



Oct 12, 26

His Excellency
Dr. Matthew Gillett
Chair-Rapporteur
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
8–14 Avenue de la Paix
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Intervention in the Case of Pre-trial Detainee Mohammad
Yaseen Bhat

Your Excellency,

We urgently seek Your Excellency's attention to the prolonged detention of Mohammad Yaseen Bhat, a pre-trial detainee from Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir (IAJK), who has remained in custody since 10 July 2023 without conviction.

As repeated adjournments and endless delays hamper justice in India, pre-trial detainees languish behind bars, separated from their families and deprived of their liberty and dignity. Every adjournment deepens suffering and delays justice. For those awaiting trial, the passage of time is not merely a procedural matter; it means further days, months, and years spent away from their families, livelihoods, and ordinary lives.

In this context, Mr. Bhat's case raises serious concerns, as repeated delays leave him facing prolonged uncertainty, with each hearing bringing another date instead of a hope for justice. Bhat was arrested in connection with FIR No. 23/2023, registered at Police Station Kothi Bagh, Srinagar. On 2 April 2024, charges were framed against him under Sections 10, 13 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and Sections 121-A and 201 of the Indian Penal Code.

According to information provided by his family, the prosecution cited 68 witnesses, of whom approximately 17 had been examined at the time of the family's representation. A bail application filed on 4 June 2025 was rejected on 12 December 2025. Subsequent proceedings before the High Court have reportedly encountered repeated delays, prolonging the uncertainty surrounding his continued detention.

The family strongly disputes the prosecution's interpretation of a gathering at a local restaurant in Srinagar on 9 July 2023, which it alleged was a clandestine meeting connected with the revival of the banned JKLF-Y organisation. Similarly, concerns have also been raised regarding the admissibility of alleged police disclosure statements and the interpretation of witness testimony



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and other evidence. These matters, therefore, warrant fair consideration through the established judicial process, without prejudging the merits of the case or the question of guilt.

Your Excellency,

In Kashmir, prolonged pre-trial detention carries grave human and legal implications when individuals who are presumed innocent under the law remain incarcerated for extended periods while awaiting the conclusion of judicial proceedings.

The consequences extend far beyond prison walls, separating families, disrupting livelihoods, undermining dignity, and inflicting lasting psychological, social, and economic harm. Such burdens can be especially severe for economically disadvantaged people and marginalised communities, for whom prolonged detention may have consequences that endure long after the legal proceedings conclude.

Your Excellency,

Mr. Bhat's prolonged detention is particularly concerning in view of his medical history. According to medical records cited by his family, he suffers from hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, and coronary artery disease, and has a history of two myocardial infarctions. Medical investigations conducted in 2025 reportedly recorded a left ventricular ejection fraction of approximately 40%. Given this medical history, his current health status, access to specialist treatment, and continuity of appropriate medical care require urgent and sustained attention.

For his family, the prolonged uncertainty surrounding his case is compounded by the fear that continued incarceration may further compromise his health. The combination of an unresolved trial, protracted bail proceedings, and significant reported cardiac conditions makes timely judicial consideration and appropriate medical assessment matters of particular urgency.

While Mr. Bhat maintains his innocence, the charges against him must be determined by the competent court through fair and lawful proceedings. At the same time, the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial within a reasonable time, and the need for humane treatment and appropriate healthcare in detention must remain central considerations.

In view of the aforementioned concerns, we respectfully appeal to Your Excellency to:

1. Raise the matter with the Government of India and relevant authorities, asking them to address concerns regarding the prolonged pre-trial detention of Mr. Bhat and to ensure that he is treated humanely and in accordance with applicable legal and human-rights standards.
2. Call for the timely consideration of his available legal remedies, including any pending applications, and for reasonable progress in the trial without delays, consistent with due process and judicial independence.



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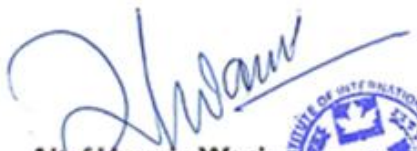
3. Encourage impartial scrutiny of the evidentiary and procedural concerns raised by his family, ensuring that the relevant issues are addressed through the competent judicial process and that his right to a fair trial is fully respected.
4. Urge the provision of appropriate medical care and an independent assessment of his current health, including specialist evaluation of his cardiovascular condition, access to necessary treatment, and continuity of care throughout his detention.
5. Consider bringing the matter to the attention of relevant authorities and appropriate United Nations human-rights mechanisms, as warranted, with a view to safeguarding his fundamental rights.

Your Excellency,

KIIR does not seek interference with judicial independence, nor does it ask for any special treatment for the aforementioned detainee. All that we want is a fair and timely trial, effective consideration of his legal remedies, and humane treatment in accordance with applicable human-rights standards. We call for urgent attention to Mohammad Yaseen Bhat's case so that justice is neither delayed nor undermined.

We respectfully urge Your Excellency to give this matter your kind and urgent consideration and to take such steps as fall within your mandate to help safeguard Mr. Bhat's fundamental rights.

Yours sincerely,


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