



Jammu & Kashmir
Peoples Democratic Party
 جموں و کشمیر پیپلز ڈیموکریٹک پارٹی

SPEAK UP

Monthly Party Newsletter



Punished for speaking up: Waheed Parra, Fahad Shah and Sajad Gul.

DELIMITATION DISASTER

Mahouts often tame young elephants by tying them up with heavy chains anchored to stakes in the ground. They will struggle and pull but no matter how hard they try they cannot break free. After some time passes, the elephants give up and stop pulling. Once their instinct to protect themselves is gone they can be tied with a simple rope. Even though freedom is at hand the elephants won't try because learned helplessness has taken over. By now most of us relate to this story all too well. Since the abrogation, BJP has spared no effort to break our resolve. Arresting, torturing and killing innocent citizens, arresting journalists and activists, destroying our economy, communication blackouts, demonizing and humiliating Kashmiris students elsewhere; they will do whatever it takes. As another civilian lost his life to an encounter in Amshipura his family had make do with receiving his body, a luxury not afforded to many. Seeing Ukraine ravaged by war, PM Modi is quick to suggest dialogue yet when it comes to Kashmir this very notion is anathema to him and his partymen.

When you have a brute majority like BJP you can employ institutions like the Delimitation Commission to serve your interests. What sounds like an impartial institution is essentially an extension of BJP with one simple goal – a BJP majority in J&K legislative assembly. In the new Electoral map, 10 constituencies in Kashmir and 9 in Jammu have been axed only to be fragmented and merged into other old and new constituencies. Tasked with the sole purpose of consolidating BJP's electoral support base they ignored the singular most important criteria set forth by the Constitution- population. Eventually, it's the people that pay the price. In order to consolidate BJP's support base three seats have been proposed for a population of 1.9 lacs in Jammu where as the nearly same population in Jammu South will get only one seat.



The Jat Maha Sabha protesting against delimitation in Jammu. Photo: Daily Excelsior

The way the constituencies have been butchered will leave the voters fighting for legislative supremacy and identity. Areas like Noorabad, Gandhinagar and Batmaloo have been stripped of their names. These are just a few examples of how bad things are. Token protests against Delimitation were allowed in Jammu but in Kashmir, Bashir Mir, a PDP district president was arrested for uploading a video criticising delimitation.

What better way to gag a population than to arrest and make examples of journalists that dare to speak out and report the truth. On the evening of February 26th, arrested journalist Fahad Shah heaved a sigh of relief when he received bail only to be re-arrested within hours under a different FIR. Just like journalist Sajad Gul and PDP youth president Waheed Parra. Much like the elephants, we are tied to the stakes anchored deep in draconian laws like UAPA and other punitive measures. No matter how hard we pull we cannot break free. As we suffer this ordeal together we know that this too shall pass. There will come a time when we will have the power to change our destiny. Until then, we cannot allow the fear and learned helplessness to have the last word. And when the time comes, we will prevail. For every dark night there's a brighter day.



Bashir Mir aka The Hero of Kangan arrested for criticising Delimitation.

"What better way to gag a population than to arrest and make examples of journalists that dare to speak out and report the truth."

Feedback, information and suggestions are welcome. Please email us at - jkpdpoffice@gmail.com