



6. Treatment of certain profiles and groups of population

6.1. Overview of human rights situation

Despite the June 2024 Pakistan National Assembly resolution that ‘strongly urge[d] the Federal and Provincial governments to ensure the safety and security of all [...] citizens including religious minorities and other segments of the society’,¹¹⁸⁹ human rights violations continued in the country in 2025.¹¹⁹⁰ By 25 March 2026, ‘widespread human rights abuses’ continued in Pakistan, including enforced disappearances, torture, and the misuse of blasphemy laws, while the military maintained significant influence over state institutions and suppressed dissent.¹¹⁹¹ Sources reported that the State has fallen short in protecting minorities from violence.¹¹⁹² For more background information, see section 6 of the [EUAA COI Country Report on Pakistan \(December 2024\)](#).

While the state of civic space in Pakistan continued to remain ‘repressed’,¹¹⁹³ anti-terrorism, and sedition laws led to restrictions on peaceful assembly and to detention of protestors.¹¹⁹⁴ These measures also affected human rights defenders, activists, political opponents, and ethnic and religious minorities,¹¹⁹⁵ who were subjected to enforced disappearances (commonly referred to as missing persons in Pakistan¹¹⁹⁶), intimidation, excessive force, and arbitrary arrests.¹¹⁹⁷ According to Human Rights Watch, ‘the space for free expression and dissent in Pakistan under the [Prime Minister Shehbaz] Sharif government is shrinking at an alarming pace’.¹¹⁹⁸

Enforced disappearances persisted in 2025¹¹⁹⁹ with the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (COIED) reporting 10 618 cases as of August 2025¹²⁰⁰ compared to 10 000 cases until September 2024 as reported in the previous EUAA COI report Pakistan - Country Focus (December 2024). Meanwhile, ACLED recorded 960 cases of abduction and enforced disappearance between 1 November 2024 and 24 April 2026 in Pakistan, predominantly in Balochistan (778), followed by KP (95), Sindh (69), and Punjab (12), Federal Capital Islamabad (5), and Gilgit-Baltistan (1).¹²⁰¹ Enforced disappearance primarily affect Baloch, Pashtun and Sindhi people,¹²⁰² in a context where Punjabis dominate the Pakistani army and remain the most influential ethnic group in matters of security, politics¹²⁰³ and the economy.¹²⁰⁴

While the COIED claimed having resolved 103 cases of enforced disappearances by August 2025 by bringing the total cases addressed to 8 873,¹²⁰⁵ Amnesty International notes that it has failed to provide effective remedies to victims and their families.¹²⁰⁶ Pakistan’s legal framework, including the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997, Actions (in Aid of Civil Power) Regulation

2011, Army Act Amendments 2023, and Official Secrets Act Amendments 2023, reportedly provides 'legal cover' for arbitrary detention and secret imprisonment,[1207](#) while the 2025 Amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act expanded preventive detention powers, allowing individuals to be detained for up to 90 days without charge or trial.[1208](#)

Between 1 November 2024 and 24 April 2026, ACLED recorded 104 incidents of mob violence across the country with the majority in Sindh, followed by Punjab and KP.[1209](#)

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