

MUS Press Release

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Inhumane Extra Judicial Abductions by Law Enforcement in Karachi, Pakistan

We are extremely concerned about the abduction of young men from the Shia community in Pakistan, particularly from Karachi.

These abductions are being carried out by non-uniformed law enforcement officials who are forcefully entering into people's houses without any warrants and using intimidating tactics to put the people under pressure. This has left their families in discomfort and shock. It is unacceptable for a citizen of Pakistan to be treated in this way.

In last month, we have seen an increase, and 40 people have gone missing; the majority of the people are from Karachi. They have either been abducted from their house, or their way back to their homes.

Over the last few years, hundreds of people have gone missing, there is no sign where they are, no one knows. They have not been given the rights to defend themselves in courts, and in addition to that their families have been threatened not to speak up, all of these practices are inhumane, immoral, unethical and unconstitutional according to all legal systems.

Last year when similar abductions took place, people took to the street in Pakistan and many other countries, protested and asking the authorities to be held to account for their practices, as a result of the international pressure the individuals were released. We subsequently learnt that they were electrocuted, psychologically and physically abused, beaten and tortured in many ways, as a result of which many of them are still suffering from terminal illnesses.

Pakistan is a signatory to the international declaration of human rights, which upholds & protects the right to life and honour of all citizens. It is unfortunate that the opposite is happening in Pakistan.

The way the people have been kidnapped is against all laws and ethics; it is either a vote of no confidence of the judicial system in Pakistan or a calculated way of intimidating the Shia Muslims in Pakistan and to silence them as part of a broader foreign or national policy. Law enforcement agencies have a responsibility to protect all citizens of the state and this is a clear violation of all norms.

Our demand is to the government of Pakistan: if the abducted individuals are accused of any crime, bring them to the courts, show evidence and let the courts decide, otherwise we will back an international level of peaceful campaigning and protest till the government and law enforcement agencies take the appropriate action.

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