

From Mehr Chand Mahajan to Sardar Patel

*Complaining against Hitlerian Methods of Sheikh Abdullah in Administration of
Jammu and Kashmir
(Sardar Patel's Correspondence)*

JAMMU TAWI
11 December 1947

MY DEAR SARDAR PATELJI,

. . .The administration here is on Hitlerian methods and is getting a bad name and the sooner I am out the better, as I do not in the least wish to be associated with gangster rule. There is no rule of law at all. Take a few instances out of a large number:

- (1) The High Court is not being allowed to function. C.J. (Chief Justice) asked that H.C. (High Court) should open in Jammu. The order is not being carried out. For over a month and a half there is no High Court. One judge is but idling away, the other is at Srinagar and C.J. is in Calcutta. Head of Administration has no power to interfere in the High Court's business, yet he is doing all this.
- (2) Governor of Jammu was transferred to Srinagar and then suspended and interned. Large number of officers are in jail. I suggested a commission to enquire into charges but the order was not yet (carried out). People and high officials cannot be kept in jail indefinitely and without trial and enquiry and even a remand.
- (3) Large number of other persons are confined in jail. No enquiry or trial or orders. It is worse rule than in any autocratic country.
- (4) H.H. ordered offices should come to Jammu. No heed is paid to his orders. A month has passed.
- (5) Abdullah discussed with H.H. about certain officials whom H.H. suspected as Pakistanis and he retained them. They have been returned to office and one appointed Governor against H.H.'s wishes and express direction.
- (6) Laws are being made by Abdullah himself.

These are a few instances of misrule. They can be multiplied. Threats are held out of arrest to everyone including myself. How long will this misrule last?

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

MEHR CHAND MAHAJAN

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
New Delhi.