

WADI KI AWAZ

UN rapporteur on fact-finding mission to Kashmir

Srinagar, Mar 26: United Nations rapporteur on extra judicial, summary and arbitrary executions Christof Heyns today met police officials, lawyers, academicians, human rights activists and victims during his one-day visit to Kashmir on a fact-finding mission.

"My mandate covers all killings that are in violation of international human rights or humanitarian law. The focus of the visit is also on prevent of such incidents and that justice is meted out to the victims," he told reporters here.

During his visit, Heyns met police officials, rights activists, academicians, relatives of victims and sections of the society.

"I will submit a provisional report by Friday followed by a full report to United Nations General Assembly," he said.

Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons president



Parveena Ahangar urged the rapporteur to persuade the Government of India to make public whereabouts of missing people in Kashmir.

"We want that the UN should persuade the Indian government in locating our missing relatives," Ahangar said.

Senior lawyer Zaffar Shah, while briefing the rapporteur, said there were certain laws like Public Safety Act (PSA) and

Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in force in JK which cannot coexist with democracy.

PSA provides for detention of a person without trial for a period of two years, while AFSPA gave such sweeping powers to an ordinary soldier that "a person can be shot dead for wrong parking as the act only mentions about violation of law", Shah said.