

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS A HUMAN RIGHT!



Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

--Article 19, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Click [here](#) to watch a video about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights!

Masrat Zahra is a 26-year-old award-winning photojournalist from Srinagar in the Kashmir Valley, India. Masrat's work has appeared in the Washington Post, Al-Jazeera, and Indian media.

On April 20, 2020 she was accused of "uploading anti-national posts on Facebook" and booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, or UAPA, and Indian Penal Code. The investigation against Masrat and other Kashmiri journalists by the police takes away the right to freedom of expression.

Harassment and intimidation through laws like UAPA makes it harder to address the COVID-19 pandemic and creates an atmosphere of fear. In Kashmir, this is made worse because of the lockdown, limits on internet speed and random arrests, often without documentation or access to lawyers or real justice. This severely hurts the human rights of the Kashmir people and denies people in India and around the world their right to know what is happening.



Amnesty International calls on the Indian authorities to drop all charges against Masrat Zahra and to stop harassing and intimidating journalists in Kashmir. Amnesty International also calls on the Indian authorities to repeal the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act or change it so it meets international human rights law and standards.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR MASRAT AND JOURNALISTS ACROSS INDIA!

You and your friends to use the letter on the next page, and send letters to both of these people:

Minister of Home Affairs
Shri Amit Shah
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi - 110001
Twitter: @amitshah
email: amitshah.bjp@gmail.com or
amitshah.mp@sansad.nic.in

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email: amitshah.bjp@gmail.com or
amitshah.mp@sansad.nic.in



Your Excellency:

Masrat Zahra, a photojournalist from Srinagar, was accused on April 20, 2020 of “uploading anti-national posts [on Facebook] with criminal intentions to induce the youth” and booked under UAP Act and Indian Penal Code.

Since August 2019, Amnesty International India has documented a clear pattern of authorities using arbitrary detention on activists, politicians and anyone likely to hold a dissenting opinion in Jammu and Kashmir. At least a dozen journalists have been either harassed or physically attacked for their professional work.

Journalism is not a crime. Stop criminalizing independent journalism in Kashmir.

Amnesty International calls on the Indian authorities to drop all charges against Masrat Zahra and to stop harassing and intimidating journalists.

Sincerely yours,