

UN Rapporteur arrives on fact-finding mission

Meets HR Groups, Victims Of 'Arbitrary' Killings

Newspoint Bureau

Srinagar: Mandated to alert the government to its legal obligations in upholding international human rights, Christof Heyns, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Monday arrived on a maiden visit to Kashmir.

Soon after his arrival here this afternoon, Christof Heyns divulged itinerary and purpose of his visit to beleaguered valley.

"My mandate covers all killings that are in violation of international human rights or humanitarian law. The focus of the visit is also on preventing such incidents and that justice is meted out



to the victims," he said.

Christof Heyns arrived in India on March 19 last and before his departure on March 30, he will submit his interim report to government of India. "I will submit the interim report in New Delhi on March 30 and it will be made

public same day. Later, I will submit two more reports to UN General Council."

Parveena Ahangar, president Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons, who hosts the Special Rapporteur in Srinagar, urged him to persuade the Government of

India to make public whereabouts of missing people in Kashmir.

APDP submitted a report to him and it included copies of the cases of Enforced Disappearances submitted by the organization to the UN WGEID in 2008.

Senior advocate, Zafar Shah, in his opening remarks contextualized the political and the legal regime under which the killings are taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and the lack of accountability of the security forces, a statement by APDP said.

He highlighted how "draconian laws like AFSPA, created impunity". He also underscored that for decades no institution was