



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 August 2021]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **Religious Extremism and Persecution of Minorities in Sindh, Pakistan**

We want to draw the Council's attention to an unprecedented increase in the attacks and violence against Sindhi Hindus and Christians, Sikhs and other minority groups in Pakistan. We believe this is a direct outcome of the systematic state policies to spread and support religious extremism and hatred against other faiths, through religious seminaries, extremist proxy groups, media, and textbooks.

Every day there is a heart wrenching story, to mention a few:

- In the first week of August 3 Sindhi Hindu girls under 16 years were force abducted, converted and married off
- In the first week of August an 8-year Hindu boy was alleged for blasphemy. The temple was attacked and destroyed, 150 families abandoned their businesses and homes in fear of reprisals.

The persecuted suffer without any recourse to justice as all state institutions are in it together. There is an unprecedented fear among Sindhi Hindus as a result they are migrating in thousands every year. We believe this policy is part of the design to convert Sindhis into minority in their homeland to colonise Sindh.

All the secular democratic people of Sindh and Pakistan are gravely concerned at the rise of Taliban, whom Pakistan continue to support to settle in Sindh, will further amplify the violent religious extremism in Sindh.

We request the Council to press upon Pakistan to stop supporting the religious extremism and violence against Sindhi Hindus and other minority groups.

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World Sindhi Congress, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.