



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 August 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-seventh session

9 September–9 October 2024

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 Tumuku Development and Cultural Union (TACUDU), 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.

[10 August 2024]

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



Arbitrary Detention of Ali Wazir, Former Member of Parliament and Prominent Leader of Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement Violates International Law

TUMUKU Development and Cultural Union (TACUDU), monitor the situation of Pashtun ethnic minority in Pakistan for the last several years and inform the United Nations Human Rights Council on grave human rights violations committed against this ethnic group. We have received information that Ali Wazir, a prominent Pashtun Human rights Defender and member of PTM is once again arrested by Pakistani authorities on trumped up charges to stifle his freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly. We condemn his illegal arrest subsequent arbitrary detention and urgently call for his immediate and unconditional release, who has been unlawfully detained by Pakistani authorities on false charges.

On August 3, 2024, Ali Wazir, a senior member of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), was arrested by Islamabad police outside the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad. This arrest is part of a broader crackdown on PTM members following the death of another leading figure of PTM and renowned Pashtun Revolutionary Poet, Gilaman Wazir. The founder and leader of PTM, Manzoor Ahmad Pashteen stated on social media that Ali Wazir, a strong advocate for human rights and the Pashtun community, was taken into custody without any justification, while those responsible for violence against Pashtuns continue to move freely.

Ali Wazir and his family played a crucial role in the fight against global terrorism in South Waziristan region of Ex-FATA now merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has been a hotbed for militancy and global terrorism. His commitment is deeply personal; he has lost 18 of his family members including his father, brothers, and other close relatives to militant violence and terrorism. Despite ongoing threats to his life from the Pakistani establishment, Wazir continues to stand against extremism and terrorism in the region.

He is a fearless advocate for the rights of the Pashtun people. His tireless efforts to promote peace, justice, and the rule of law have earned him respect both locally and internationally. Despite his peaceful activism, Ali Wazir was arbitrarily arrested by the Pakistani police, a clear violation of his fundamental human rights and international legal standards.

In addition to Ali Wazir's arrest, several other PTM members, including Noorullah Tareen, Noor Pacha, and Malik Majid are currently facing severe threats from the Pakistani authorities. These members have reported receiving death threats as part of an ongoing campaign to intimidate and suppress the voice of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement. The timing of these threats is particularly alarming, as they come just before the scheduled "Pashtun National Assembly" on October 11, 2024 where Manzoor Pashteen is expected to announce a critical decision in response to Pakistan's oppressive policies and genocide of Pashtun ethnic minority in Pakistan. The systematic targeting of PTM members highlights the lengths to which the authorities are willing to go to stifle dissent and silence those advocating for the rights and dignity of the Pashtun people. This escalation of threats and intimidation tactics is an egregious violation of human rights and an affront to democratic principles.

The International community must urgently condemn these actions and pressure the Pakistani government to cease its repressive measures against PTM members. Ensuring the safety and freedom of these activities is paramount, as they seek to convene peacefully and voice their grievances against the state's brutal policies. The attempt to prevent a mass meeting (Grand Jirga) through threats of violence underscores the need for global solidarity with the pashtun Tahafuz Movement and a renewed commitment to protecting fundamental rights of all individuals to assemble and express their views without fear of retribution.

Our Concerns:

1. Unlawful Detention: Ali Wazir has been detained on false trumped up charges, in clear contravention of legal principles and due process. This arbitrary arrest undermines the rule of law and the principles of justice.

2. **Human Rights Violations:** The detention of Ali Wazir is a blatant violation of his human rights, including his right to freedom of expression, assembly, and association, as enshrined in both the Pakistani Constitution and international law and human rights conventions to which Pakistan is a signatory.
3. **Silencing Dissent:** This arrest appears to be an attempt to silence a vocal advocate for human rights and justice. Ali Wazir's peaceful activism should be celebrated, not punished.

Our Demands:

4. **Immediate Release:** We demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ali Wazir from detention. His continued incarceration is unjust and unacceptable.
5. **Adherence to Legal Standards:** We urge the Pakistani authorities to adhere to their national and international obligations by ensuring that all individuals are treated fairly and justly, and that any actions taken against them are grounded in law and due process.
6. **Protection of Human Rights:** We call on the international community to stand in solidarity with Ali Wazir and to pressure the Pakistani government to respect human rights and the rule of law.

Ali Wazir's detention on trumped up charges is a grave violation of his fundamental rights, including those protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 9, 19, and 20), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Articles 9, 14, 19, 21, and 22), and the Convention Against Torture (Articles 2 and 16). His arrest not only undermines justice but also sets a dangerous precedent for the suppression of peaceful activism.

Ali Wazir's detention on false charges is an affront to justice and human rights. We demand his immediate release and the cessation of any actions aimed at silencing peaceful activists. International Community must hold the Pakistani government accountable and protect the basic fundamental rights of Pashtuns to express themselves without any fear of harassment, intimidation, threats and torture.
