

1st in Kashmir: People protest stone throwers

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Srinagar: Often a witness to bloody confrontations, a protest march against stone-pelting and terrorism was no less than a breath of fresh air in the strife-torn Kashmir Valley.

The rally led by the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Forum (JKAF) started from Kani-e-Dajan, a remote village, and culminated near Charar-e-Sharif in Budgam district on Saturday.

Nearly 1,500 member of the civil society group waged the historic walk and spoke against Pakistan-sponsored terror and separatism. The also demanded 'azaadi' from stone-pelting and a blanket ban on the sale and consumption of liquor.

JKAF chairman Farooq Ahmad Ganai said the march was the first-of-its-kind and an attempt to "wake up" the masses. "We want an end to the gun culture."