

## In Defense of Justice, Human Rights, and Confidence Building Between Kashmir & Jammu Measure: Lawyers' Meeting , Jammu 2 Nov 2014



**Organized a lawyers' group in Jammu** to provide nonpartisan support to the youth from the Valley who have to appear in Jammu Court and who find the environment inhospitable, at times hostile due to differences between the two regions, affecting the process and the course of justice. Fifteen lawyers and activists, youth leaders of their time, participated in the deliberation and supported with concern the idea, offered to work for the cause of intra- region confidence building and HR protection. SPT

Coordinator Azhar Hashmi organized lawyers' meeting with Rajiv Vora.

**Background:** This problem was brought to our notice during Rajiv Vora's Srinagar visit in July 2014 by a senior journalist/radio/TV personality, writer and poet Shri Sahil Maqbool who himself was incarcerated for 6 years on false charges, including solitary confinement. (He wrote 8 books in the jail; his Jail Diary was adjudged 2nd best book in conflict literature by RSF *Reporters Sans Frontiers*, France) and adopted as a reference book by The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) See "Sahil Maqbool" by Rajiv Vora)



In a meeting of 15 youthful lawyers in Jammu on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov we put this forum in place. Sahil Maqbool wrote "*You are the only person who made this dream come true, otherwise I floated this idea to many others before you... You are real asset... may you live long.. Sir, you have done a great work, for the first time you made it possible... you always live in my heart and soul, rest we have lost in the floods*"

We will work out the mandate of this group in Srinagar during my next visit 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. and then finalize in Jammu the next month. **The forum will be declared then. It will be a major confidence building measure, besides nonviolent protection to the vulnerable Kashmiri youth coming to Jammu who are implicated in various police cases. A nonviolent answer to the silent, indirect but Human Rights abuse nonetheless on its face value, at a deeper level it reinforces negative stereotypes, intra-region bitterness, distancing and reactionary radicalization among the youth.**

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