



## 5.10. Legal remedies against human rights violations and support mechanisms for the victims and family members

The constitutional framework provides for remedies for victims of human rights violations, mainly through petitions under Article 199<sup>1180</sup> which grants High Courts jurisdiction to order an official to 'refrain from doing anything he is not permitted by law' and jurisdiction to decide on whether a person 'is not being held in custody without lawful authority or in an unlawful manner'.<sup>1181</sup> However, it was noted in early 2026 that a judiciary that may have been weakened by recent reforms could be 'less able to provide effective remedies'.<sup>1182</sup>

Lodging a First Information Report (FIR) has been described as the initial step in the investigation of a possible violation/criminal offence.<sup>1183</sup> The CrCP, 1898, stipulates in section 154 that 'information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence',<sup>1184</sup> when given orally to a police officer, 'shall be reduced to writing by him or under his direction, and be read over to the informant'. Subsequently, the FIR 'shall be signed by the person giving it' and recorded by the police officer.<sup>1185</sup> The informant lodging a FIR may be any individual who has knowledge of the commission of the cognizable offence and does not necessarily have to be the victim.<sup>1186</sup> In cases where police refuse to register a FIR, victims can, amongst others, take legal action by submitting a written complaint to the Superintendent of Police (SP) or refer to a magistrate to seek directions on registering the FIR.<sup>1187</sup> The law further provides for penal and civil remedies for individuals against whom a false FIR has been filed.<sup>1188</sup> No information could be found on legal mechanisms of support for family members of victims of human rights violations. For detailed information on human rights violations in Pakistan, see section [6. Treatment of certain profiles and groups of population.](#)

- [1180](#)

Ahmed, M.S., The rule of law and human rights in Pakistan, International Bar Association, 28 January 2026, [url](#)

- [1181](#)

Pakistan, Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (as amended up to 2025), 1973, [url](#), Art. 199(1)(a)(i), (b)(i)

- [1182](#)

Ahmed, M.S., The rule of law and human rights in Pakistan, International Bar Association, 28 January 2026, [url](#)

- [1183](#)

Canada, IRB, Pakistan: First Information Reports (FIRs) [...] (2012–December 2025), PAK202450.E, 8 January 2026, [url](#); Shabir Shah Law Associates, Registration of FIR in Pakistan — Rights, Procedure, and Legal Remedies, November 2025, [url](#)

- [1184](#)

‘Cognizable offences’ are offences where police are authorised to make arrests without a warrant. Shabir Shah Law Associates, Registration of FIR in Pakistan — Rights, Procedure, and Legal Remedies, November 2025, [url](#)

- [1185](#)

Pakistan, Code of Criminal Procedure (as amended up to 2025), 1898, [url](#), section 154

- [1186](#)

Canada, IRB, Pakistan: First Information Reports (FIRs) [...] (2012–December 2025), PAK202450.E, 8 January 2026, [url](#); Shabir Shah Law Associates, Registration of FIR in Pakistan — Rights, Procedure, and Legal Remedies, November 2025, [url](#)

- [1187](#)

Shabir Shah Law Associates, Registration of FIR in Pakistan — Rights, Procedure, and Legal Remedies, November 2025, [url](#)

- [1188](#)

Hussain, N. et al., Legal Remedies for Victims of False FIRs in Pakistan, 2026, [url](#), pp. 221-222