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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.

[29 May 2023]

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



Human Rights Violations against Sindhi People in Pakistan

This statement is prepared to report human rights violations against Sindhi people in Pakistan. Most of the human rights violations are aimed at killing the diversity of religions, languages, and cultures in Pakistan in favour of Islam and the Urdu language, which is hypothesised as the only Muslim language of the subcontinent and used as a tool to spread fundamentalist version of Islam.

Forced Conversions:

Minority communities which are part of Sindhi population have been forcibly converted to Islam with support of Pakistani army. We hereby report very recent incident in this case.

A Hindu woman and her six children, including teenage daughters, ‘converted’ to Islam on the day they were reported missing to the police by her husband, according to a certificate of conversion issued by a seminary.

The husband, R. M., came to know about the conversion nine days after his wife R., 36; daughters M., 17, P., 15, and P., 13; and sons A., 10, J. R., 7, and G., 4, went missing on Sunday, May 7, 2023.

R. M. informed the community about the disappearance of his wife and children next day, May 8, after spending the night trying to find them. The Meghwar community and R. M. finally learnt about the “conversion” when they received a copy of the conversion certificate issued by Jamia Binoria Aalamia, a well-known seminary in Karachi.

The certificate was issued by the New Muslim Foundation department of the Jamia Binoria Aalamia and it said R. and her six children had converted to Islam “of their free will” on May 7.

The certificate listed the Hindu and Muslim names of the ‘converts’ and provided the birth dates of the children. It said R. had been renamed R., while M. had become F.. P. was now M. N., P. was N.. A. had been renamed as U., J. R. as A., and G. as Z..

Other members of the M. family tried to find R. and her children but in vain. The certificate from the New Muslim Foundation of Jamia Binoria Aalamia did not give any clue about the whereabouts of the women and children.

An introduction on the seminary’s website says the New Muslim Foundation is founded for the aid of newly converted Muslim families. Facilities including food, residence, employment, medical and other are provided free. Hundreds of individuals and families are converted after getting assurance of this support.

The organisations like “New Muslim Foundation” are funded by Pakistani secret agencies to not only convert Sindhi people belonging to minority religions to Islam but also force them to abandon their native Sindhi language in favour of Urdu whom they consider the only Muslim language within Pakistan.

Illegal Immigration:

Pakistani agencies are also involved in helping the illegal immigrants settle in Karachi the port city of Sindh, by wrongfully issuing national identity cards to them. These illegal immigrants are coming from Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. They are involved in street crimes. Here is the list of some of the street crimes committed by illegal immigrants in Karachi in 2022.

On December 15, Bilal - a final-year student of petroleum engineering at NED University, was killed by the snatchers while he was sitting at a tea shop on University Road. The fatal gunshots came when he resisted the robbery bid.

Another incident took place when 41-year-old man Zeeshan Afzal Khan was shot dead by armed men for blocking a mugging attempt in Gulistan-e-Johar, Block-14 on September 2.

Before these incidents, 30-year-old Ammar, an employee of a local pharmaceutical company, was killed while he was heading to work by three armed gunmen.

Sindh government requested Director General Rangers Major General Azhar Waqas to speed up intelligence-based operations across the province and to put the illegal immigrants involved in crimes behind bars and deport them subsequently, but no action is taken since then.

Pakistani agencies including Rangers are involved in settling illegal immigrants in Sindh province. They are on mission to turn local Sindhi population into minority.

Forced Emigration:

Since the birth of Pakistan Sindhi Hindus are being forced to emigrate to India and elsewhere. Before Pakistan Sindhi Hindus constituted one-third of Sindh's population. Now they are less than 10%. This is done through different tactics. One tactic is already mentioned above i.e., forced religious conversion. Other tactics are kidnapping Sindhi Hindus for ransom, charging Sindhi Hindus with blasphemy laws and discrimination against them in jobs etc. However, most common crime against them is kidnapping their minor girls and forcing them to marry Muslim adults. Few such recent examples are listed here.

On September 24, 2022, A 14-year-old girl named M. M. was abducted from Nasarpur and another girl was kidnapped while returning home in Mirpurkhas town. In the same town, a Hindu man named Ravi Kurmi alleged his wife Rakhi was kidnapped and later showed up after she allegedly converted to Islam and married a Muslim man.

In June 2022, a teenage Hindu girl K. K. testified before court that she was forcibly converted to Islam and married a Muslim man. The incident took place three months after three Hindu girls named Satran Oad, Kaveeta Bheel and Anita Bheel also met the same fate.

On March 21, 2022, a Hindu girl named Pooja Kumari was shot dead outside her home in Sukkur after she refused to marry a Muslim man.

On October 14 2022, Hina Kolhi, a resident of Khosa Colony of Tando Ghulam Ali, was kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam, and married to one Mustafa Dahokar.

In the same month, Salma Meghwar was abducted at gunpoint from her house in Dhandhari, near Thatta by Shahid Unar, 14-year-old Sh. M. was kidnapped in Islamkot and Two girls called Kareena and Sakeena were abducted in Saleh Pat, Sukkur.

Ch. M., the 15-year-old Hindu girl was kidnapped, rescued by the police, then given back to her captor by a court decision. The court refused to accept her birth certificate showing her as minor and chose to conduct her biological examination by unknown doctors.

On February 15, 2023, A 17-year-old minor Hindu girl a resident of Naukot, Mirpur Khas district was kidnapped and converted to Islam. The police refused to register the FIR against the culprits.

In October 2022, a parliamentary committee on religious affairs in Pakistan rejected a bill against forced religious conversions on the pretext of unfavourable environment as stated by the religious affairs minister Noorul Haq Qadri.

The parliamentary committee of religious affairs on the behest of Pakistani army involved in crimes against religious minorities in Sindh with the aim to create conditions that force them to emigrate to India and other countries.

Census Manipulation:

In 2023 census was conducted in Pakistan. Previous census was done in 2017. The new census is done so early on behest of the MQM – a terrorist organisation and ally of Pakistani army, supported by Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza who wants to turn Sindhi people into minority in Sindh.

MQM is rewarded this census by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Government in return for their vote of confidence in National Assembly. In the census they were allowed to manipulate figures at their will. Now the result of census is announced where population of capital of Sindh Karachi (Full of illegal immigrants) has been shown as one-third of Sindh's population. However, Karachi's population is only one-fifth of the total population of Sindh at the maximum.

Census manipulation is the part of the conspiracy to turn Sindhi population into minority in Sindh and General Sahir Shamshad Mirza is leading figure in this conspiracy.

Forced conversions, illegal immigration, forced emigration, and census manipulation are the four modes of conspiracy hatched by Pakistani agencies to kill the cultural diversity of Sindh in favour of fundamentalist Islam and its lingual tool Urdu and turn the Sindhi speaking population into minority in their own motherland.

In view of the above human rights of Sindhi people can only be ensured if following steps are taken.

- The results of recent census in Pakistan should be declared null and void.
- Forcibly ejected Sindhi Hindus from Sindh should be given right to return to their motherland.
- Census should be conducted in Sindh after return of Sindhi Hindus.
- Sindhis should be given right of self-determination in a referendum.

1. <https://www.nation.com.pk/23-Dec-2022/rising-crime-sindh-govt-decides-to-expel-illegal-immigrants>