



Human Rights Violations In Pakistan

November 2021



Introduction

Minorities Abuse In Pakistan

Blasphemy laws are a global problem but they have been predominately used in Pakistan to harass minority communities and settle personal scores. A report by Family Research Council found that at least 70 countries have blasphemy laws. The Pew Research Council found that in 55% of countries with blasphemy laws, the government also discriminates against religious minorities. In Pakistan alone, at least 17 Pakistanis were on death row for a blasphemy charge as of 2019. Once charged with blasphemy, it is difficult for victims to prove their innocence and be released.

In one such cases in Pakistan, human rights activists in Pakistan have called on the government to release Stephen Masih, a Christian from Sialkot district who has been detained for over two years awaiting trial for blasphemy. According to Jubilee Campaign, 42 court hearings have been held so far and in no case has any evidence emerged against Masih. Blasphemy laws continue to destroy the lives of hundreds of people just like Masih.

Forceful acquisition of land belonging to minority communities is another tool used by Muslim extremists in Pakistan to inflict oppression on minority communities. Recently, a group of Muslim extremists attacked and killed Christians to takes over their land in the village of Trikhani, in Vehari district of Punjab. Nine people were injured and three others are in critical condition in hospital. Muslims threaten Christians to sell their lands given to their ancestors by the missionaries. When Christians refused to sell their lands, Muslims began shooting Christians as they watered their fields. In a similar case, a group of Muslim extremists attacked and demolished the Hindu house in Hala Naka, Sindh. They beat and tortured men, women and children and forced them to flee their homes.

Enforced disappearance is a cruel practice that has caused indelible pain to hundreds of families of Pakistan over the past two decades. Amnesty International released a report, titled Living Ghosts, which documents the effects of disappearances on the families of the missing in Pakistan. The human rights organization is urging Pakistani authorities to end using enforced disappearances as a political tool. The research is based on interviews conducted with 10 family members of missing persons “whose fate remains unknown after they were abducted by Pakistan's security services”. In 2011, the Pakistani government set up a commission of inquiry to document and investigate cases of missing people in Pakistan. Since then, the commission has received over 8,000 complaints with 2,274 cases still unsolved, according to the commission's September 2021 monthly report.

The world community must put pressure on Pakistan to repeal all blasphemy laws and also ensure justice to the families of the missing persons under enforced disappearances. Everyone is free to live out their faith and express their beliefs. Countries should mobilize support to release religious prisoners wrongly imprisoned on blasphemy charges and also demand release of people illegally abducted by Pakistan's law enforcement agencies. Individuals can support organizations that advocate for these causes or directly send letters urging the authorities to take measures to safety of the people belonging to minority communities.

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Attacks On Christian Community In Pakistan



Blasphemy Accused Christian Held In Pre-Trial Detention For Two Years



Human rights activists in Pakistan have called on the government to release Stephen Masih, a Christian from Sialkot district who has been detained for over two years awaiting trial for blasphemy.

Masih, who is mentally disabled, has been deemed unfit to stand trial by the Punjab Institute of Mental Health. According to the Jubilee Campaign, 42 court hearings have been held so far and in no case has any evidence emerged against Masih.

The Christian had been arrested in March 2019 after an argument with a neighbour in which he used abusive language. The next day, the woman's husband, a Muslim cleric named Hafiz Muhammad Mudassar, gathered a mob who violently attacked Masih and his family after accusing him of blasphemy. The Punjab police, instead of arresting the attackers, drew up a first information report against Masih for blasphemy.

[<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Sialkot:-Blasphemy-accused-Christian-held-in-pre-trial-detention-for-two-years-54407.html>]

Muslims Fire At Christians In Burewala To Seize Their Lands



A group of Muslim extremists attacked and killed Christians to take over their land in the village of Trikhani, near Burewala, in the Vehari district of Punjab. Nine people were injured and three others in critical condition in hospital. Muslims threaten Christians to sell them their lands given to their ancestors by the missionaries. When Christians refused to sell their land, Muslims began shooting Christians as they watered their fields.

[<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Muslims-fire-at-Christians-in-Burewala-to-seize-their-lands-54429.html>]

12 Year Old Christian Girl Abducted By A Muslim Man



Christian girl was abducted by a Muslim in Pakistan. Meerab Abbas, 12, was taken by Muhammad Daud, 10 years her senior and a native of the Pakistani province of Balochistan.

he girl lived in Sahiwal (Punjab) with her mother, Farzana, a 45-year-old widow who works as a domestic worker. She disappeared on 2 November, in all likelihood taken to Balochistan to be forced to convert to Islam and marry Daud.

[<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/A-12-year-old-Christian-girl-abducted-by-a-Muslim-in-Sahiwal-54478.html>]

Blasphemy Laws In Pakistan Oppress Another Victim



Blasphemy laws are a global problem. A report by Family Research Council found that at least 70 countries have blasphemy laws. The Pew Research Center found that in 55% of countries with blasphemy laws, the government also discriminates against religious minorities.

In Pakistan alone, at least 17 Pakistanis were on death row for a blasphemy charge as of 2019. And once charged with blasphemy, it's difficult for victims to prove their innocence and be released. In fact, because the death penalty is afforded to certain types of blasphemy, courts reject most bail appeals, citing the "severity" of the crime. As a part of the United States' tradition of advocacy for human rights and religious freedom, the U.S. government should prioritize the repeal of these laws. The State Department should also mobilize the Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance to release religious prisoners of conscience wrongly imprisoned for blasphemy charges. Individuals can support organizations that advocate for these causes or directly send letters urging the authorities to take measures to ensure the safety of the accused, speed up their trials and bring to justice those responsible for the extrajudicial executions.

Blasphemy laws continue to destroy the lives of hundreds of people just like Masih. The free world should not stop advocating until all blasphemy laws are repealed and everyone is free to live out their faith and express their beliefs.

[<https://www.christianpost.com/voice/blasphemy-laws-in-pakistan-oppress-another-victim.html>]

At Refusal To Convert, Islamists Accuse Toba Tek Singh Christian Widow Of Theft



For five months Rasulan Bibi fought to have charges of theft brought against her by a Muslim family for which he worked withdrawn.

Rasulan, a 65-year-old Christian widow, has been working as a domestic worker in various homes for some time. In July, she was accused of stealing 5,000 rupees (about 2,550 euro) from the family she had worked for for eight years.

[<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/At-refusal-to-convert,-Islamists-accuse-Toba-Tek-Singh-Christian-widow-of-theft-54519.html>]

Hindu Minorities



Abduction And Forced Conversion Of Hindu Woman's



Sharo Maheshwari

A Hindu married woman, Sharo Maheshwari was kidnapped & forcibly converted to Islam by Muslim Ali Mohammad in Karachi, Sindh.



Ratna Kohli

A Hindu Girl Ratna Kohli from Umarmkot village Daughter of Mohan Kohli has been forcibly married to Mohammad Mobin Mangiro in Tharparkar, Sindh- Pakistan.

Hindu Boy Raped And Brutally Murdered



An 8 year old Hindu boy, Kanha Kumar (S / o Preetam Kumar), from Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan was tortured, gang raped & brutally murdered.

Rape and Brutal Murdered Of A 12 Year Old Girl



A 12-year-old girl was killed after being raped in Islamabad. An autopsy proved that she had been raped.

Vandalization Of Hindu Houses By Muslim Extremists



On 22nd, Muhammad Arif and his Muslim extremists attacked & demolished the Hindu house in Hala Naka, Sindh. They beat & tortured men, women, and children and forced them to flee their homes.

Muslims And Other Minorities



Brutal Killing Of Ahmadiyya Man



On November 09, 2021 at around 05:30 PM Mr. Kamran Ahmad an Ahmadi of age 40 years was shot dead by an unknown assailant in Peshawar, Pakistan. He has left behind a widow and 3 minor children. He was an employee at one of the factories on Industrial Estate Kohat Road, Peshawar. He was at work when an unknown man opened fire at him. Thereafter, he died on the spot. He had no personal enmity with anyone. This is the second Ahmadiyya killing this year and fifth in the last two.

[<https://freedomofbelief.net/articles/persecution-of-ahmadis-takes-another-life-in-peshawar-pakistan>]

Miscellaneous Reports



Asked To Announce Death Of Christian Neighbor In Mosque, Accused Of Blasphemy



A new charge of blasphemy has been lodged against a Muslim woman in Lahore for simply asking to be allowed to remember the death of a Christian neighbor. At dawn on November 18, the woman had contacted the Imam of the Jamma-e-Masjid Hashmat Ullah, to ask that from the loudspeakers of the mosque the death be announced so that those who wished could attend the funeral.

The imam refused, arguing that the death of a Christian could not be announced in the mosque. This objection led to an argument, in which her husband and three of her children also took part. Following the episode, Muhammad Mansha Malik, a member of the mosque committee, went to the Burqi police station in Lahore and filed a complaint against the woman and her family. The charge is precisely that of blasphemy for challenging the authority of the imam and outraging the mosque.

Following the episode, Muhammad Mansha Malik, a member of the mosque committee, went to the Burqi police station in Lahore and filed a complaint against the woman and her family. The charge is precisely that of blasphemy for challenging the authority of the imam and outraging the mosque. According to her, these behaviors would have hurt the feelings of the residents of the area. After the incident in the mosque many of the Christians living in the neighborhood are scared and some have even left their homes in search of a safer place.

[<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Asked-to-announce-death-of-Christian-neighbor-in-mosque,-accused-of-blasphemy-54562.html>]

Amnesty Speaks Out Against Enforced Disappearances By Pakistan



Amnesty International is urging Pakistani authorities to end using enforced disappearances as a political tool.

The human rights organization released a report, titled *Living Ghosts*, which documents the effects of disappearances on the families of the missing. The research is based on interviews conducted with 10 family members of missing persons "whose fate remains unknown after they were abducted by Pakistan's security services."

"Enforced disappearance is a cruel practice that has caused indelible pain to hundreds of families in Pakistan over the past two decades," said Rehab Mahamoor, Amnesty International's acting South Asia researcher. "On top of the untold anguish of losing a loved one and having no idea of their whereabouts or safety, families endure other long-term effects, including ill health and financial problems." What is more, without a death certificate, they cannot apply for a pension or other benefits. As a result, many families endure social and economic exclusion.

In 2011, the Pakistani government set up a commission of inquiry to document and investigate cases of missing people in Pakistan. Since then, the commission has received over 8,000 complaints, with 2,274 cases still unsolved, this according to the commission's September 2021 monthly report.

[<https://www.asianews.it/news-en/Amnesty-speaks-out-against-enforced-disappearances-by-Pakistan-54575.html>]

Mob Sets Charsadda Police Station On Fire After Officials Refuse To Hand Over Alleged Blasphemy Suspect



Police station in Charsadda, Pakistan was burned down by a Sunni extremist mob demanding that a mentally ill man accused of alleged blasphemy (who allegedly burned a page with a Quranic verses inscribed on it) be handed over to them (mob) for lynching.

[<https://www.dawn.com/news/1660770>]



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