

- URGENT STATEMENT -

Bergen, Norway, Wednesday 29 October, 11:00

**STOP HARASSMENT OF KASHMIRI HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS  
PARVEENA AHANGAR AND KHURRAM PARVEZ**



The National Investigation Agency of India has just released information stating that the homes of human rights defender and Rafto Laureates Parveena Ahangar and Khurram Parvez, and also the offices of their organizations Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons APDP and Jammu and Kashmir Civil Society JKCCS, have been raided. Their freedom of movement and their ability to communicate with others have been restrained, and property has been confiscated. Cases against them are registered under the UAPA act, seemingly making the very serious accusation that they are utilizing funds for secessionist and terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Rafto Foundation has never supported the use of violence in any form or for any purpose. We keep close contact with our laureates in Kashmir. Parveena Ahangar and Khurram Parvez have advocated for the restoration of rule of law and democracy in Kashmir for decades, uncovering thousands of unmarked graves and campaigning against the impunity of the perpetrators of a broad variety of human right violations. They are themselves both victims of political violence, and have always and consistently repudiated all use of violent means, whether it might be to change the political status and affiliation of the state of Jammu & Kashmir, or to achieve any other objective.

We find the accusations directed against Parveena Ahangar and Khurram Parvez to lack any credibility, and condemn the abuse of UAPA act to harass citizens of Kashmir and silence their freedom of speech, organization, assembly, movement, communication, or to disrespect their property.

We implore the authorities responsible for these violations of the human rights of Parveena Ahangar and Khurram Parvez to immediately drop all charges, to fully restore all their freedoms, and return their property.

Rafto Foundation for Human Rights

