



Kashmir clashes over militant Burhan Wani leave 30 dead

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Image copyright AFP Image More than 200 people have been injured in the clashes

Police in Indian-administered Kashmir say at least 30 people have been killed in clashes between protesters and security forces following the shooting of a well-known militant leader.

Burhan Wani, 22, died in a gunfight with the Indian army on Friday.

More deaths were reported on Monday after a weekend of violence left 23 dead, including a policeman.

The violence is the worst seen in the region for years. Some 800 extra troops are being sent to help restore order.

More than 200 other people have been injured in the clashes, in which government forces have fired live rounds and tear gas.

A curfew is in place across much of the Muslim-majority Kashmir valley after a police post was set alight and a military airbase targeted during the latest clashes.

Disputed Kashmir is claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan and has been a flashpoint for more than 60 years, sparking two wars between the countries.

Within the disputed Muslim-majority territory, some militant groups have taken up arms to fight for independence from Indian rule or a merger with Pakistan.



Image copyright AFP Image The clashes began after popular militant commander Burhan Wani was killed by security forces

Curfew under strain

Almost all the dead in the current outbreak of violence are protesters.

The policeman died after his car went into a river in the Jhelum area on Sunday.

Police say the vehicle was pushed in by crowds but some accounts say it went into the water after the driver lost control in an attempt to avoid stone-throwing mobs.

The BBC's Riyaz Masroor in Srinagar says tensions remained high on Monday, with crowds attempting to breach curfew orders.

Four top separatist leaders released a joint statement in which they called on India's government to "abandon the policy of stopping people's marches by bullets".

The violence has led to the suspension of a popular Hindu religious pilgrimage to the Amarnath temple shrine, which has stranded some 15,000 devotees in the neighbouring region of Jammu, Indian media reported.

More than 2,000 pilgrims who were on the way back from the temple have been airlifted out of Kashmir, police officials told the BBC.



Image copyright AFP Image Thousands attended Wani's funeral which was held in his hometown

Thousands attended Wani's funeral which was held in his hometown on Saturday.

Police stations and military installations were attacked in violent clashes afterwards, with several buildings burned down, police added.

The state government has said that it would also investigate reports of excessive police violence towards unarmed protesters.

Rights groups have described the current situation as a state of emergency. Hospitals struggled to cope with wounded protesters and phone and internet services were suspended.

The level of separatist insurgency violence in the region has ebbed and flowed since 1989, but it has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, mainly civilians.