



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 1 September 2014

Information on the Jammu Kashmir Peoples National Party/JKPNP including: involvement in rallies/demonstrations between 2007 & 2014; treatment of members by police/ISI

A compilation of research issued in January 2011 by the *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* notes that:

“JKPNP was founded in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, in 1985. Its power base is in educated professionals in education, students, and lawyers. Since its foundation, it has been working to help workers from trade unions, students organisations and women and peasant organisations in POK” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (27 January 2011) *Pakistan: The Jammu Kashmir People’s National Party (JKPNP), including its history, its members, the address of its regional offices, its principles, and its symbols; the treatment of members of the JKPNP by the general population, Pakistani authorities, nationalist religious groups, and other groups; the relationship between the United Kashmir People’s National Party (UKPNP) and other groups seeking Kashmir’s independence (1995-2010)*).

A report issued in May 2014 by *Rights Vision News* states:

“International Labour Day was being observed on Thursday throughout the world including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). It is observed on May 1 every year to pay tribute to those workers and laborers who laid down their lives for the achievement of their rights this day 128 years ago in Chicago, USA. Rallies and demonstrations were organized by various trade unions, workers' organizations in all districts of AJK including Mirpur, Muzaffarabad and Neelam valley. In Mirpur various processions were taken out from View Point near Quaid-i-Azam Stadium Chowk separately under the auspices of PWD Workers Union and the Jammu Kashmir Peoples National Party. The processions passed through Mian Muhammad Road, Shaheed Chowk and concluded at Allama Iqbal road” (Rights Vision News (2 May 2014) *Pakistan: Labour Day being observed in AJK*).

In May 2013 *Rights Vision News* points out that:

“The labour day was observed across Azad Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday with a pledge to continue the struggle for achieving and protecting due rights of laborers. Various organizations of workers and laborers of different private and public sector institutions held special ceremonies and paid tribute to those laborers who gave supreme sacrifices of their lives for securing their rights this day 127 years ago in Chicago city of the United States of America. Various May day processions were separately taken out from View Point near Quaid-e-Azam Stadium Chowk Mirpur and the DHQ Hospital under the auspices of the AJK Clerks, Para medical Associations and the Jammu Kashmir Peoples National Party” (Rights Vision News (2 May 2013) *Pakistan: AJK observes labour day*).

The *Express Tribune* in January 2013 notes:

“Scores of nationalist parties' activists and lawyers continued protest on the fourth day here on Wednesday for the release of two Indian-held Kashmir residents and their local host. Local authorities detained Friday last two visiting peace activists and their local host and sent them to Mirpur jail on the charges of travelling to Mirpur without valid travel documents. Sardar Devindher Singh Bhal, Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Social Peace Forum, his associate Vijay Abrol and Sardar Arif Shahid, president, Jammu Kashmir National Liberation Conference were taken into custody by police at Mangla and sent to jail. They were going back to Rawalpindi after visiting Mirpur. Leaders of various Kashmiri nationalist groups including Jammu and Kashmir Plebiscite Front's President Advocate Nasir Ansari and Advocate Azeem Dutt, president District Bar Association Arshad Malik, Jammu and Kashmir National Liberation Conference leaders Ramzan Dutt, Secretary Jammu & Kashmir Peoples National Party and others led the protest demonstration seeking the release of all the detainees and withdrawal of cases against them” (Express Tribune (17 January 2013) *Detention: Protest for release of two Indian peace activists*).

Plus News Pakistan in May 2010 states:

“Like other parts of the country, May Day was also observed across Azad Jammu and Kashmir, on Saturday to pay tributes to those workers and labourers who laid down their lives for the achievement of their due rights. The labourers across the world observe this day every year to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of those workers who laid down their lives for the achievement of the due rights in Chicago, some 124 years ago. Special rallies were taken out in all the districts of AJK including Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Neelam valley, Kotli, Bagh, Rawalakot, Sudhanoti, Hattiyian, Havaili and Bhimbher districts to observe the day in a befitting manner. Public and private sector institutions also held special ceremonies in connection with the day. In Mirpur district, various processions were taken out from View Point Quaid-e-Azam Stadium Chowk separately under the auspices of PWD Workers Union and the Jammu Kashmir People's National Party” (*Plus News Pakistan* (1 May 2010) *Pakistan: May day observed across AJK*).

In December 2007 a report published by the *Balochistan Times* notes that:

The close relatives of baby kidnapped from Holy Family Hospital (HFH) and people of the area staged a protest demonstration against hospital administration and demanded the early recovery of the baby. Deputy Secretary General of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples National Party (PNP) Imran Shan especially participated in demonstration” (*Balochistan Times* (18 December 2007) *Protest demo held against abduction of baby from HFH*).

The website of the party is at <http://www.jkpnnp.org/site/>

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any

particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

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