



Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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Committee against Torture

List of issues in relation to the second periodic report of Pakistan*

Issues identified for follow-up in the previous concluding observations

1. In its previous concluding observations,¹ the Committee requested the State Party to provide information on the follow-up to its recommendations on prosecutions of police officers found guilty of acts of torture, the establishment and operation of effective police oversight bodies and measures to ensure that all allegations of torture or ill-treatment are promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated by a fully independent civilian body (paras. 7 (c), 9 (c) and 11 (a), respectively). Noting that a reply concerning the information sought by the Committee was provided on 31 May 2019,² and with reference to the letter dated 9 October 2019 from the Committee's Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations,³ the Committee considers that the recommendations included in paragraphs 7 (c) and 9 (c) have not been implemented. The Committee regrets that the State Party did not address the Committee's concerns and recommendations in its response regarding paragraph 11 (a). These points are covered in paragraphs 18 and 20 of the present document.

Articles 1 and 4

2. With reference to the information provided in paragraph 28 of the State Party's periodic report,⁴ and in the light of the passing of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022,⁵ please provide information regarding measures taken to ensure the consistency of the Act with the State Party's obligations under the Convention, including by ensuring that it contains a definition of torture that includes severe mental pain or suffering, in line with the Convention and the jurisprudence of the State Party's domestic courts, such as in *Saif v. the Federation of Pakistan*, and that offences of torture under the Act are subject to punishment commensurate with their grave nature. Taking into account that the penalties for the offences proscribed under the Act are established in the Penal Code, please inform the Committee as to whether acts amounting to torture may be subject to any statute of limitations. Please also provide information on any steps taken to ensure that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture; that, similarly, an order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture; and that the law provides for appropriate sanctions in cases in which a superior officer knew or should have known that torture was being committed or was likely

* Adopted by the Committee at its eighty-second session (7 April–2 May 2025).

¹ CAT/C/PAK/CO/1, para. 46.

² CAT/C/PAK/CO/1/Add.1.

³ Available at

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCAT%2FFUL%2FPAK%2F37422&Lang=en.

⁴ CAT/C/PAK/2.

⁵ CCPR/C/PAK/CO/2, paras. 28 and 29.



to be committed by his or her subordinates and failed to take all necessary and reasonable measures to prevent or repress it and to submit the matter to the competent authorities for investigation and prosecution. Please further inform the Committee of any cases in which the provisions of the Convention, or the decisions of the Committee, have been referred to in decisions of domestic courts.

Article 2⁶

3. With reference to paragraph 56 of the State Party's periodic report, in which it is noted that articles 10 and 10-A of the Constitution provide for fundamental legal safeguards to be applied during arrest and detention and enshrine the right to a fair trial, please provide the Committee with additional information regarding efforts to ensure that such safeguards are applied in practice. In this regard, please also:

(a) Inform the Committee about the extent to which all detained individuals have the right to request and receive an examination by an independent medical doctor free of charge, or by a medical doctor of their own choice, in full confidentiality, promptly upon deprivation of liberty;

(b) Inform the Committee as to whether all detentions are recorded promptly in a comprehensive central detention register that is accurate and accessible to detainees' family members. If so, please inform the Committee as to the type of information recorded;

(c) Inform the Committee about the extent to which the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020, or any other legislation, provides for free legal aid for all insolvent individuals accused of crimes;

(d) In the light of the information provided in paragraph 109 of the State Party's periodic report stating that the Jirga and Panchayat parallel justice systems were declared illegal, null and void by the Supreme Court in 2019, inform the Committee about the extent to which any tribal or customary justice systems currently operate in the State Party; if any are currently operating, please describe the measures in place to ensure all fundamental legal safeguards are provided in matters that they address;

(e) Inform the Committee about the extent to which the State Party has taken measures to implement the recommendations of the National Commission for Human Rights contained in its "Report on allegations of torture and sexual abuse of prisoners in connection with May 9th protests".

4. The Committee notes the accreditation with A status of the National Commission for Human Rights by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in April 2024, along with the information provided in paragraph 61 of the State Party's periodic report indicating increases in budgetary allocations for the institution between 2018 and 2020. In this connection, please provide updated information regarding the human and financial resources available to the National Commission for Human Rights during the period under review, on an annual basis, along with information on the number of regional offices it maintains, if any. Please also provide information regarding efforts undertaken to ensure the broad consultation and participation of civil society organizations in the application, screening, selection and appointment of commissioners. In the light of the information provided in paragraph 62 of the State Party's periodic report regarding the expiry of the tenure of the members of the Commission in 2019 and the appointment of a new Chair and members in 2021, please inform the Committee of any legislative amendments adopted or envisaged

⁶ The issues raised under article 2 could also touch on issues raised under other articles of the Convention, including article 16. As stated in paragraph 3 of the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2007) on the implementation of article 2, the obligation to prevent torture in article 2 is wide-ranging. The obligations to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under article 16 (1) are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The obligation to prevent ill-treatment in practice overlaps and is largely congruent with the obligation to prevent torture. In practice, the definitional threshold between ill-treatment and torture is often not clear. See also section V of the same general comment.

to ensure timely appointments and prevent prolonged vacancies in the leadership of the institution.

5. Noting the extensive information provided by the State Party in its periodic report regarding gender-based violence,⁷ please provide updated statistics, disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age and ethnicity, regarding gender-based violence in the State Party, including statistics on complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and the sentences handed down, along with information on steps taken to operationalize courts established to hear cases of gender-based violence and data on the number of cases they have heard to date. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations,⁸ please provide specific disaggregated data regarding the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions regarding "honour crimes", including with regard to the sentences handed down and accountability measures implemented when such crimes are perpetrated by members of the victims' family. Please also confirm whether information on complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in relation to such crimes is collected by the Gender Crime Cell within the National Police Bureau.

6. The Committee takes note of the information provided in paragraphs 72 to 74 of the State Party's periodic report, including with regard to the bill concerning enforced or involuntary disappearances. Please update the Committee on related progress, including with regard to the current status of the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021, which proposed additions to the Penal Code to criminalize enforced disappearance.⁹ More generally, please inform the Committee on how enforced disappearance is currently criminalized and prosecuted in the State Party. Noting that the statistics provided regarding the work of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances extend only to 2021, please also provide updated and disaggregated data on the number of cases brought to the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances during the reporting period, along with information on their outcomes. In cases where enforced disappearance was held by the Commission to have occurred, did any criminal investigations or prosecutions take place? If so, please provide details.

Article 3

7. Please describe the measures taken during the period under review to ensure that no person is returned to a country where there are substantial grounds for believing that he or she would be in danger of being subjected to torture. Please indicate the procedure followed when a person invokes the right not to be subjected to such a danger. Please also indicate whether individuals facing expulsion, return or extradition are informed that they have the right to seek asylum and to appeal a deportation decision. If so, please indicate whether such an appeal has automatic suspensive effect. Please inform the Committee of any initiatives in the State Party to introduce a legislative and institutional framework governing the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers and to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto. Please update the Committee on new measures taken by the State Party to combat statelessness, including any steps taken towards the ratification of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

8. Please provide information, disaggregated by sex, age and country of origin, on the number of persons who were returned, extradited or expelled from the State Party during the period under review, including updated information relating to the implementation of the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan. Please provide details of the grounds on which those persons were sent back and the list of the countries to which individuals were returned. Please provide updated information on the type of appeals mechanisms that may exist, any appeals that have been made and the outcome of those appeals. Please provide updated statistical data, disaggregated by the sex, country of origin and age group of persons seeking asylum, on: (a) the number of asylum applications registered; (b) the number of asylum-seeker certificates issued; and (c) the number of successful applications for asylum or other forms

⁷ CAT/C/PAK/2, paras. 102–121.

⁸ CAT/C/PAK/CO/1, para. 30.

⁹ CCPR/C/PAK/RQ/2, para. 77.

of humanitarian protection during the reporting period, specifying, where appropriate, the number of persons whose applications were accepted because they had been tortured or might be tortured if returned to their country of origin. Please also inform the Committee of any plans in place to extend the validity of Proof of Registration cards in the State Party. Please indicate the number of refoulements, extraditions and expulsions carried out by the State Party during the reporting period on the basis of the acceptance of diplomatic assurances or the equivalent thereof, as well as any instances in which the State Party offered such diplomatic assurances or guarantees. What are the contents of any such assurances or guarantees, whether given or received, and what measures have been taken in such cases with regard to subsequent monitoring?

Articles 5–9

9. Please provide updated information on any legislation or measures that have been adopted to implement articles 5 to 9 of the Convention. Please inform the Committee of any extradition agreements concluded with other States Parties during the reporting period and indicate whether the offences referred to in article 4 of the Convention are included as extraditable offences in such agreements. Please also describe the measures taken by the State Party to comply with the obligation to extradite or prosecute (*aut dedere aut judicare*), and any cases where this principle has been applied. Please clarify the mutual judicial assistance treaties or agreements that the State Party has entered into with other entities, such as countries, international tribunals or other international institutions, and whether such treaties or agreements have led in practice to the transfer of any evidence, or the provision of any other forms of assistance, in connection with investigations or prosecutions concerning torture and ill-treatment. Please provide examples.

Article 10

10. Taking note of the information provided in paragraphs 15 to 26 of the State Party's periodic report,¹⁰ which indicates that courses on the principles of human rights and the prohibition of torture have been included in the syllabuses of basic police training courses, please inform the Committee as to whether the State Party has developed a methodology to assess the effectiveness and impact of training and educational programmes in reducing cases of torture, ill-treatment and excessive use of force, and, if so, please provide information on the methodology. Please provide information regarding the percentage of law enforcement and prison officers currently undertaking their duties who have completed their basic training. With regard to information provided in paragraphs 16 to 18 of the State Party's periodic report, relating to the training of judges on awareness of and access to forensic evidence, please inform the Committee as to whether judges and prosecutors are trained in detecting and documenting physical and psychological sequelae of torture, and whether such programmes include specific training on the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), as revised. Please inform the Committee as to whether forensic doctors and medical personnel dealing with detained persons are also trained on the Istanbul Protocol, and in the detection and documentation of the physical and psychological sequelae of torture more generally.

11. Please update the Committee on the measures taken to give effect to the provisions of article 10 (2) of the Convention, including whether clear instructions concerning the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment are included in the relevant regulations, and in particular those intended for officials in contact with persons deprived of their liberty. Please also indicate the extent to which specific information on non-coercive investigation techniques is included in the training of public officials involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, including information as to whether the State Party has considered incorporating the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information-Gathering (the Méndez Principles) into such training.

¹⁰ See also [CCPR/C/PAK/RQ/2](#), para. 83.

Article 11

12. Please update the Committee on the procedures in place for ensuring compliance with article 11 of the Convention. Please provide updated information on any interrogation rules, instructions, methods and practices, and arrangements for custody, and indicate the frequency with which they are reviewed. Taking into account the information provided in paragraphs 83 and 84 of the State Party's periodic report,¹¹ the Committee notes an increase in the prison population of the State Party of over 33 per cent during the reporting period. In that regard, please provide information regarding steps taken to reduce and prevent prison overcrowding in the State Party, particularly in the Punjab and Sindh Provinces, with special reference to steps taken to implement effective alternatives to detention and non-custodial measures, along with their prevalence. Please inform the Committee about the number of individuals currently on probation in the State Party, along with information on the number of probation officers dealing with their cases. Please update the Committee on the implementation of the Punjab Probation and Parole Service Act, 2019, the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Service Act, 2019¹² and the status of amendments to the Good Conduct Prisoners' Probationary Release Act, 1926.¹³ According to information received, a sharp increase in the prison population was observed subsequent to the passing, in 2022, of amendments to the Control of Narcotic Substances Act, 1997. Please provide comments on this correlation, including whether the State Party considers this to be an element contributing to increased overcrowding. Please provide updated and disaggregated data on the current prison population, specifying the place of detention, sex, age group (minor/adult) and ethnicity or nationality of detainees, along with information on the average length of pretrial detention in the State Party. In the light of information indicating that approximately 66 per cent of the total female prison population consists of pretrial detainees, please inform the Committee of any steps taken to implement the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules). Please inform the Committee of steps taken to ensure that places of deprivation of liberty, including applicable detention regimes, are adapted to respond to the specific needs of groups such as women and children in conflict with the law, including as this relates to the best interests of the child and the right to access appropriate healthcare. Please indicate the measures taken to ensure, in all places of detention, that men are separated from women, pretrial detainees from convicted prisoners, and adults from minors.

13. Please provide updated information on the disciplinary system in places of detention and indicate the extent to which there are procedures in place that guarantee due process and an independent body that reviews the disciplinary measures taken. The Committee takes note of the information provided in paragraph 100 of the State Party's periodic report that no person is placed under solitary confinement in prisons. Given, however, information before the Committee stating that solitary confinement continues to be used in practice under the blasphemy laws to ensure the safety and protection of accused persons,¹⁴ information contained in the report entitled "Prisons reform in Pakistan", produced by the Commission constituted by Islamabad High Court in relation to *Hussain v. Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad, etc.* (Writ Petition 4037 of 2019), which states that, at the time of writing of that report, 74 individuals were under solitary confinement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and concerns raised by special procedure mandate holders, for instance in the case of Junaid Hafeez,¹⁵ please clarify the current policy regarding the use of solitary confinement and the application of means of restraint to prisoners. In particular, please provide information: (a) on the maximum duration, in law and in practice, of solitary confinement; (b) on the measures in place to ensure that solitary confinement is not imposed on children in conflict with the law or on persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities; and (c) on whether a register of disciplinary penalties is kept in all places of detention and on any measure in place to monitor the proportionality of penalties. With reference to paragraph 101 of the State Party's

¹¹ See also CCPR/C/PAK/RQ/2, para. 87.

¹² CAT/C/PAK/2, para. 88.

¹³ Ibid., para. 86.

¹⁴ CCPR/C/PAK/RQ/2, para. 93.

¹⁵ See PAK 3/2022. Available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TmSearch/TMDocuments>.

periodic report, please update the Committee as to whether fetters are still in use in the State Party. If so, are any efforts under way to prohibit their use? Please provide disaggregated data on the number of instances in which corporal punishment was administered as a disciplinary sanction in places of deprivation of liberty during the reporting period, along with information as to whether medical examinations were carried out before and after its administration and on the procedures followed.

14. In the light of the decision of the Court in *Hussain v. Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad, etc.*, please indicate the steps that have been taken to ensure adequate living conditions, hygiene and sanitation in all places of detention, including to provide sufficient and appropriate food, a minimum number of educational and leisure activities and adequate medical assistance and access to medicines in prison. With reference to the above-mentioned report of the Commission constituted by the Islamabad High Court, please provide information regarding measures taken to implement the recommendations of the report. In particular, please provide the Committee with updates on measures taken to ensure the conformity of conditions of detention with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), and indicate whether there are areas that still require additional efforts and if so, which. With reference to paragraph 91 of the State Party's periodic report, please indicate the measures taken to revise the Pakistan Prison Rules, 1978 to bring them into conformity with international standards, and to address the needs of women deprived of their liberty, in particular pregnant women and women with children. Please clarify whether women are guarded by female personnel in all places of detention.

15. Please provide updated information regarding access to healthcare in detention, including on the number of medical staff and their training. With reference to the above-mentioned report of the Commission constituted by Islamabad High Court, please provide information on efforts undertaken to fill vacant posts allocated for medical staff and to equip all prisons with adequate medical and dental equipment. In addition, in the light of information contained in the Commission's report indicating that Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab Provinces have no approved posts for dentists, please inform the Committee of steps taken to ensure adequate dental care for all persons deprived of their liberty. Please provide information regarding the number of individuals in detention living with chronic illnesses or infections, such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and tuberculosis, along with information regarding their long-term treatment and care and the measures in place to prevent the spread of communicable diseases in detention. With reference to the information provided in paragraph 80 of the State Party's periodic report, please provide updated information regarding deaths in custody, including data disaggregated by age, sex and cause of death. Please provide information on the manner in which those deaths were investigated, the results of those investigations and the measures taken to prevent similar cases from occurring in the future. Please indicate whether relatives of the deceased received compensation in any of the cases. Please also inform the Committee as to whether forensic examinations in cases of deaths in custody are carried out by an independent body, along with information regarding any steps taken to incorporate the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death into the State Party's investigatory procedures.

16. Please provide relevant updated information on treatment in psychiatric care in the State Party. In this regard, please provide information regarding any procedures that may result in an individual's involuntary hospitalization, along with procedures for review and appeal of decisions in this regard. Please provide information on the measures in place to provide alternative family- and community-based care options for children deprived of their family environment and for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. Please also inform the Committee of any legislation, policies or procedures in place relating to the use and review of physical and chemical restraints in psychiatric settings. Finally, please provide information on whether individuals can be detained involuntarily in drug rehabilitation centres in the State Party and, if so, please provide detailed information regarding safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, including any procedures for review of detention and release.

17. Please provide updated information regarding the existence of detention monitoring mechanisms in the State Party, along with specific information regarding their independence, the regularity and methodology of their visits, and their mandate, including with regard to

their powers to make recommendations, public reporting and access to places of deprivation of liberty. With reference to the information provided in paragraph 77 of the State Party's periodic report regarding the authorization of officers of the Punjab Human Rights and Minority Affairs Department to conduct unannounced visits to prisons, please inform the Committee as to whether similar authorizations exist in other provinces of the State Party, and whether visits to other places of deprivation of liberty, such as police stations, psychiatric and social care institutions and immigration detention centres, are envisaged. In the light of the mandate of the National Commission for Human Rights to conduct visits to places of deprivation of liberty across the State Party, please provide information on the human and financial resources provided to the Commission to accomplish this mandate specifically, along with information as to whether dedicated provincial units with adequate training exist to carry out this task. With reference to the Committee's previous concerns and recommendations,¹⁶ please inform the Committee of any efforts made to operationalize and strengthen the independence of jail committees and to publish their reports.

Articles 12 and 13

18. The Committee takes note of information provided by the State Party in paragraph 4 of its report on follow-up to the Committee's previous concluding observations,¹⁷ along with the information provided in paragraphs 190 and 195 to 197 of the State Party's periodic report,¹⁸ regarding punishment of law enforcement officers for different violations, including torture, illegal custody/confinement and misbehaviour. However, the Committee regrets that the figures provided in the two reports are the same, indicating, *prima facie*, that no additional punishments were handed down in the intervening three-year period. In this regard, please provide the Committee with any further clarification, and provide updated, disaggregated information on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions relating to acts of torture or ill-treatment recorded in the period under review, along with information on the sentences handed down in cases where alleged perpetrators were found to be guilty. Considering the high number of complaints and administrative disciplinary sanctions handed down to police officers for different violations including torture, illegal custody/confinement and misbehaviour, as reported by the State Party,¹⁹ please inform the Committee of the reasons for the comparatively low number of criminal complaints received and cases instituted. Please include information on whether there are any procedures in place to refer cases for criminal prosecution when, through an administrative investigation, torture or ill-treatment is found to have occurred, and the extent to which any prosecutions under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, have taken place to date. If any such prosecutions have taken place, please inform the Committee of their specific outcomes.

19. In the light of the information provided in paragraphs 81 and 82 of the State Party's periodic report, please provide updated information regarding the existence of independent and accessible complaints mechanisms for prisoners to submit complaints of torture and abuse. Please also provide information regarding the steps taken to ensure that article 11 of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022, criminalizing mala fide complaints, does not have a deterrent effect on the submission of complaints by victims of torture and ill-treatment and is not used against complainants as a method of reprisal.

20. Please provide updated information on steps taken to ensure that bodies conducting criminal investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment have no institutional or hierarchical relationship with the alleged perpetrators.²⁰ Please describe the extent to which the Federal Investigation Agency can conduct suo motu investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022 and whether it has competence to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment committed by military personnel. Please inform the Committee of the existence or status of operational rules under the Act that clearly define the roles and responsibilities of

¹⁶ CAT/C/PAK/CO/1, paras. 26 and 27.

¹⁷ CAT/C/PAK/CO/1/Add.1.

¹⁸ See also CRC/C/PAK/6-7, para. 106 and CCPR/C/PAK/RQ/2, p. 15.

¹⁹ CAT/C/PAK/2, paras. 190 and 195–197.

²⁰ See CCPR/C/PAK/RQ/2, paras. 85 and 86.

stakeholders, including information on the status and contents of the standard operating procedures, introduced by the Federal Investigation Agency in December 2024, for the implementation of the Act. Please also inform the Committee of the role of District Standing Medical Boards in the investigation of allegations of torture. Do such boards contain forensic experts? Are members trained in the use of the Istanbul Protocol, and is the Protocol used in practice?

21. With reference to the Committee's previous recommendations,²¹ please provide updated information with regard to initiatives to revise the Actions (in Aid of Civil Power) Regulation, 2011 and the 2015 amendment to the Army Act during the reporting period to eliminate retrospective immunity for members of the State Party's armed forces. Please also inform the Committee as to whether military personnel may be tried in civil courts for acts of torture and similar offences. Have any members of the military, intelligence services or paramilitary forces been prosecuted and punished for acts amounting to torture, as defined by the Convention? If so, please provide details.

Article 14

22. Please provide updated information on redress and compensation measures, including means of rehabilitation, ordered by the courts or other State bodies and on the extent to which such redress and compensation were actually provided to victims of torture or their families during the reporting period. Please include the number of requests for compensation that were made, the number granted and the amounts ordered and actually provided in each case. Please update the Committee on any ongoing reparation programmes, including for the treatment of trauma and for other forms of rehabilitation, provided to victims of torture and ill-treatment, and on the material, human and budgetary resources allocated for their effective functioning. Please also inform the Committee as to whether the incorporation of provisions regarding redress, including on compensation and to ensure as full a means of rehabilitation as possible, into the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022 is envisaged.

Article 15

23. Please inform the Committee of any steps taken by the State Party to repeal Section 21-H of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, which permits the admissibility of confessions made in police custody.

Article 16

24. Please provide information regarding the existence of hate crime legislation in the State Party, along with information on any measures taken to ensure that all hate crimes are properly and promptly investigated and prosecuted.

25. With reference to the information provided in paragraphs 187 to 198 of the State Party's periodic report, including on the Sindh Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2016, and the Balochistan Child Protection Act, 2016, please provide updated information regarding legislative initiatives to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including in prisons and as a criminal sentence. In particular, please update the Committee on the status of the Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, 2021 and the Punjab Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, 2020. Please also provide updated, detailed statistics, disaggregated by, inter alia, age and sex, regarding the means and methods of administering corporal punishment, the number and types of criminal offences for which corporal punishment may be imposed, the number of persons criminally sentenced to corporal punishment, and the number of persons to whom corporal punishment was administered subsequent to their conviction during the reporting period. In particular, with reference to the previous concluding observations of the Committee,²² please provide information as to whether any sentences of whipping, amputation or stoning have been handed down or carried out during the reporting period, along with information regarding efforts to repeal laws that provide for such sentences.

²¹ CAT/C/PAK/CO/1, para. 11.

²² Ibid., para. 38.

26. With reference to information before the Committee regarding recent efforts by the State Party to review and narrow existing legislation providing for capital punishment,²³ please provide updated information on the number and types of offences that carry the death penalty, the number of persons sentenced to death, the number of those executed, and the number of sentences commuted during the reporting period. Has the State Party considered the abolition of mandatory capital sentencing and the establishment of a de facto or de jure moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition? In that connection, please also include information regarding discussions relating to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

27. Noting the information provided in paragraphs 67 and 68 of the State Party's periodic report regarding the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021, please provide information regarding steps taken to operationalize the Commission for the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals. Does the Act extend to human rights defenders who do not work in the media? In the light of the Commission's mandate²⁴ to investigate complaints of threats, acts of torture, killings, violent attacks, arbitrary arrest, arbitrary detention and harassment of journalists and media professionals and to provide compensation, please provide information on the number of complaints submitted to, investigations by and decisions of the Commission, along with information on the amounts of compensation awarded. Please inform the Committee as to whether there exists a referral mechanism by which complaints considered by the Commission and found to be justified may be transferred for criminal investigation. Please update the Committee concerning any investigations into the alleged abductions by State agents of human rights defenders, including Waqas Goraya, Aasim Saeed, Salman Haider and Ahmad Raza Naseer, and the alleged enforced disappearance of Zeenat Shahzadi, as raised by the Committee in its previous concluding observations.²⁵

Other issues

28. Please describe how the State Party has ensured that counter-terrorism measures are compatible with all its obligations under international law, especially the Convention. With reference to information provided in paragraphs 49 to 53 of the State Party's periodic report, to the previous concluding observations of the Committee²⁶ and to the concerns raised by several special procedure mandate holders,²⁷ please provide updated information on the steps taken to provide all fundamental legal safeguards to individuals accused of terrorism-related offences, including any steps taken to revise the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, which allows security agencies and civil armed forces to detain any person suspected of committing an offence under the Act for up to three months without review or the possibility of lodging a habeas petition, and allows the detention without trial of up to one year of any person suspected of being involved in the activities of a proscribed organization. Please also inform the Committee of any initiatives to amend the Actions (in Aid of Civil Power) Regulation, 2011, which provides for detention by the armed forces without warrants or judicial supervision and indefinite detention in military internment centres, to bring it into conformity with the Convention, in line with the Committee's previous recommendations.²⁸ Regarding the expiry of military courts established to try civilians accused of terrorism-related offences,²⁹ and taking into account the Supreme Court ruling of October 2023 declaring the military trial of civilians unconstitutional and contrary to international human rights standards, as referenced by the Human Rights Committee in its concluding observations,³⁰ please clarify whether civilians may still be tried in military courts under any circumstances,

²³ See [CCPR/C/PAK/2](#), paras. 63 and 65; and [CCPR/C/PAK/RQ/2](#), para. 74.

²⁴ See [E/C.12/PAK/2](#), para. 20.

²⁵ [CAT/C/PAK/CO/1](#), para. 22. See also PAK 6/2024, PAK 9/2023, PAK 4/2021, PAK 3/2021, PAK 13/2020, PAK 12/2020, PAK 11/2020, PAK 8/2020, PAK 6/2019, PAK 4/2019, PAK 4/2018 and PAK 5/2017.

²⁶ [CAT/C/PAK/CO/1](#), para. 12.

²⁷ See, for example, PAK 8/2024 and PAK 4/2021. See also PAK 11/2020 and PAK 8/2020.

²⁸ [CAT/C/PAK/CO/1](#), para 13 (c).

²⁹ See [CCPR/C/PAK/2](#), para. 53.

³⁰ [CCPR/C/PAK/CO/2](#), para. 42.

whether juveniles may be similarly tried before such courts, and whether any civilian cases remain under examination by military courts, and, if so, how many.
