



# KASHMIRI PANDIT SANGARASH SAMITI

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## PRESS RELEASE

**14.03.2012**

### **(RTI about Issuance of Passport to Separatists)**

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012, Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS) filed a RTI application to the CID headquarters of Jammu and Kashmir Police. In this RTI application KPSS sought information for issuance of passports in favour of separatists' leaders like Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Yasin Malik, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Nayeem Khan, Mohammad Abbass Ansari, Sajad Lone, Bilal Lone, Prof. Abdul Gani Bhat and Syed Saleem Geelani.

This information was sought in the context of cases filed against these separatist leaders in various courts. According to our understanding many of them have been denied passports in the past but somehow from last few years some of them have succeeded in acquiring passports.

Yesterday, we received a response from the CID Headquarters vide letter no: **CID/GB/RTI/2012/07/1423 dated: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012**, in which our request has been rejected and it is being claimed that this particular information does not fall within the ambit of section 8(a) of Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act 2009, despite that the information is being withheld. We do not understand for what reasons the information is being denied, as it does not come under section 8(a) of J&K RTI Act 2009.

The information which we have sought is regarding those people, which the government claims are threat to the security of the state and are anti-nationals. According to government these separatist leaders have "waged a war against the Indian state for seceding Jammu and Kashmir from India".

For the purposes of transparency, accountability and also for protecting the spirit and purpose of Right to Information Act, we believe this information should be revealed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.



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On the one hand, we have these separatist leaders who are getting passports for the reasons best known to security agencies and on the other hand, we have more than 60,000 families (according to Indian Express Story) who are indexed to not receive CID clearance for acquiring passports. These 60,000 families are those who in last 22 years have directly or indirectly followed these separatist leaders in their struggle against Indian state. If these 60,000 families have been deprived from getting the passports, then how come their leaders are getting the CID clearance for passports?

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