



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-second session

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Agenda item 4

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Union of Northwest Human Rights Organisation, 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.

[3 February 2023]

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



## **Violation of Women's and Other Rights in Sindh, Pakistan**

A most recent case is of D. B., a member of Hindu community, living in Sinjhora of Sanghar district Sindh of Pakistan. Her body was badly mutilated as she was killed. Her vagina was stabbed, her breasts were cut down, her skin was peeled off. Her hair head was shaved and then she was beheaded. She was killed because she was a woman from poorest of the class and a Hindu. Women from minority communities around the age of 15 to 18 are victims of Child marriages and forced conversions in Sindh.

Our organization with other human rights defenders estimates that around 1000 women are killed in name of honor and most of these cases happen in Sindh, Pakistan. The government had in most of the cases, to lessen international outcry, color them as murders or even suicides. D. B.'s killing is one example which is clearly case of hate crime and so-called honor killing but it is being toned down.

Rape against women, acid throwing and domestic violence is become everyday crimes against women in which perpetrators go untouched.

According to independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) 513 women were raped in the year 2022 in Karachi alone. Most of the victims were minor girls.

In another case at Tando Masti at Khairpur Mirs a young woman was stabbed 11 times and received nine bullets in her body in name of so-called honor.

During the recent flood in Pakistan, Sindhi women were the most affected victims of catastrophe. Thousand of women were stranded and many women are remained without any help in Sindh. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFP) there were around more that 400,000 women were pregnant in flood hit areas in Pakistan and more than 136,000 were to give births in next three months. Most of these women are in Sindh.

### **\*Forced Conversion\***

Lacchi Bai is an old woman sitting in front of Press Club at Umer Kot in cold December round the clock in her quest for justice for her daughter Lali. Lali has been kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam and married away by force to her abductor. Her only son Laloo has been shot to death.

Lacchi Bai is one of thousands parents of Hindu girls who are kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam and married away to their abductors. According to human rights defenders the number of such girls is in the hundreds every year in Sindh.

If you are a parent of young girl and a Hindu, your big fear is that your daughter may be kidnapped and forcibly converted into Islam.

Forced conversion has societal and governmental sanction in Pakistan, and specially Sindh province. The inability of government to crack down against abductors and converters of Hindu girls to Islam and and later giving them away to their kidnappers has sent waves of fear and terror across the Hindu community. This led to an unending stigma which has led to the constant and unreported but forced migration of their parents from Sindh.

Recently the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland government announced sanctions against one Pir Abdul Haq alias Mian Mitho, a former member of National Assembly, who was instrumental behind the kidnappings and forced conversions of Hindu girls. Mian Mitho has the support of Military to get the rid of Hindus from the area.

Pakistan law makers presented anti Forced Conversion Bill in Assembly but that was rejected by Islamic Ideological Council, a government's watchdog body consisting of clergy men also to oversee the Laws and legislation. In many cases judiciary has refused to let the minor Hindu girls return with their parent. Instead, the judges testify the forced marriages.

There are certain shrines and Madressahs which are become the centers of forced conversions; Bhirchudi and Smaro are two major centers in Sindh which has clearly patronage of military.

### **\*Enforced Disappearances\***

Enforced disappearances of Sindhi nationalists and political dissidents in Sindh has more than a decade now. Unstoppable and unending series of enforced disappearances continue in Sindh.

Around 100 Sindhi nationalists and political dissidents are in custody of Pakistan's military and its intelligence agencies, especially the most feared Inter Services (ISI) and Military Intelligence (ISI) at torture cells at unknown places. They remain incommunicado to their families and friends for months and years. Whether they are dead or alive? nobody knows. Not even the Prime Minister. Even United Nations' Working groups on Involuntarily and enforced disappearances are not given access to the victims by Pakistani military.

A college professor Ayub Kandhro, Insaf Dayo, Aijaz Gaho and Suhail Raza Bhatti are missing since last six years. Dr. Fateh Mohammed Khoso, Shabir Qambrani, Mohan Meghwar and Allah Wadhayo Mahar are missing for the last decade. Allah Wadhayo Mahar, Insaf Dayo and Mohan Meghwar were made victims of enforced disappearances when they were in their teens.

In a renewed spate of enforced disappearances G.M. Laghari, Dodo Halepoto, Ahsan Bhatti, Zafar Laghari and Khadim Khoso are new addition in rows of missing people. They are arrested and made disappeared in a military and police crack down on peaceful and non violent participants to the Birthday celebrations of Sindhi nationalist leader late G.M. Syed. Kashif Ali Tiger is also missing for quite some time.

About more than 50 Sindhi nationalists were severally tortured to death and their bullet riddled and charred dead bodies are thrown away. Not a single personnel member of military and its intelligence agencies are ever arrested or even questioned for these deaths.

Pakistani successive governments and omni present military and its intelligence agencies are involved in enforced disappearances of Sindhi nationalists and political dissidents in Sindh.

The need of hours is they must be accounted for their crimes against humanity

#### \*Minorities Rights\*

Blasphemy Law is a weapon to hound harass and to terrorize the minorities in Pakistan specially Sindh Province. Sindhi Hindus and Christians in Sindh are worst victims of the draconian law.

Professor Notan Lal, who has been languishing in Jail for more than 2 years has been convicted for 14 years under the Blasphemy Law. Before Notan Lal was arrested, worship places and homes of Hindu community in his native town were attacked and destroyed by mobs in name of Blasphemy.

Of latest is the case against Love Kumar, a 19-year-old student who has been framed up for his writing on Facebook.

In Karachi a Christian Security officer at Airport was threatened of Blasphemy case when she tries to stop illegally parking a Muslim. Any Muslim can blame any Hindu and Christian of Blasphemy at any pretext and police are obliged and forced to register a case under Blasphemy Law. As of 2021 five people were killed in the name of Blasphemy in Pakistan.

In 2021 Two other professors Sajid Soomro and Arfana Mallah were accused of Blasphemy in Sindh.

Sajid Soomro was arrested, tortured and case of Blasphemy was registered against him. Arfana Mallah had to leave country after receiving death threats.

According to a research by Center for Research and Security Studies, from 1948 to 1978, only 11 cases of blasphemy were recorded, of them three were 7 extra-judicially killed. From 1987 to 2021, these cases went up by about 1,300%.

From 1947 to 2021 the number of people accused of Blasphemy were in Sindh was 71 and 9 were killed extra judicially in Sindh province the said research acknowledges.

#### \*Climate Change\*

Rains and Floods in 2022 played havoc in Sindh. According to the government's National Disaster Management Authority 33 million people were rendered homeless, 1500 died,

12800 were injured, including 333 women. 3,425 women and 4,006 children were injured. One third of the country was under water. Sindh was the worst hit area of these floods.

Most of the flood affected people including women and children are on the roadside under the open sky without any help, financial, logistical, and even medical. The global climate changed mingled with out of proportion corruption of the government of Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan's military control Pakistan Disaster Management authority when it reaches Sindh. International aid did not reach more than 80 percent flood victims as it reached and misappropriated when arrived at the bureaucracy and ruling party members. There are confirmed reports of sexual abuse and harassment of women and children in ration lines if some aid distributed through authorities. Discrimination against Hindu flood victims are also reported from flood affected areas like Ghotki district. There are also confirmed reports when influential and ruling party Pakistan Peoples Party landlords gave artificial cuts to canals to save this land holdings submerging villages of the poor peasants. Hunting grounds of Arab Sheiks in Sindh from the Gulf countries were saved from poisonous and industrial wastes in waters of Sindh from which caused reining of thousands of acres of lands of poor peasants in Sukkur and Ghotki districts of Sindh. Journalists are framed up in false criminal cases when they voiced against corruption in catastrophe.

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