critics of the government using politically motivated prosecutions in 2021.

Now they have detained the most prominent, world recognized Kashmiri human rights defender, Khurram Parvez.

Khurram Parvez is a Kashmir human rights defender and Program Coordinator of the Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), a civil liberties and human rights organization in disputed Indian Administered Jammu & Kashmir. Parvez and JKCCS are internationally recognized for their wide-ranging work on documentation of human rights abuses, promoting civil society engagements and democratic institution building in Jammu & Kashmir. Over the last two decades, they have worked with thousands of individuals, and families to document the impact of state torture, extrajudicial killings, and other widespread abuses. Khurram also serves as the chairperson of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and is also a distinguished scholar at the University of California, Berkeley.

On November 22, 2021, Khurram was arbitrarily detained by Indian authorities. He was arrested under India's draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, or the UAPA, a law that has been weaponized against anyone who is critical of the Indian government's human rights abuses. No charges have been filed against him.

Kerry Kennedy, President of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights organization: "I'm also here today not only about a man who I hold in highest esteem. I am here today because Khurram's most recent arrest is a prime example of the crackdown on civic space in India and across the globe, where regimes target journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders, who play the critical role of holding governments accountable."

### **Call and Email Congress:**

Ask your elected offical to speak up for Khurram Parvez and others humanrights defenders in India www.justiceforall.org/FreeKhurramParvez

#### **Educate Your Elected Leaders:**

Justice For All has been able to deliver 52,000 calls to action last year to elected leaders. That helped us pass bills which put pressure on China for Uyghur Muslims. Your relationship matters

- When was the last time you met your elected leader or their staff?
- Did you ever visit their local offic
- Would you like training in this regard?

### **Volunteer Today:**

JusticeForAll.org/Volunteer

#### Write to President Carter

Please write to request President Carter to ask President Biden to interfere in defense of human rights defenders, specifically Khurram Parvez. He does not respond to emails. So write a traditional letter: President Carter c/o The Carter Center 453 John Lewis Freedom Parkway NE Atlanta, GA 30307-1406

# **Tweet to Secretary of State**

@SecBlinken Why is the State Dept so silent as India is eliminating Human Rights Defenders. Amnesty was forced out & US did nothing. They attacked Delhi Minority Commission & we remain silent. Now world recognized Human Rights defender Khurram Parvez is detained and you are silent. Use #FreeKhurramParvez

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#### About Justice For All

Justice For All is a human rights organization with Consultative Status at the United Nations (DPI).



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