
HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

PAKISTAN

Human Rights Fact Sheet
Developments, Protection Concerns and Priority Recommendations

Reporting Period: August 2026

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Executive Summary

This update reviews reported human rights developments in Pakistan during August 2026, together with several late-July items closely linked to the month's coverage. Key concerns include the continued deportation of Afghan nationals and the risks faced by both undocumented migrants and long-term residents with unclear legal status; attacks on religious minorities and the forced conversion and marriage of minor Christian and Hindu girls; the alleged fabrication of blasphemy allegations by an extortion network and a reported decline in new case registrations; civilian harm and unverified casualty figures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan; enforced disappearances; fair-trial concerns in politically sensitive prosecutions, including the expanding jurisdiction of military courts over civilians; a sustained pattern of gender-based violence, honour killings and femicide that drew sustained public attention; abuse of children in madrassas and online spaces; an alleged custodial-torture death; the use of cybercrime and defamation law against journalists; a fatal fire at a public hospital's newborn nursery; growing military involvement in civilian policing and security; a persistent gender gap in voter registration; and deepening unrest in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) following a state crackdown on the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC). Civil society organisations, the courts and international interlocutors, including the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and the European Union, identified continuing accountability gaps, even as several judicial rulings — including in the Kot Radha Kishan and Noor Mukadam cases — offered mixed signals about institutional response. Priority action is needed to protect civilians and displaced persons, safeguard due process and fair trial, protect minorities, women and children, curb misuse of blasphemy and cybercrime provisions, and strengthen independent oversight and effective remedies.

KEY INDICATORS REPORTED DURING THE PERIOD

INDICATOR	REPORTED FIGURE
Afghan nationals returned under the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan, 2026 to date	600,000+
Afghan nationals identified, arrested and deported from Punjab since the repatriation drive began	~140,468
New blasphemy cases registered nationwide, 2026 to date	13 (down ~two-thirds year-on-year)
Persons reportedly entrapped by the alleged “Blasphemy Business Gang” network	800+ (300+ still detained in Punjab)
Gender-based violence incidents, January–June 2026	3,172 (644 murders; 132 honour killings)
Child-abuse cases recorded nationwide, January–June 2026	1,914 (80% in Punjab)
Newborns killed in the PIMS Islamabad nursery fire	14
AJK: security personnel killed / injured since June 2026	38 killed / 742 injured
Persons placed on the AJK “Fourth Schedule” watch-list	157+

Source: Dawn / HRCP / Sahil / Reuters / EU Delegation to Pakistan reporting, August 2026 issue

1. Principal Human Rights Developments

A. AFGHAN NATIONALS: DEPORTATION, LEGAL IDENTITY AND ONWARD MIGRATION RISKS

Punjab's Foreign National Security Cell reported identifying, arresting and deporting approximately 140,468 “illegal” Afghan nationals from the province since the start of the nationwide Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan; more than 600,000 Afghan nationals have reportedly been returned to Afghanistan in 2026 to date. UNHCR and other rights groups have continued to raise concerns that registered refugees are being swept up alongside undocumented migrants without adequate case-by-case screening.

Reported court proceedings illustrate the risks faced by individuals with unclear or disputed documentation. The Peshawar High Court restrained the deportation of a Peshawar businessman whose computerised national identity card (CNIC) had been blocked without notice on suspicion that he was an undocumented Afghan, a measure that also froze his bank accounts and SIM cards; the Court ordered NADRA to explain the block and refer the case to its verification board after his lawyer presented identity documents predating 1979. A separate profile described an Afghan man married to a Pakistani woman with five children, arrested under the deportation drive, leaving the family without its main earner and highlighting the absence of a clear legal pathway for mixed Pakistani-Afghan families even after decades of residence.

Eighty-seven Afghan students — 58 men and 29 women — enrolled at universities in Islamabad petitioned the Islamabad High Court after their student-visa extensions were frozen, leaving them mid-degree and facing the threat of detention or deportation; the Court has so far questioned whether the petition is maintainable.

Nineteen Afghan nationals, most from Badghis province, died attempting to cross irregularly from Nimruz province into Iran through desert terrain in temperatures of approximately 45°C; a widely circulated video showing one victim, Hayatullah, dying of heat and thirst drew nationwide outrage. Afghanistan's Taliban administration reportedly offered each bereaved family approximately 20,000 Afghani (about US\$300). The episode illustrates the compounding precarity facing Afghans caught between Pakistan's deportation drive and economic conditions in Afghanistan.

The EU Ambassador to Pakistan stated that Afghan refugees, present in the country for approximately 40 years, are well integrated and have contributed to the economy; he called on Pakistan to honour the principle of non-refoulement, noting that Pakistan has not ratified all refugee conventions, and said that persons eligible for international protection and other vulnerable groups should not be deported, while any return process for others should preserve dignity and protect property and other rights.

ASSESSMENT

Any return process should be individualised, transparent and subject to review. Authorities should prevent refoulement, ensure accurate and fair identity verification — including for citizens wrongly flagged as undocumented — protect family unity and property, preserve access to education, and provide accessible legal remedies before removal.

B. ATTACKS ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES AND FORCED CONVERSION OF MINOR GIRLS

Twelve years after Shama and Shahzad Masih, a Christian couple, were beaten and burned alive by a mob in Kot Radha Kishan, Kasur district, following a blasphemy accusation later discredited, the Supreme Court issued its final written order acquitting the last three of 106 accused persons. With this ruling, every accused person has now been acquitted at some stage of the judicial process, meaning that no one has been held criminally responsible for the couple's murder.

The EU Ambassador described the situation of Pakistan's Ahmadiyya community — which is constitutionally defined as non-Muslim and whose members face specific legal restrictions on religious practice — as a major concern, calling for protection of their physical security and places of worship, and noting ongoing but as yet inconclusive discussions with the government on marriage registration and documentation.

A leading international human rights organisation strongly condemned the removal of an Ahmadi Muslim from a government position in Pakistan's Punjab province following an organised campaign by extremist groups targeting the official over his religious identity.

A Christian mother petitioned a civil court in Faisalabad to annul the marriage of her 12-year-old daughter, Amber Nadeem, arguing it violated Pakistan's amended child-marriage legislation as well as constitutional and minority-rights protections; the petition alleged the girl was abducted from a marketplace and her date of birth falsified with a marriage registrar's assistance to make the marriage appear legal, and was filed only after the accused was granted post-arrest bail. A court subsequently granted custody of the child to her alleged abductor, prompting protests by rights activists, lawyers and minority advocacy groups, who argued the ruling undermined child-protection legislation, including the Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act, and left the child exposed to continued coercion.

A feature report published around the UN International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief named several other minor girls from religious-minority families — Sataish Mariam (14), Mariam Asif (12) and Maria Shahbaz (13) — as part of a continuing pattern in Punjab in which underage Christian and Hindu girls are abducted, converted to Islam and married to their abductors, with police and lower courts frequently slow to act or accepting disputed documentation of the girls' ages.

ASSESSMENT

The State should protect minorities from violence and discrimination, ensure prompt and independent prosecution of mob violence, and require child-sensitive, independent age and consent verification in all marriage and conversion cases involving minors, irrespective of documentation presented by an accused party.

C. MISUSE OF BLASPHEMY PROVISIONS

Families of men accused of blasphemy held a press conference in Islamabad demanding a judicial inquiry commission into an alleged “Blasphemy Business Gang” said to use online impersonation (“honey-traps”) to lure young men before extorting them or having them falsely charged with blasphemy. Government figures cited at the press conference indicated that more than 120 people had been acquitted or granted bail in related cases, with approximately 300 still detained in Punjab; a cited European Commission report placed the number of persons entrapped at over 800, with more than 300 falsely accused people still jailed as of April 2026. Families called for the reopening of a long-stalled 2024 constitutional petition seeking an inquiry commission, a fresh and independent investigation into the killing of Abdullah Shah, whose death they link to the same network, and protection of judges from mob and social-media pressure in blasphemy-related cases.

Citing Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) data, only 13 new blasphemy cases were registered nationwide in 2026 to date — a reduction of roughly two-thirds compared with previous years — attributed by officials to a state crackdown on extremist religious groups. Advocates for those already imprisoned argued that the same approach should be extended to networks accused of fabricating blasphemy allegations for profit.

The EU Ambassador welcomed the reduction in new case registrations and noted court decisions releasing more than 100 people on bail in Islamabad and Sindh, but said Punjab remained a major concern, with roughly 500 people — including young people — still affected by pending cases, and called for credible guarantees that blasphemy provisions will not continue to be exploited.

ASSESSMENT

Pakistan should review its blasphemy laws to prevent misuse for extortion or the settlement of personal disputes, ensure independent investigation of both blasphemy allegations and the networks accused of fabricating them, and protect the accused, their families and the judiciary from mob and online pressure.

D. CIVILIAN HARM IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA AND BALOCHISTAN

Four apple-orchard labourers were killed and three injured near Mastung, Balochistan, in what survivors described as a drone or airborne-explosive strike; two further unidentified bodies, both shot, were found nearby, and militants separately destroyed a bridge on the Quetta–Karachi highway (N-25), disrupting a key trade route. Pakistan's military media wing reported that security forces killed 37 alleged Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) militants in Balochistan and 12 fighters linked to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the same period; these figures could not be independently verified.

Five labourers from Punjab were abducted from Qilla Abdullah and shot dead near Pishin; a sixth survived by feigning death despite multiple gunshot wounds. Police attributed the killing to the BLA, which had also bombed a nearby police station days earlier, in what officials described as part of a wider pattern of attacks targeting non-local labourers and traders in Balochistan.

ASSESSMENT

Authorities should ensure independent, transparent investigation of civilian casualties attributed to both security operations and non-state armed groups, protect labourers and civilians from targeted violence, and publish verifiable casualty and displacement data.

E. ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Family members of Asif Baloch, an alleged victim of enforced disappearance, protested outside the Quetta Press Club alongside the Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP), a long-running advocacy group that maintains a permanent protest camp and documents such cases, calling for due process for anyone accused of a crime rather than extrajudicial detention.

The EU Ambassador identified enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings as top-tier concerns for Pakistan's GSP+ trade status, stating that human-rights guarantees — including the right to a defence and family access to detainees — must apply even amid counter-terrorism operations, and that perpetrators should be held accountable. He called for enhanced monitoring of disappearance cases.

ASSESSMENT

Authorities should criminalise and prevent enforced disappearance, disclose the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared, ensure prompt judicial review of detention, and guarantee family and legal access.

F. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS RAISING FAIR-TRIAL CONCERNS

Human-rights lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha sought an early Supreme Court hearing of their sentence-suspension appeals after the Islamabad High Court repeatedly adjourned the matter despite an earlier Supreme Court directive that it be decided within two weeks. The Supreme Court subsequently adjourned the case to 17 September, with the bench remarking that “the system” should be “fully exposed.” During the same hearing, veteran activist Tahira Abdullah was required to remove a keffiyeh before proceedings could continue, an incident cited by observers as illustrative of the scrutiny faced by rights defenders in court.

The Supreme Court dismissed a review petition by Zahir Jaffar, sentenced to death for the 2021 murder of Noor Mukadam, rejecting arguments of mental incapacity for lack of contemporaneous medical evidence and rejecting claims that a state-appointed lawyer had made the trial unfair. The ruling has been characterised as reinforcing accountability in gender-based violence cases.

The EU Ambassador raised concern over the expanding jurisdiction of military courts to try civilians, questioning compliance with Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and called for UN experts to assess the practice. He also referenced concern over detention conditions and fair-trial standards for jailed opposition figures, and noted EU concern over the process for appointing judges to the newly created Federal Constitutional Court.

The Lahore High Court rejected post-arrest bail for two men accused of the honour killing of 18-year-old Najma Mai in Rajanpur district, ruling that a family “raazinama” (compromise agreement) cannot secure bail because honour killing is a non-compoundable offence in which the State, not only the family, has an interest in prosecution.

Marking the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism, reporting noted that more than 11 years after the 2014 Army Public School attack in Peshawar, which killed 147 people, most of them schoolchildren, the recommendations of the judicial commission that investigated the security lapses enabling the attack remain unimplemented, with families' pursuit of accountability now stalled before the newly created Federal Constitutional Court.

ASSESSMENT

Detention and trial processes must guarantee independent counsel, timely hearings, equality of arms and public, reasoned judgments. The expanding jurisdiction of military courts over civilians raises proportionality concerns under international fair-trial standards and should be reviewed. Non-compoundable offences such as honour killing must not be resolved through informal family compromise.

G. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, INCLUDING HONOUR KILLINGS AND FEMICIDE

Reported cases in August included the abduction and gang rape of a 16-year-old beauty-parlour worker in Nowshera district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by four men, including a relative, after she was falsely told her father had been injured in an accident; and the beating of an elderly woman, Shamshad Begum, by her son, a serving police officer, in Rawalpindi, with the suspect seeking pre-arrest bail rather than facing arrest and investigators citing the case's "domestic" nature as grounds for a cautious approach.

Several honour killings were reported during the month. TikTok creator Shamso Bibi (Ayesha Galamna) was shot in Taxila on 14 August in an attack initially staged to appear robbery-related; her father, brother, cousin and two other relatives were later arrested after confessing the killing was linked to her social-media career. Sixteen-year-old Farwa Qaimkhani was shot dead in Tando Allahyar, Sindh, in a killing initially staged as a suicide, with police suspecting a motive connected to a tattoo on her arm. In Sargodha district, Punjab, a man confessed to shooting his sister, Sonia Bibi, after accusing her of "illicit relationships" and asserting she had "no right" to be his sister. The Lahore High Court's rejection of compromise-based bail in the killing of Najma Mai in Rajanpur (see Section F) reinforced the principle that such killings cannot be privately resolved.

Hina Javed, a 45-year-old media professional, was found dead in her Rawalpindi home nine months after her marriage, with indications her killers attempted to stage the death as a suicide; her husband and a domestic worker have been arrested, while her father-in-law, a retired army officer named in the police report, remains free. The case prompted a public #JusticeForHina campaign and an August 31 candlelight vigil at which the Women Democratic Front declared femicide a "national emergency," citing data recording 3,172 gender-based-violence cases in the first half of 2026 through media monitoring alone — including 644 murders and 132 honour killings, with more than half occurring inside victims' homes and 18 involving transgender individuals — and calling for a nationally coordinated action plan, funded shelters and a national femicide register.

The Supreme Court's dismissal of Zahir Jaffar's review petition in the Noor Mukadam case was accompanied by a separate mid-August ruling that women exercising lawful rights, including divorce, should not face violence with impunity. Further cases reported during the month included a suspected honour killing in Dasu, Upper Kohistan, and the killing of Iqra Bibi in Khanewal by family members after she contracted a court marriage without their consent; commentary during the month noted that Pakistan continues to rank poorly on global gender-gap indices.

ASSESSMENT

Police must register complaints immediately and investigate without regard to family or social pressure. The non-compoundable status of honour killing must be enforced consistently in practice, and the State should adopt a coordinated, adequately resourced strategy against gender-based violence and femicide, including protection orders, funded shelters and a national case-tracking register.

H. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A 9-year-old boy, Faizan, sent by his family to a madrassah for Quranic education, died from sustained physical abuse inflicted by the cleric responsible for his care, who has since fled; the case reflects a wider problem of minimal government oversight of the treatment of children in religious seminaries. The National Commission on the Rights of Child called for stricter monitoring of madrassas, seminaries, schools and other child-care institutions in light of a wider pattern of abuse cases involving madrassa students in Punjab.

An HRCP report found that online child sexual exploitation is widespread in Pakistan but remains largely hidden due to weak reporting mechanisms and fragmented institutional responsibility. Its central case, from Muzaffargarh, Punjab, found that at least 50 children were exploited at a facility disguised as a self-defence training school, with recordings of their abuse sold online; the report called for stronger legislation, coordinated investigation across agencies, child-sensitive interview and court procedures, and long-term survivor support, including psychological care and protection against renewed blackmail.

Further reporting recorded the arrest of a 17-year-old suspect in Karachi after a minor girl was allegedly raped and killed, an attempted rape of an 11-year-old girl in Sheikhpura, and noted that Punjab accounted for 80 per cent of 1,914 child-abuse cases recorded nationwide in the first half of 2026. Five-year-old Ayat Noor was found dead in a dry well in Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, after a 14-day search; four neighbourhood suspects, including minors, were arrested in connection with her abduction, sexual assault and murder.

ASSESSMENT

The State should strengthen oversight of madrassas and residential child-care institutions, implement child-sensitive investigation and prosecution procedures for online and offline exploitation, and ensure survivor-centred psychological and protection support.

I. TORTURE AND DEATHS IN CUSTODY

Daud Masih, an 18-year-old Christian student, died after allegedly being tortured by police during a motorcycle check near Kahrur Pakka in Lodhran district, Punjab, and after falling into a canal during the encounter. His father's complaint led to a First Information Report naming two police officials, with the charge upgraded from attempted murder to murder after his body was recovered nearly 28 hours later. The nominated suspects had not been arrested at the time of reporting, and the case drew added scrutiny over whether the victim's religious-minority status affected the handling of the police stop and its aftermath.

ASSESSMENT

Allegations of custodial torture and death require prompt, independent investigation and prosecution, with particular attention to whether a victim's religious or minority status affected police conduct.

J. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Journalists and activists in Balochistan described a pattern of temporary detentions, legal notices and cases filed under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), citing cases involving journalist Akbar Notezai, outlet head Farhan Malik, editor Agha Obaid and lawyer Jalila Haider; press-freedom bodies, including Reporters Without Borders, have called on the government to repeal or substantially amend PECA.

Media professionals and civil-society figures adopted a seven-point charter of demands at an HRCP roundtable in Karachi, calling for repeal or amendment of PECA and related laws, protection of editorial independence, safer conditions for women and freelance journalists, and recognition of press-freedom challenges specific to different regions, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The EU Ambassador named freedom of expression and the treatment of journalists a “red zone” concern for Pakistan's GSP+ trade status, citing PECA, Punjab's separate defamation legislation and aspects of counter-terrorism law that can be used against speech. He separately raised proportionality concerns over the extended internet shutdown in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, stating he was personally doubtful it met the standard required given it was not tied to a counter-terrorism or military operation.

ASSESSMENT

Pakistan should review and amend PECA and related legislation to prevent its use against legitimate reporting,

ensure proportionality in any internet or communications restrictions, and protect journalists from arbitrary detention and harassment.

K. HEALTH RIGHTS AND INSTITUTIONAL SAFETY

At least 14 newborns died from suffocation and burns after a fire broke out in the nursery of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), a major public hospital in Islamabad, caused by an air-conditioning compressor fault that ignited nearby oxygen cylinders. Initial findings indicated that emergency exits were locked and staff had received no training for such an emergency, while firefighting equipment was inadequate and not properly maintained. The federal Health Secretary was suspended and multiple inquiry committees formed.

ASSESSMENT

The State should ensure independent investigation of the fire and accountability for responsible officials, and undertake urgent safety audits of fire-prevention and emergency-preparedness infrastructure across public health facilities, particularly those serving vulnerable patients.

L. LAW AND ORDER: MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN CIVILIAN AFFAIRS

The federal Ministry of Interior approved the deployment of an estimated 300–450 Pakistan Army personnel in Rawalpindi for six months to assist local police, invoking Article 245 of the Constitution, which can curtail the jurisdiction of the High Courts over related matters. The deployment drew criticism from politicians and legal experts, who argued it was made without parliamentary debate and could normalise military involvement in ordinary civilian policing.

A student protest at a university campus in Islamabad, sparked by the suspension of a department head over harassment and corruption allegations, turned violent when a serving army officer intervened, leading to physical altercations and shots fired into the air; police stated they would pursue action against the officer under the Army Act.

The Punjab Chief Minister halted the proposed Control of Habitual Offenders and Anti-Social Behaviour Bill 2026 pending reconsideration, amid concerns that preventive-detention style legislation of this kind has historically granted police broad discretion to detain individuals without a specific criminal charge.

ASSESSMENT

Any use of Article 245 or comparable emergency provisions should be subject to parliamentary oversight and judicial review, and preventive-detention legislation should include clear safeguards against arbitrary detention.

M. DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

In Lower Dir district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Election Commission of Pakistan reported that approximately 61 per cent of men are registered to vote against 48 per cent of women, prompting a fresh voter-registration drive. Activists cited entrenched conservative social norms, reluctance among some families to share women's personal data on official documents, and limited political-party interest in courting female voters as structural barriers to closing the gap.

ASSESSMENT

Electoral authorities should pursue targeted, sustained outreach to close gender gaps in voter registration, particularly in socially conservative regions, and engage political parties on outreach to women voters.

N. AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

A Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) fact-finding mission found that unrest in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), which grew out of 2023 protests over electricity and flour prices led by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), deepened after talks on a 38-point October 2025 agreement broke down in May 2026. The AJK government banned JAAC under anti-terrorism law on 5 June and launched a crackdown, including a reward for information on JAAC leader Shoukat Nawaz Mir, who was reportedly arrested on 30 June without being formally produced before a court.

Authorities reported 38 security personnel killed and 742 injured since June, but HRCP could not obtain comparably verified figures on civilian casualties, in part because its mission could not access Rawalakot, one of the worst-affected areas. The mission found at least 157 people — activists, journalists and residents — placed on the “Fourth Schedule,” a watch-list under anti-terrorism law that imposes movement and reporting restrictions without a criminal conviction. A prolonged internet and mobile shutdown disrupted banking, healthcare, education and commerce, particularly around Rawalakot, and elections were held in a phased format for the first time in AJK’s history amid boycotts and security concerns.

ASSESSMENT

Authorities should conduct an independent, impartial investigation into all deaths and alleged abuses since June 2026, review anti-terrorism law provisions including Fourth Schedule listings, restore proportionate communications access, and pursue inclusive political dialogue rather than further coercive measures.

2. Overall Assessment

The cases reviewed in August 2026 point to recurring structural weaknesses across Pakistan’s human rights landscape: continued difficulty distinguishing documented from undocumented Afghan residents amid a large-scale deportation drive; persistent impunity for mob violence and blasphemy-linked killings notwithstanding a reported decline in new case registrations; a documented network allegedly exploiting blasphemy law for extortion; civilian harm in conflict-affected areas that remains difficult to verify independently; a widening set of fair-trial concerns, including the expanding jurisdiction of military courts over civilians; a sustained and, in the assessment of advocacy groups, worsening pattern of gender-based violence and honour killings; weak oversight of religious seminaries and online spaces where children are exploited; an unresolved allegation of custodial torture and death implicating police; growing use of cybercrime and defamation law against journalists; a fatal institutional-safety failure at a flagship public hospital; increasing normalisation of military involvement in civilian policing; structural gender gaps in political participation; and deepening, only partially documented unrest in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. International interlocutors, including the EU Delegation to Pakistan, identified several of these issues — enforced disappearances, misuse of blasphemy law, military trials of civilians and press freedom — as central to Pakistan’s continued eligibility for GSP+ trade preferences. Positive judicial and administrative interventions during the month, including the Lahore High Court’s ruling on compromise and bail in honour-killing cases and the Supreme Court’s handling of the Noor Mukadam case, show that remedies are possible; their impact will depend on independence, prompt implementation, transparent reporting and protection from retaliation.

3. Priority Recommendations

To the Government of Pakistan

1. Afghan nationals: Ensure individualised, transparent identity verification before deportation; prevent refoulement of persons eligible for international protection; safeguard family unity, including for mixed Pakistani-Afghan households; and maintain access to education for Afghan students pending resolution of visa status.
2. Blasphemy provisions: Establish an independent judicial inquiry into networks alleged to fabricate blasphemy accusations for extortion; ensure protection of accused persons, their families and the judiciary from mob and online pressure; and sustain the reported decline in new case filings through transparent, accountable enforcement.

- 3. Civilian protection and accountability:** Ensure independent investigation of civilian casualties in KP and Balochistan and of enforced disappearances, custodial deaths and torture allegations; disclose the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared; and hold perpetrators, including state actors, accountable.
- 4. Women and children:** Enforce the non-compoundable status of honour killing in practice; adopt a coordinated, adequately resourced national strategy against gender-based violence and femicide, including a case-tracking register; strengthen oversight of madrassas and residential child-care institutions; and ensure child-sensitive procedures in online and offline exploitation cases.
- 5. Fair trial and civil liberties:** Review the expanding jurisdiction of military courts over civilians against international fair-trial standards; safeguard judicial independence in appointments to the Federal Constitutional Court; amend or repeal provisions of PECA and related laws used to restrict legitimate journalism; and ensure any use of Article 245 or comparable emergency powers is subject to parliamentary and judicial oversight.
- 6. Institutional safety:** Conduct an independent investigation into the PIMS nursery fire and undertake safety audits of public health facilities;
- 7. Azad Jammu and Kashmir:** : Establish an independent, impartial investigation into deaths and rights violations in Azad Jammu and Kashmir since June 2026, alongside a review of Fourth Schedule and anti-terrorism law provisions.