

Paper txt msgs from Kashmir

A tactical media intervention in the most densely militarised place in the world

initiated by Alana Hunt

Since prepaid mobile phone connections in Kashmir have been banned, perhaps now is the right time for us to use our imaginations a little and generate different kinds of communicative tools ourselves....

This card has been designed as a space for people to write a different kind of 'paper text message' to anyone, real or imagined, anywhere in the world about anything you would like to write in a text message - but are currently unable to do so.

You are free to keep this card or give it to someone you know directly. But it is also hoped that many of the responses will be posted to the address below in order to form part of an art exhibition in New Delhi that hopes to create some discussion around the reasons for the recent emergence of 'paper text messaging'.

چونکہ کشمیر میں پری پڈ موبائل فون بند کر دئے گئے ہیں، اس لئے شاید یہی صحیح وقت ہے کہ ہم اپنی سوچ کا استعمال کریں اور طرح طرح کے مواصلاتی چیزیں اپنے لئے ایجاد کریں۔
یہ کارڈ اس ارادے سے بنایا گیا ہے کہ لوگ حقیقی یا خیالی کسی شخص کو کہیں بھی جو کچھ اطلاع دینا چاہتے ہوں، جو وہ ابھی نہیں دے پارہے ہیں، اسے اس کارڈ میں لکھ سکتے ہیں۔

آپ یہ کارڈ خود اپنے پاس رکھ سکتے ہیں یا کسی ایسے شخص کو بھی دے سکتے ہیں جسے آپ براہ راست جاننے ہو سکتے، لیکن امید ہے کہ کچھ جوابات نیچے دیئے گئے پتے پر بھی بھیجے جائیں گے تاکہ ان کو نئی دلی کی ایک نمائش میں شامل کیا جاسکے اس غرض سے کہ ایک بحث شروع ہو جو ان وجوہات پر غور کرے جن کے چلتے نئی پیپر ٹیکسٹ میسجنگ کی شروعات ہوئی۔

Postal address:

Paper Text Messages 122/I Yamuna Hostel JNU New Delhi INDIA 110067

front

to:

from:

paper text message:

back

to: Honey.

from: Faizan.

paper text message:

When I say I love
you. I mean it.

to: INDIA

from: A Kashmiri

paper text message:

"Dare to have PLEBISCITE in
Kashmir"

I KNOW U WON'T &
U KNOW WHY U WON'T.

"U already know the results"

to: MOM N DAD

from: SHEIKH SIBTAIN

paper text message:

SALAM,

DON'T WAIT FOR ME
AT DINNER-----

I WILL BE LATE, AS
USUAL---



to:

GOD

from:

Syed Iqbal Ali

paper text message:

Please Help us. We r in
trouble. We are Waiting
for your miracle.

Please do JUSTICE with
us.

STILL WAITING

to: MY BELOVED

from: MANTASHA

paper text message: I want to say "Sorry"
but can't ~~it~~ say it as
Sms doesn't go through.

Love You
Miss your smsez
😊

to: People of 'Indig'

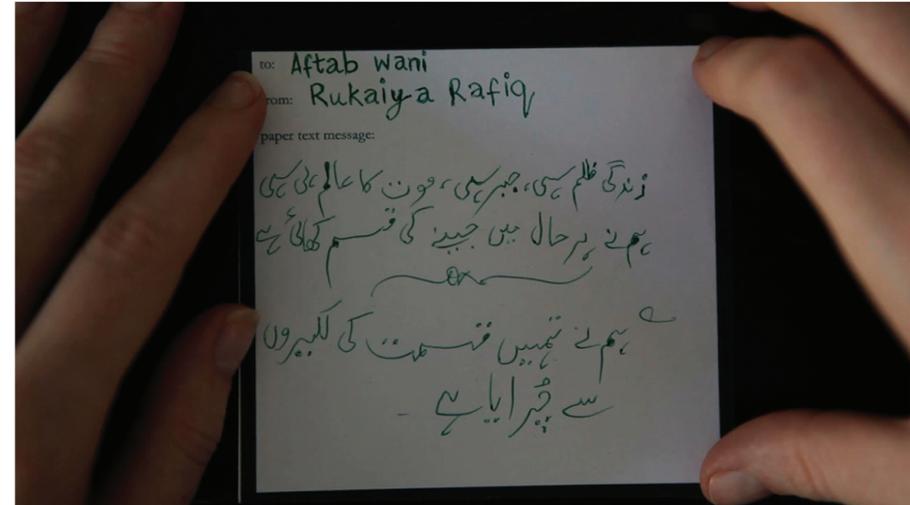
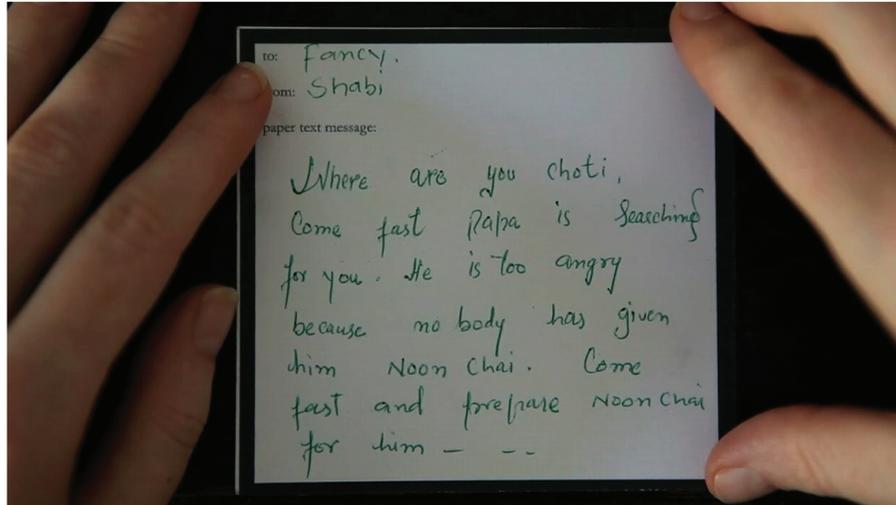
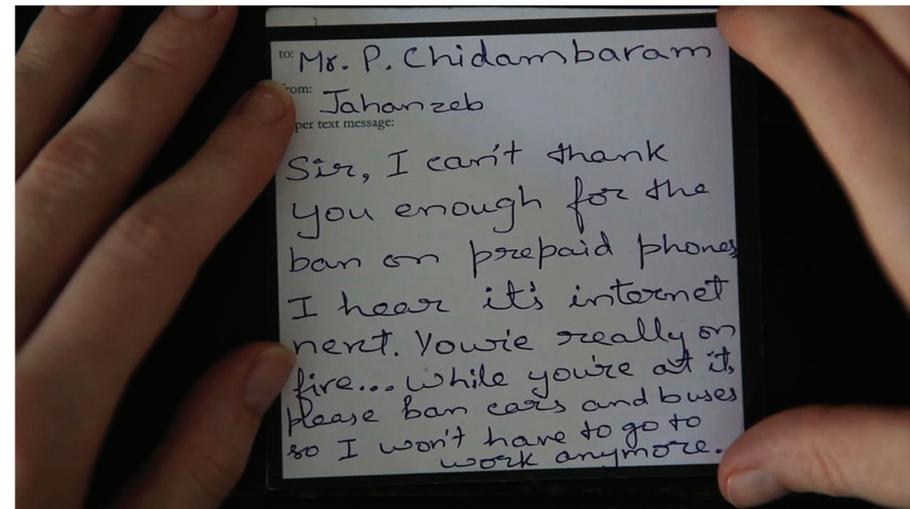
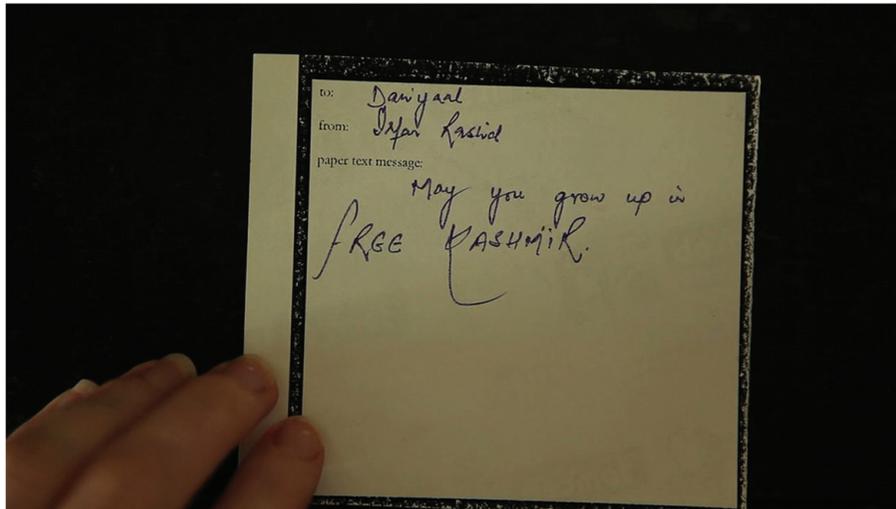
from: M. GOWHAR FAROOQ

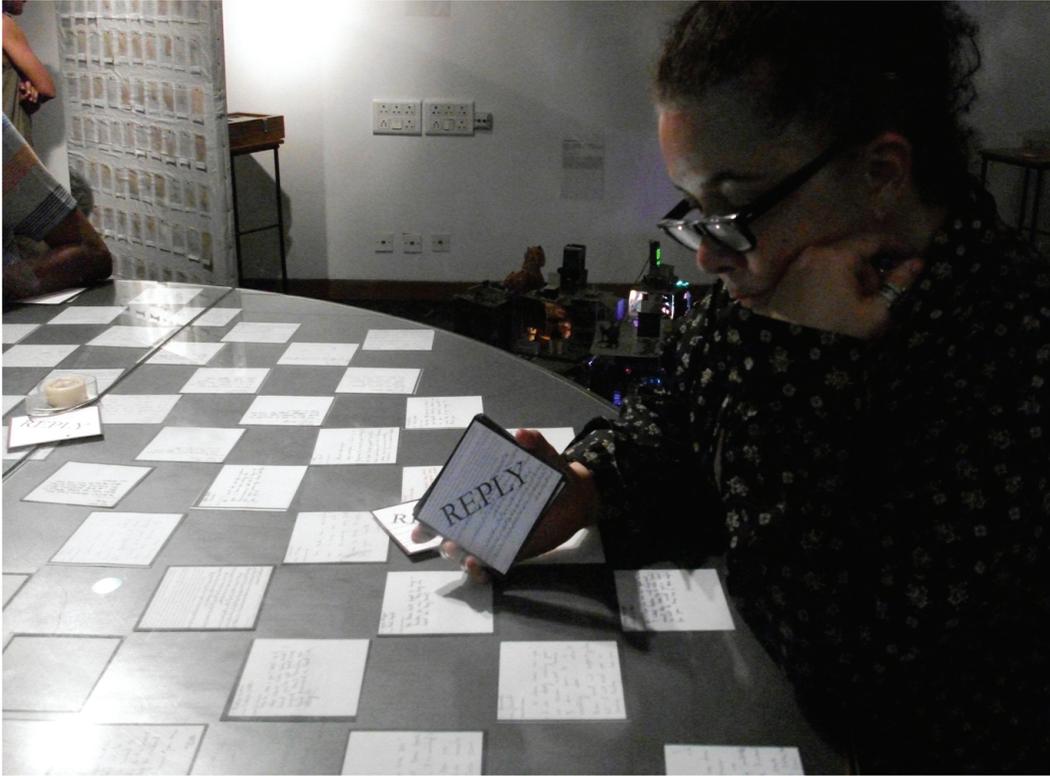
paper text message:

WHY DON'T U REALIZE
WHAT UR GOVT IS DOING TO
UR COUNTRY

WAKEUP!!

OTHERWISE UR BOUND TO
GET TREMORS...





Paper txt msgs from Kashmir, installation view, Sarai, New Delhi

Ban on prepaid mobile service meets sarcasm

Aussie student's 'paper text message' provides vent to dejected subscribers

BABA UMAR | Dec 21

Srinagar: While mobile phone subscribers across the state continue to suffer from prepaid service ban, an Australian student has devised a novel communicative tool apparently to mock at the authorities and generate debate over the issue.

Alana Hunt, who is currently studying at the department of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) New Delhi, has designed 4x4 inch 'paper text message' cards meant for Kashmiris to exchange written messages.

"Since the prepaid mobile phone connections in Kashmir have been banned, perhaps it is the right time now for us to use our imagination and generate different kinds of commutative tools ourselves," the card reads.

The card offers space to people to write a "different kind of paper text message" to anyone, real or imagined, anywhere in the world about anything

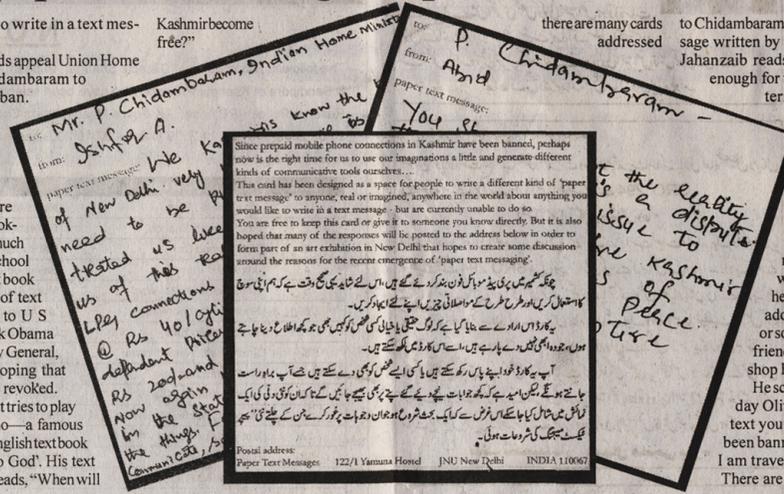
one would like to write in a text message.

Most of the cards appeal Union Home Minister, P Chidambaram to withdraw the ban. Some even dare him to try the decree in New Delhi and elsewhere in India.

Then there are SMSs to God evoking memories of much read chapter of school time English text book besides number of text cards addressed to U S president Barack Obama and UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon hoping that the ban might be revoked.

Azhar, a student tries to play Kashmir's Lincho—a famous character in the English text book chapter 'Letter to God'. His text message to God reads, "When will

Kashmir become free?"



there are many cards addressed to Chidambaram as well. One such message written by a corporate employee Jahanzaib reads, "I can't thank you enough for the ban. I hear it is internet next. You are really on fire. While you are at it, please ban cars and buses as well so that I won't have to go to work anymore."

A German photojournalist Dominic couldn't wish her girlfriend on her birthday. His card isn't addressed to any political or social entity but his girlfriend written from a coffee shop here.

He scribbles, "Happy birthday Olivia... Sorry I couldn't text you because SMSing has been banned in Kashmir where I am travelling these days." There are short paper messages

written to UN, religious clerics, relatives, friends and even US president who many say has "promised change".

"No doubt I live in the 21st century wherein globalization is the buzzword. But I am among the 4000000 mobile phone subscribers in Kashmir whose phones don't work at all just because India is fighting 700 rebels in the Valley. I hope you act. I am living in a stone age. Sorry I couldn't find a pigeon to send you this paper card," a paper card addressed to US President reads.

Meanwhile, Alana wants to demonstrate these cards in an exhibition hoping to generate some discussion on the issue in New Delhi among different circles. And once filled the card could be dispatched on Paper Text Messages: 122/1 Yamuna Hostel, JNU, New Delhi, India 110067.

"These cards will be exhibited in New Delhi to create a debate around the reason for the recent emergence of paper text messaging," the card reads.

'Since pre-paid connections in Kashmir have been banned, perhaps now is the right time for us to use our imagination a little and generate different kinds of communication tools ourselves'

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Paper texts speak out against pre-paid ban

www.alanahunt.net