



UN: PAKISTAN SHOULD HALT FORCED CONVERSIONS, MARRIAGES OF CHRISTIAN AND HINDU GIRLS

A 16-page letter sent by a group of United Nations Special Rapporteurs to the government of Pakistan on the issue of forced conversions to Islam has now been made public. It is signed by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls. The Working Group on discrimination against women and girls also signed to express its support. In the letter, the UN experts express alarm over the rise in abductions, forced marriages, and forced conversions of underage girls and young women belonging to religious minority groups in Pakistan. It cites a lack of access to justice for victims and their families and the court system's enabling of these offenses through the acceptance of fraudulent evidence. The experts have urged the Pakistani government to take immediate steps to prevent such acts, investigate ongoing and future cases in line with domestic legislation and international human rights commitments, and hold perpetrators to account.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/01/pakistan-un-experts-urge-action-coerced-religious-conversions-forced-and>

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIAN'S DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT

Parliamentary Question: Demolition of homes in a Christian colony in Islamabad Co-chair of the APPG for Pakistani Minorities Lord David Alton asked Lord Ahmad, Minister of State about the UK government's response to the demolition of homes in Nawaz Sharif Colony in Islamabad, Pakistan by Pakistani government contractors

<https://questionsstatements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/hl3796>



All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Pakistani Minorities

Newsletter January 23'

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY PAKISTAN EMPLOYEE THREATENED TO USE BLASPHEMY CHARGES



Co-chair of the Pakistan People's Party and former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari condemned an incident in which a female Christian security guard was threatened with allegations of blasphemy over a parking-related dispute at Karachi Airport. Video footage of the incident, which has gone viral on social media, shows the woman being threatened by a man because of her Christian faith and has received widespread condemnation from human rights activists. It is further evidence of the weaponising of blasphemy laws in Pakistan, which are used to harass and abuse members of religious minority groups.

<https://propakistani.pk/2023/01/09/caa-employee-gets-fired-for-threatening-christian-officer-with-blasphemy-allegation/>

THE LOSING SIDE



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prkbRgyNxfs>

A movie that highlights the issue of forced religious conversion in Sindh, has received two awards at the Cannes World Film Festival. It tells the story of four women who have fallen victim to forced conversion and marriage due to their poverty, illiteracy, and marginalized community status. It also highlights the challenges associated with seeking justice in Pakistan where legal systems often favour perpetrators of such offences. The movie was awarded in the categories of Best Social Justice Feature Film and Best Human Rights Film.

@APPGPakMin

facebook.com/appgpakistanminorities

appgpakistanminorities@gmail.com

www.appgpforpakminorities.com