

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

PAKISTAN

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Source Document

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This document compiles press reports, official statements and civil-society monitoring data categorised by thematic area. Articles are presented in the order received and reflect the reporting period May–July 2026 unless otherwise stated.

1. Afghan Refugee News

Afghan businessmen fear forced sale of businesses before deportation

PESHAWAR, 15 JULY 2026

Ajmal Khan, running a 14-year-old scrap business in Peshawar, says buyers are exploiting Afghans' desperation to purchase warehouses and goods at throwaway prices ahead of crackdowns that began 10 July 2026. Laborer Malang Jan says his children face interrupted schooling. Advocate Saif Mohib Kakakhel says courts can protect Afghans' property rights, but enforcement is weak. Over 2.4 million Afghan citizens have left Pakistan since September 2023.

Son of Pakistani mother, Afghan father fights for legal identity

PESHAWAR, 29 JUNE 2026

Kamran Khan, born and raised in Pakistan, petitioned the Peshawar High Court for restoration of his mother's documents and legal residence, citing no valid ID despite lifelong residence. PHC Bar Association notes a marked rise in such petitions. Federal Interior Ministry ordered nationwide arrest of undocumented Afghans from 10 July 2026; over 2.4 million Afghans left Pakistan since September 2023, including 1,155,221 in 2025.

Afghan brothers win court stay against deportation

LAHORE / PESHAWAR, 14 MAY 2026

Peshawar High Court (Justices Wiqar Ahmad and Babar Sattar) stayed deportation of brothers Masihullah and Ghobar, who say they worked with US forces and are mid-resettlement to Canada; hearing adjourned to 29 June. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry privately acknowledged thousands of Afghans are "high-risk" if returned. Amnesty International: 1.9 million+ Afghans deported since 2023; HRW: 146,000+ deported in 2026 alone. Journalist Khadija Haidary was detained at the airport three times despite valid documents.

KEMU orders Afghan students, doctors to vacate hostels

LAHORE, 21 JULY 2026

King Edward Medical University directed Afghan national students and doctors to vacate hostels within 48 hours unless visas were extended (notice dated 18 July). Students' representative Fazlur Rahman said many applications for visa extension, filed 6–10 months ago, remain undecided, jeopardizing ongoing studies and clinical rotations.

2. Child Sexual Abuse (Children's Rights)

Two suspects arrested in separate rape cases, including toddler

LODHRAN, 14 JULY 2026

Police arrested a suspect for the alleged rape of a 2.5-year-old girl in Mauza Wahi Salamat Rai, caught by her father and neighbours mid-assault (case under PPC Section 376). In a separate Lodhran case, a married woman was allegedly abducted and raped by a man who lured her under the pretext of a wedding errand; suspect arrested 10 July. SSDO: over 5,000 rape cases reported nationally in 2025; conviction rate below 5%.

Sahiwal: 60+ "rape videos" found in madrassah caretaker's phone

SAHIWAL, 20 JULY 2026

Prayer leader Omer Hayat and caretaker Sanwal Parvez of Jamia Noor ul Quran madrassah arrested for allegedly repeatedly raping and filming both male and female students; 63 videos found in one phone folder, more password-protected. Parvez allegedly also raped his own disabled sister, reportedly drugging her beforehand. Case registered under PPC 375-A and related provisions.

12-year-old Imran dies after sexual abuse at Tando Allahyar madrassah

TANDO ALLAHYAR, 18 JULY 2026

Imran, enrolled three weeks earlier at Jamia-tul-Madina Boys madrassah to memorize the Quran, died after being sexually abused and given an intoxicating substance; a fellow student, Noor Ali (18), confessed. Imran had lodged an earlier complaint (11 July) that the cleric failed to act on. FIR includes murder, sexual abuse, and negligence charges; samples sent for forensic/DNA testing.

Child safety crisis in Punjab seminaries amid spate of abuse cases

LAHORE, 30 JUNE 2026

A wave of cases across Punjab: a Lahore madrassa student tortured (28 June); a 12-year-old Cantonment-area student died from torture; a prayer leader arrested for raping a minor boy in Khushab (27 June); an 8-year-old boy died in Kasur after alleged rape/torture; a 14-year-old buried alive in Sargodha after reporting abuse; an 8-year-old girl raped and murdered in Sargodha. NCRC took suo motu notice of 11 cases and called for mandatory safeguarding standards, sex-offender vetting, and child protection courts.

3. Terrorism in KPK & Balochistan / IDP Issues

Return date for Tirah IDPs set for October; concerns persist

KHYBER, 11 JULY 2026

Authorities and a 24-member elders' committee set 10–15 October for return of Tirah Valley IDPs, displaced since November amid unrest; a prior 10 April return date was missed. Committee objects the October date coincides with severe cold. 34,000 families registered; 16,000 more names submitted. Provincial government has released Rs 6 billion+ in aid, allocated Rs 1.5 billion for compensation.

Deadly TTP attacks in Balochistan spark protests

QUETTA, 8 JULY 2026

TTP-claimed attacks on Hanna Urak (5 killed, 9 injured, 11 abducted) and the Mangi Dam security post in Ziarat (9 police killed, 18 of 19 abducted personnel later confirmed dead) triggered sit-ins demanding security and recovery of missing persons. Security forces reportedly killed 54 militants over three days. HRCP's Habib Tahir called the state's failure to recover abductees a constitutional violation.

HRCP fact-finding exposes hidden crisis of Tirah Valley displacement

LAHORE, 10 JULY 2026

HRCP report "Displaced by Conflict" found 20–30 civilians killed and approximately 400 injured (2024–25) amid food and medicine restrictions imposed on residents who refused armed "peace lashkars"; several newborns died during the harsh January 2026 exodus. Only approximately 20% of families had received compensation as of the report; 3,600 shops and approximately 8,000 traders affected; approximately 19 people died during the displacement itself. Officials dispute the displacement was solely conflict-driven.

Landi Kotal sit-in enters second week amid target killings

LANDI KOTAL, 10 JUNE 2026

Protest on the Pak-Afghan Highway after two people, including a security official, killed by unidentified gunmen. 16 people, including journalist Khalil Jibran, killed in target killings over two years. Schools closed (15 boys', 12 girls' plus private schools), polio campaign boycotted, motorcycle riding by outsiders banned as protest measures. Trade with Afghanistan suspended for 8 months, straining local economy.

Khyber IDPs: "We want nothing — only a promise of peace"

KHYBER, 14 MAY 2026

Families displaced twice within three months (from Tirah, then Akakhel plains) report incomplete registration and no financial assistance. Of 35,000 registered Tirah-displaced families, only 16,000 verified; 6,000+ families reportedly still unregistered. Bara Siasi Ittehad staged a Ring Road sit-in in Peshawar; police used tear gas and baton charges to disperse protesters.

Civilians hit in Bara drone strikes; 7 May protest called

BARA, 4 MAY 2026

A drone strike on an Akakhel home killed a 14-year-old girl and wounded several women and children — one of more than five strikes to hit civilian areas in Akakhel. Bara Siasi Ittehad announced a major Peshawar sit-in demanding dignified return of Tirah IDPs and an end to unrest; a Loya Jirgah at the KP CM's House condemned the killing of women, children and the elderly in drone attacks.

North Waziristan: students, traders struggle without 3G/4G

MIRANSHAH, 2 JULY 2026

Continued absence of mobile internet in North Waziristan, unlike the rest of KP, is hampering online education and digital commerce. Students and local shopkeepers appeal to the government for restoration, citing loss of access to coursework, online classes and e-commerce platforms.

Bannu mortar attack: 8-year-old Hajra among child casualties

BANNU, 4 JUNE 2026

Two mortar shells struck a family's vehicle in Jani Khel; Hajra (8) and her brother Abdullah (5) were injured, while their uncle and his newlywed wife were killed in front of them. Psychiatrist Dr. Ghulam Rasool notes Pakistan's conflict-affected children show markedly elevated anxiety and depression; NCRC/MICS data show KP has the country's highest child anxiety (7.0%) and depression (5.3%) rates, followed by Balochistan.

4. Blasphemy Cases

Over 333 blasphemy cases registered in five years; Punjab tops list

ISLAMABAD, 9 JULY 2026

Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights told most cases were fabricated, stemming from personal enmities. Punjab: 116 Section 295-C cases (56% Muslim-on-Muslim, 14% against minorities). Sindh: 96 Quran-desecration (295-B) and 29 defamation (295-C) cases. KP: 90+ cases. Balochistan: 28 cases, mostly resolved. New SOP mandates immediate FIR registration (instead of mediation) to curb mob violence; a case was cited where children falsely accused their own father after a domestic dispute.

Dr. Shah Nawaz Kumbhar's family to challenge SHC ruling in Supreme Court

HYDERABAD, 23 APRIL 2026

Dr. Kumbhar, a Medical Officer, was killed in a staged police "encounter" in Umerkot in September 2024 after a blasphemy case was registered against him; an inquiry found the encounter fabricated and charged 23 accused, including a DIG and two SSPs. Sindh High Court's Mirpurkhas bench ruled the case does not meet Anti-Terrorism Act criteria and transferred it to a Sessions court; family to appeal to the Supreme Court. His body was earlier seized and burned by a mob before burial; officers allegedly complicit were garlanded by a religious mob.

5. Religious Minority News

Religious freedom weakened by "stark gap" between Constitution and practice

LAHORE, 18 JUNE 2026

At an HRCP / J. Reuben Clark Law Society symposium, advocate Hina Jilani said Zia-era policies fostered religious superiority and that Ahmadis in particular face cybercrime cases for professing faith online. Panelists raised concerns over textbook prejudice, compulsory religious content, and online hate speech; called for curriculum reform and stronger enforcement of Article 20.

Jaranwala incident: suspects still at large, victims await compensation after 3 years

ISLAMABAD, 8 JULY 2026

Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights heard that no suspect has been arrested and no compensation paid three years after the 16 August 2023 mob attack (linked to TLP) that torched 21+ churches and dozens of Christian homes in Jaranwala, Faisalabad following blasphemy allegations against two brothers. Of approximately 5,000 alleged participants, 1,200 more were identified only last month; most of approximately 300 arrested suspects have been released on bail.

Anger within religious minorities over Maria Shahbaz verdict

LAHORE, 31 MARCH 2026

Rights groups protested a Federal Constitutional Court ruling that recognized the marriage of Maria Shehbaz, a Christian girl her family says was 13 at the time, to her alleged abductor, and declined to place her in her father's custody. NCJP/PCBC called the ruling inconsistent with laws barring marriage under 18; activists warned it undermines child-marriage protections.

Mardan: elderly Sikh caretaker couple shot dead inside gurdwara

MARDAN, 17 JUNE 2026

Jagannath (70) and wife Asa Wanti, caretakers of a Mardan gurdwara for 20 years, were shot by unidentified gunmen — the first such attack in Mardan's history, per a relative. No group claimed responsibility. Indian media framed it within a pattern of attacks on Sikhs in KP, recalling the 2022 Peshawar killings of Saljeet and Ranjeet.

Minor Hindu girl claims free-will marriage in Mirpurkhas; family alleges abduction

MIRPURKHAS, 26 MARCH 2026

Laxmi Kolhi, whose B-Form lists her age as 12, told a court she married voluntarily; her family and Darawar Ittehad leader Shiva Kachhi say she was abducted and forcibly converted, and that police initially refused to register an FIR until protests blocked a road. Court ordered a medical age examination and sent her to a shelter home for 11 days; main suspect Parvez Mari arrested.

FCC hearing: "Luring away underage girls a matter for entire society"

ISLAMABAD, 24 JULY 2026

Federal Constitutional Court admitted a review petition in the Maria Shahbaz case; Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi said the issue of underage girls being lured away concerns all of society, not one religion. Court summoned the girl, her husband, and the Attorney General. A Jubilee Campaign report, "Stolen Girls," documented 210 cases of abducted, forcibly converted, and married minor Christian girls (2019–2025), 89% in Punjab; 92% had falsified ages on marriage documents.

6. Enforced Disappearance

52 days and counting: family of abducted Sindhi writer pleads for his return

LAHORE, 8 JULY 2026

Retired civil servant and Sindhi writer Saeed Ahmed Memon (61) was abducted on a Balochistan highway (Zehri Naka, District Sorab) on 17 May 2026, after an escort's gunfire prompted the family car to flee, leaving him behind. FIR registered at CTD Khuzdar, but the family says investigators made no contact after the first day. Protests held in Karachi, Hyderabad and Naushahro Feroze; family has appealed to HRCP for intervention.

7. Judicial Issues

Lawyers question legal basis of life sentence in Mahrang Baloch case

ISLAMABAD, 6 JULY 2026

Legal experts Munir Ahmed Kakar and Jaideen Dashti criticised the life sentence given to BYC leaders Dr Mahrang Baloch and Sibghatullah Shahjee by an Anti-Terrorism Court, calling it a "faceless trial" conducted via video-link with no independent witnesses and a state-appointed defence counsel installed within days. The FIR's date and lead-accused details were later altered, and the man originally named as principal accused was acquitted. Balochistan Bar Council to challenge the verdict.

Imaan Mazari & Hadi Ali Chatha case: SC and IHC proceedings

ISLAMABAD, 7–25 JULY 2026

Human rights lawyers Imaan Mazari and husband Hadi Ali Chatha, sentenced to 17 years under PECA in January 2026 over tweets alleging security-force responsibility for missing persons in KP/Balochistan, sought suspension of sentence. Supreme Court issued notices (7 July) and later adjourned proceedings to the Islamabad High Court (21 July); IHC ultimately declared their suspension petitions admissible on 25 July, rejecting the prosecution's "premature filing" objection.

Court reserves verdict on plea to discharge Ali Wazir in second FIR

DADU, 8 APRIL 2026

Former MNA Ali Wazir sought discharge from a second of three FIRs filed after his 16 March re-arrest from Sukkur jail, all alleging PTM-linked roadblocks and gunfire; his counsel calls them fabricated. Court flagged jail authorities' repeated failure to produce Wazir as a breach of Article 10-A (fair trial).

MQM-A worker dies in judicial custody; renewed "systematic targeting" claims

LAHORE, 7 JULY 2026

Muhammad Saeed Gaddi died 5 July in Hyderabad Central Jail after alleged days of medical neglect, following torture during 18 days of being reported missing after a March 2026 ATA case his party calls fabricated. MQM says at least 13 members have died in custody since 2013. HRCP's Sindh coordinator called most cases short-term "detentions" rather than abductions, but confirmed ex-MNA Nisar Ahmed Panhwar's case remains unresolved after 198 days.

8. Child Labour

Six million children trapped in labour in Punjab despite legal protections

LAHORE, 12 JUNE 2026

Punjab Child Labour Survey (2019–20) cited: approximately 6 million children aged 5–17 in labour in Punjab (3.3 million in agriculture, 800,000+ in manufacturing); 8.6 million nationwide. Sahiwal Division has the highest count (750,000+). Boys (4.1m) outnumber girls (1.9m) in labour. WISE monitoring recorded 208 cases of violence against domestic child workers (2019–June 2026): 51 deaths, 157 injuries, 33 rapes; girls were 86% of victims, only 15% reaching legal resolution. Speakers demanded enforcement of the Punjab Domestic Workers Act 2019 and ratification of ILO Convention 138.

9. Women's Rights (Honour Killing, Sexual Abuse & Related)

SC issues nationwide guidelines to curb sexual harassment in schools

ISLAMABAD, 11 JULY 2026

Supreme Court ordered every school and college to form an in-house harassment inquiry committee and display the legal Code of Conduct while restoring a five-year service-forfeiture penalty against a Faisalabad headmistress who ignored written harassment complaints against a colleague, Kamran Khan. Court held that institutional silence "teaches students that power excuses abuse."

Gujranwala: three killed for "honour" after free-will marriage

GUJRANWALA, 15 JUNE 2026

Landlord Tariq Waraich allegedly shot dead his daughter Faiza, her husband Abdul Waheed, and labourer Zulfiqar ("Bholu") after luring them to a reconciliation meeting three months after their court marriage. FIR names Waraich and his wife Nusrat Sultana under PPC 302 and 311.

Decade of confinement: Bahawalnagar woman allegedly imprisoned by her own family

LAHORE, 10 JUNE 2026

Hasna Bibi (30), unable to walk when rescued, was allegedly confined by her parents and brothers for 10–12 years after being forcibly divorced from a marriage of her choice; reports allege she was at times kept in iron chains. Father and one brother arrested; others granted pre-arrest bail.

Jacobabad: a love marriage leaves an entire village devastated

JACOBABAD, 18 MAY 2026

A mob torched 100–120+ homes in Muhammad Siddiq Arain village after Sidra Channa and Muhammad Hassan Burro's free-will court marriage went viral; families left homeless. Girl's father alleges abduction and claims she is 14 (underage); Sidra says she is an adult and married willingly. Women's Action Forum said approximately 178 women were killed for "honour" in one month nationally and demanded a total ban on jirga rulings on women's autonomy.

Larkana: widow and daughter killed after "food not served on time"

LARKANA, 21 APRIL 2026

Shahida Jatoi (45) and daughter Naghma (18/19) were shot by a cousin, Ali Haider, and their bodies dumped in the Indus River; FIR cites a domestic dispute over food timing, though initial reports suggested an honour-killing motive. SSDO: Sindh recorded 3,505 violence-against-women cases (January–June 2025), including 201 honour killings; conviction rate just 3%.

Shot in the name of "honour": Khalida (Rubina) Chandio killed by jirga order

TANDO MASTI, 15 & 19 APRIL 2026

22-year-old Khalida Chandio was shot by her maternal uncle on a feudal jirga's order after being declared "kari" for leaving with an acquaintance; bystanders filmed the killing. Two uncles arrested; SHO later suspended over bribery allegations. Women's Action Forum activists later travelled to the village to hold funeral prayers themselves, since she had been buried without ghusl or shroud, and demanded a high-level commission on jirga-ordered violence.

From alleged Nikah to delayed FIR: Multan woman's suicide after rape complaint

LAHORE, 17 JULY 2026

"S" died by suicide after Budhla Surt police delayed registering her 10 July rape complaint against Muhammad Ishfaq for five days; three police officials (DSP, SHO, IO) suspended and booked under PPC 155-C. A separate murder case was registered against Ishfaq after her death. SSDO: 1,651 rape cases registered in Punjab in first half of 2026.

3,172 gender-based violence incidents recorded, January–June 2026

ISLAMABAD, 23 JULY 2026

Sahil's report recorded 644 murders, 514 assault/torture cases, 462 abductions, 363 suicides, 280 rapes and 132 honour killings nationally in six months (including 18 transgender victims). 54% of crimes occurred in the victim's own home; 27% of perpetrators were acquaintances, 13% spouses. Punjab recorded 74% of all cases (2,352); Faisalabad was the worst-affected district (532 cases).

Swabi child marriage case: police clarify minor was not trafficked

LAHORE, 4 JUNE 2026

A 12-year-old girl, Tifla Sania, was married to a 38-year-old man in Punjab for Rs 50,000, which police say covered wedding-meal costs rather than a purchase price; mother, grandfather and groom arrested. Case highlights that KP remains the only province without a Child Marriage Restraint Act, relying on the 1929 colonial law (marriage age 16 for girls); a 2025 KP bill was rejected by the Council of Islamic Ideology as "un-Islamic."

In Kohistan, half a million women have no one to tell their story

KOLAI-PALAS, 21 JULY 2026

Not a single woman works as a journalist in Kohistan, leaving issues like maternal health, domestic violence and early marriage underreported. Approximately 79% of children in Upper/Lower Kohistan are out of school; female literacy is among the lowest in Pakistan. The 2012 honour killing of five girls over a video (Shaheen, Bazeegha, Sereen Jan, Begum Jan, Amina), and the journalist who exposed it, Afzal Kohistani — later himself murdered — remain a defining reference point for the region's restrictions on women's public voice.

10. Transgender Issues

Trans woman gang-raped in Karachi; suspects still at large

KARACHI, 29 APRIL 2026

Noor Hira, a transgender dancer, was abducted and gang-raped by around 25 men in a Farid Colony warehouse; only the alleged driver has been arrested, two suspects remain at large. She has since faced threats for pursuing the case but recorded her statement in court. Social Welfare focal person Bindia Rana said her own home was earlier attacked with gunfire, and called for transgender representation in parliament, noting "without the protection of law, we will keep being targeted."

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Compiled from press reports, official statements and civil-society monitoring data.