

CORE II: Geographies of Militarization
Professor Piya Chatterjee & Professor Jih-Fei Cheng

The Militarization of Kashmir: A Graphic Novel

A human perspective on the conflict in Kashmir

Storyline:
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Art:
Shreya Basu

Artist Statement

Shreya Basu

The ongoing Pakistan-India Conflict in Kashmir has a deeply complex history and a multitude of perspectives. We want to recognize our positionality [sic], highlighting the fact that we are outsiders of the events occurring in Kashmir.

The purpose of this graphic novel is to shed light on the stories of a few individuals living in this violent conflict; a conflict that has often been historically censored. It is to put forth the perspectives and experiences of people frequently silenced, to share the stories that often go unheard in mainstream media on account of politics. In order to prevent speaking for these individuals and overgeneralizing, we chose to focus on the stories of Parveena Ahangar and Roushan Illahi, both activists in their own rights.

The words of the graphic novel are mainly facts based on sources about the conflict and the individuals presented, as well as some of their direct quotes. Each graphic is intentional in its purpose. Although Ahangar and Illahi's stories are certainly not representative of the entire conflict, we hope that their individual experiences provide a human perspective on the violence that has been occurring in Kashmir. This graphic novel is our final product.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF THE

IRON LADY of Kashmir

PARVEENA
AHANGAR



... THE WITH OF EACH MONTH,
SHE JOINS OTHER FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED
UNDER APDP (ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS)



TO HOLD A PUBLIC PROTEST
IN SRINAGAR



**WHERE ARE OUR
DEAR ONES ?**

... 24 years of disappearance



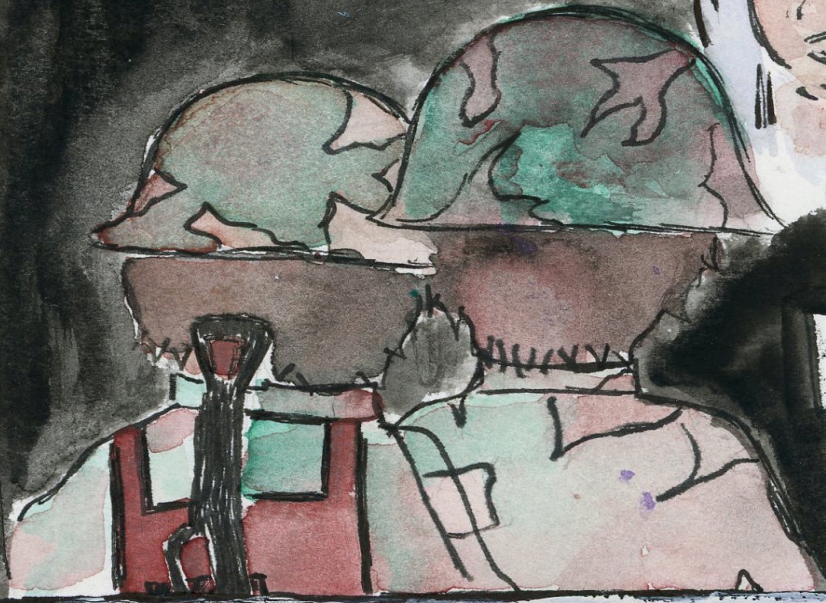
MORE THAN 8000 HAVE DISAPPEARED SINCE THE ESCALATION OF THE
PAKISTAN-INDIA CONFLICT OF 1989

... OVER AN ESTIMATED 70,000 KASHMIRI CIVILIANS
HAVE DIED FROM THE INDIAN STATE'S
OCCUPATION

MY 16 YEAR OLD SON WAS PICKED UP ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 18, 1990

HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!

THEY CAME LOOKING FOR JAVED AHMED BHATT, A MILITANT



... MY SON'S NAME IS JAVED AHMAD AHANGAR

SO I WENT LOOKING FOR HIM

ACROSS THE REGION

IN JAILS, HOSPITALS, AND INTERROGATION CENTERS

I COULD NOT FIND HIM ANYWHERE

I WENT TO THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR
HIGH COURT. THE POLICE DENIED HIS ARREST.

visibility



AND WHEN THOSE RESPONSIBLE WERE CONFIRMED...
NONE APPEARED IN COURT TO ANSWER THE CHARGES

AHANGAR FORMED APDP IN 1994 TO SEEK JUSTICE
TO END THE CRIME OF ENFORCED AND INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE
TO HOLD THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE
TO DISALLOW THE PROPOSED BELIEF THAT PEACE IS CREATED BY
ACTS LIKE THE

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SAFETY ACT
JAMMU AND KASHMIR DISTURBED AREAS ACT
ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT, 1990

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03.10.03

TO UNCOVER THE
VIOLENCE
TO UNCOVER THE
TRUTH.



"I am not fighting only
for my son

... I am fighting for
ALL of us.

"These Killings Ain't Random It's An Organized Genocide.
Sponsored Media who Hide This Homicide."



MC KASH, A KASHMIRI STREET POET,
SEEKS TO TELL THE TRUTH OF HIS PEOPLE

KASHMIR IS THE LARGEST MILITARIZED REGION IN THE WORLD

"Wherever I went, there were guns pointed at me."



THE RATIO OF CIVILIAN TO SECURITY PERSONNEL IS 1 TO 7



MC KASH, ALSO KNOWN AS ROUSHAN ILUATTI,
RELEASED HIS FIRST SONG, 'I PROTEST' IN 2010

" I PROTEST, AGAINST THE THINGS YOU DONE!
I PROTEST, FO' A MOTHER WHO LOST HER SON!
I PROTEST, I WILL THROW STONES AN' NEVA RUN!
I PROTEST, UNTIL MY FREEDOM HAS COME!
I PROTEST, FO' MY BROTHER WHO'S DEAD!
I PROTEST, AGAINST THE BULLET IN HIS HEAD!
I PROTEST, I WILL THROW STONES AN' NEVA RUN!
I PROTEST, UNTIL MY FREEDOM HAS COME!

SUSPICIOUS THAT THERE
WAS A SEPARATIST OR MILITANT
BACKING HIM, THE POLICE
RAIDED HIS STUDIO. THIS
WAS UNTRUE.



THE ONLY PLATFORM HE
HAD TO EXPRESS HIS
TRUTH WAS TAKEN AWAY

HIS STORIES FROM HIS STREETS
WERE ATTEMPTED TO BE
SILENCED

Let's Remember All Those Who Were Martyred This Year:

Inayat Khan, Wamiq Farooq, Zahid Farooq, Zubair Ahmed Bhat, Tufail Ahmad Matoro, Rafiq Ahmed Bangroo, Javaid Ahmed, Malla, Shakeel Ganai, Fitous Khan, Bilal Ahmed Wani, Tajamul Bashir, Taugeer Rather, Ishtiyag Ahmed, Imtiyaz Ahmed Itoo, Shujaat-ut-Islam, Muzaffar Ahmed, Fayaz Ahmed Wani, Yasmeen Jan, Abrar Ahmed Khan, Faizan Rafeeq, Fayaz Ahmed Khanday, Farooq Ahmed, Tariq Ahmed Dar, Mohammed Ahsan, Showkat Ahmed, Mohammed Rafiq, Nazir Ahmed, Javed Ahmed Teli, Mudassir Lone, Nayeem Shah, Rayees Wani, Afroza Teli, Basharat Reshi, Irshad Bhat, Ashiq Hussain, Rameez Ahmed, Hafiz Yaqoob, Tariq Dar, Khurshed Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed Reshi, Arshid Ahmad, Sameer Rah, Mehraj-ud-din Lone, Anis Ganai, Suhail Ahmed Dar, Jehangir Bhat, Riyaz Ahmed, Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat, Iqbal Khan, Shabir Malik, Ghulam Nabi Badyari, Rameez Reshi, Fida Nabi Lone, Farrukh Bukhari, Mudassir Zargar, Ali Mohammad Khanday, Asif Mir, Sameer Lone, Umar Ahmed Dar, Irshad Ahmed, Mohammad Abbas, Milad Ahmed Dar, Nazir Wani, Mudassir Nazir, Bilal Ahmed Sheikh, Munar Gayoom, Irshad Ahmad "



I don't care if my songs are politically correct or not
My concern has always been to highlight the
human perspective of this conflict"

END

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