

## Enforced Disappeared Pakistan-2021



## End of the Year Report by DHR 2021

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## End of the Year Report by DHR 2021

### **History**

Enforced Disappearances, a phenomena experienced worldwide, where state forcefully abducts individuals without fair trial and due process of law. The issue of enforced disappearances stretches towards Pakistan in Asia. A major change in the world dynamics happened after the event of 9/11, the aftermath of that was seen in the related events of war on terror. In the same context, Pakistani authorities conducted raids, operations and illegal abductions in the country. In more than 80 countries around the world about tens and thousands of people have been enforced disappeared due to some conflict, freedom of speech, political dissent and on the basis of war on terror. The real victims are the relatives that are left behind in fear of what is coming next. Some are often abused and some of them risk their lives to find out the truth about their disappeared loved ones.

In the beginning enforced disappearance was regarding war on terror, later the heinous crime of enforced disappeared was used as a tool to suppress freedom voices, bloggers, journalists, human rights defenders and nationalists. Now, anyone who talks openly or criticizes the governing policies is endangered to become a victim of enforced disappearance. Amid global pandemic the situation of human rights suffered in Pakistan and throughout the world. The cases of enforced disappearances also faced delay in justice and impunity continued.

The political instability of a country directly and indirectly impacts our work. Top of the list comes the internal issue of the enforced disappearances. Due to the constant confrontation between the opposition and the governing party, it is difficult to highlight the issue of disappearance and to bring the attention of the media, civil society, and politicians towards it. The road shows, demonstrations and other public events are also restricted by current government policies and fronts.

When the agitation is desired mostly section 144 is imposed in Islamabad, which directs the people not to gather in numbers for any activity. Due to the Covid-19 and rise in Pandemic, the government imposed restrictions on indoor activities as well. The government continues to ignore the issue of enforced disappearance, which is nothing but lack of political commitment & priority. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people continue to “disappear” in Pakistan following their apparent arrest or abduction by or with complicity of the State. The UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearance has described a “culture of entrenched impunity” regarding the practice in Pakistan.

## **Year 2021 “ Hopes & Disappointments”**

Defence of Human Rights every year commits to provide a year of struggle, fight & hope to reunite loved-ones. This year was no less challenging than the previous years, as DHR campaigned, advocate & fought for the cases of enforced disappearances through legal battle, psycho social support of victim families, campaign, lobby & documentation.

### **January to March 2021**

Along with many new cases of enforced disappearances, received by DHR, during the first quarter of 2021 the total number rose to 2805. The heinous act of abduction & picking up people in broad daylight has not stopped. Many of the cases of enforced disappearances which were reported in 2021 were also picked up in the same year. Not more than 3 persons were released from Jan to March 2021, Molana Shalim S/O Noor Alam from KPK was released on 11th Feb 2021. Waseem Waheed S/O Naseem Ahmed from Sindh released on 2nd January 2021 and Faqeer Muhammad S/O Dhani Bux from Sindh was released on 7th Feb 2021.

- **1st January 2021 Webinar : new year & new resolutions regarding the issue of enforced disappearances with experts, lawyers and human rights defenders**

<https://www.facebook.com/DHRPK/videos/1326043741094961>

- **12th January 2021 : Letter to Minister of Prisons**

Defence of Human Rights in collaboration with Law firm Transact has written to the Punjab Minister for Prisons, Mr. Fayaz Chohan, requesting information and medical assistance in the cases of four prisoners in Sahiwal jail & reforms for the remaining prisons.

- **17th & 18th Feb 2021 “Solidarity with Baloch Missing Persons Sit in Protest”**

Defence of Human Rights team showed solidarity with the victim families of the Baloch missing persons, who came all the way from Balochistan in the search for justice.

The victim's families stayed in the camp protest for about a week. The sit-in protest was a continuous pressure on the government and authorities. After a week all top politicians started to come to the sit in protest for solidarity, eventually on 19th Feb 2021, Shireen Mazari gave the message of Imran khan that he will meet the victims, if they call the protest off right now. After that the protest ended. PM Imran Khan met the victim families of enforced disappearances on 19th March 2021. He promised to do whatever he can in his power for the cases of Disappeared.

- **Women’s Day campaign & “Aurat March” participation on 8th March 2021**

The Defence Of Human Rights team became a part of Aurat March, standing in solidarity and in support for the women of the enforced disappeared; the women who have been fighting for the disappeared loved ones for so long!

DHR also did an online campaign by sharing stories of 5 strong women who are fighting for the release of their disappeared loved-ones. Defence of Human Rights pays tribute to those women who have been struggling and fighting to find their disappeared brothers, husbands and fathers.

- **15th March 2021 Meeting with Human Rights Minister**

DHR team did a detailed meeting with Minister of Human Rights, Ms. Shireen Mazari to discuss the issues regarding enforced disappearances and to present the recent disappearance cases to her.

- **17th March 2021 Protest for the two disappeared brothers from Rawalpindi**

Zahid Ameen was disappeared from his house when it was raided by 7-armed and plain clothed men on the 11th of July 2014 at 9 PM. He was with his family and the entire family is an eyewitness to his abduction. The family demanded to know why he was being taken away, and they were told that he was being taken for a small investigation and would return home in two days. For the last 7 years, the family of Zahid continues to disappear.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at 1 AM Sadiq, younger brother of Zahid Ameen was made the victim of enforced disappearance. As his house was raided by uniformed and armed men who came in 3 police vans. The officers came inside the house with force and started an inquiry about Sadiq’s whereabouts from his parents. Meanwhile, Sadiq was sleeping in his room. while they pushed him from his bed and took him away in front of 10 family members, who are an eyewitness to his abduction.

- **20th March 2021 “National Consultative Summit on Enforced Disappearance”**

Defence of Human Rights Pakistan organized a national level consultative summit on the issue of enforced disappearances, the aim of which was to chalk out a strategy to end enforced disappearances in Pakistan. The summit provided an opportunity to evaluate and refine commitments and pledges from key stakeholders.

The summit was moderated by Mrs Amina Masood throughout the four sessions of the event. The introduction and discussion revolving around enforced disappearances was focused on including the views and opinions of the families of the victims,

journalists, activists, politicians, lawyers and human rights experts from different parts of the country. The consultative summit had representation from all provinces and territories of Pakistan. The prominent ones among the speakers were:

- Media Society: *Hamid Mir from Geo News, Matiullah Jan from MJtv, Sabookh Syed from IBC Urdu and Shakeel Turabi from Sabah News*
- Activist Group: *Ammar Ali Jan; member of Haqooq-e-Khalq Movement, Nasrullah Baloch; Vice Chairperson of Voice of Baloch Missing Persons, Sindh Inaam; from Sindh Sabha, Baba Jan from Gilgit Baltistan, Raja Muneer from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Tahira Abdullah from Islamabad and Jalal ud Din Waziristani from Waziristan*
- Legal Society: *Imtiaz Haider; advocate of High Court, Umer Gillani; advocate of the High Courts*
- Political Society: *Farhatullah Babar; member of Pakistan's People Party, Syed Pervaiz Zahoor; on behalf of BNP Mengal Group in Balochistan*

Multiple sessions under following topics were conducted during the summit:

- ❖ Role of media in highlighting the issue of enforced disappearances and problems faced by it in reporting enforced disappearances, including media censorship & curbs on freedom of speech.
- ❖ Role of constitutional courts in tackling with the issue of enforced disappearances, particularly in the context of upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the constitutional rights of citizens
- ❖ Role of executive (Ministry of Human Rights etc.) and legislative (National Assembly, Senate etc.) bodies in resolving the issue of enforced disappearances and promoting accountability of state institutions
- ❖ Role of civil society and human rights defenders in dealing with the issue of enforced disappearances and providing support to the victims

The participants of the summit presented their proposals for complete elimination of enforced disappearances. Copies of the recommendations made at the National Consultative Meeting will be provided to members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, Human Rights Committees, all High Courts, Army Chiefs and Heads of Intelligence Agencies. The main points of the recommendations of the National Consultative Summit are as follows:

1. The State of Pakistan must respect the fundamental rights of citizens as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan, including the right to life and liberty, the right to be treated in accordance with the law, the right to enjoy constitutional safeguards in relation to detention

and torture, and the right to fair trial and due process. It must immediately release all persons who have been subjected to enforced disappearance and have been kept in illegal detention.

2. If any citizen is suspected of being involved in any action or omission which constitutes an offence under the laws of Pakistan, then he should be proceeded against in accordance with the law. It is noted that Pakistan's legal system provides comprehensive legal frameworks for investigation, prosecution and trial of offences and the state has established numerous investigation agencies, courts and jails for the implementation of the same. In the presence of these legal frameworks and institutions, there is absolutely no valid reason or justification for the state to abduct any citizen even if he is suspected of having committed or being involved in the commission of any offence under the laws of Pakistan.
3. The state must end the heinous practice of maintaining secret detention centers and safe houses where the disappeared persons are illegally detained after their abduction. Furthermore, the Government of Pakistan must investigate allegations of torture and killing of disappeared persons in these secret detention centers and must punish those who are responsible for such heinous crimes against the citizens of Pakistan.
4. The Government of Pakistan must provide the families of disappeared persons a basic financial subsistence allowance. Furthermore, the families of disappeared persons and human rights defenders working for ending enforced disappearances should be provided with security and protection.
5. The state must ensure journalistic freedom for freely reporting on issues related to violations of human rights, particularly enforced disappearances in Pakistan. It is noted that such journalistic freedom is guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan and is absolutely essential for ensuring the enforcement of fundamental rights of the citizens of Pakistan as guaranteed in the Constitution.
6. The Government of Pakistan should, without any further delay, sign and ratify the United Nations Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
7. The Parliament must enact a comprehensive law for addressing the issue of enforced disappearances in Pakistan whereby the practice of enforced disappearance should be criminalized and mechanisms should be provided for prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators of enforced disappearances, regardless of their status or the state agency they are associated with.
8. It is noted that Pakistan's human rights record will be scrutinized under the Universal Periodic Review of 2023. Pakistan has been promising to pass a law against enforced

disappearances during the previous reviews for the past many years. However, no such law has been passed till date. Therefore the Parliament must enact a law so that Pakistan's position in the 2023 UPR can be improved.

9. It is noted that the Federal Cabinet has constituted a Committee vide its decision No. 659/35/2020 dated 08.09.20 and subsequent Notification No. F.No.2/26/2020-Lit-I dated 14.09.2020 to 'deliberate on the reasons behind enforced disappearances and give recommendations on how to control these incidents.' The Committee should hold its deliberations in an expedient manner and should, in the process, grant audience to the various stakeholders from the civil society and the general public. It is noted that any deliberations, and any understanding of the issue of enforced disappearances reached in consequence thereof, will be incomplete without including the voices of not only the victims and their families, but also other stakeholders who have been a part of the struggle against enforced disappearances in Pakistan
10. The Government of Pakistan must dissolve the present Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (COIED) as it has failed to fulfil its mandate and has been unable to provide justice to the victims and end the impunity of the perpetrators of enforced disappearances in Pakistan. It is noted that the lack of seriousness of the government in dealing with the issue of enforced disappearances can be gauged from the fact that it has failed to appoint a full time head of the Commission for the past several years. The present head of the Commission has been performing his duties on a part time basis while also simultaneously serving as Chairman NAB.
11. The present Commission should be replaced with a new Commission in light of the recommendations contained in the comprehensive report<sup>1</sup> issued in this regard by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in 2020. The Government should hold real and meaningful consultations with all concerned stakeholders, including victims' groups and human rights organizations, before forming the new Commission. Furthermore, human rights defenders should be given representation in the new Commission. The new Commission must be empowered to ensure that all allegations regarding enforced disappearances are promptly, thoroughly and independently investigated and perpetrators of enforced disappearances are held accountable.
12. The report of the first commission on enforced disappearances set up by the Government of Pakistan in 2011 should be made public.

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13. In light of the poor performance of the present Commission, the Supreme Court of Pakistan should resume hearing of cases of enforced disappearances as per its constitutional mandate, instead of relying on the Commission.
14. Constitutional courts should stop treating the present Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances as an adequate alternative remedy, since the Commission has consistently proven itself to be an ineffective forum which has promoted, rather than ending, the impunity of the perpetrators and has failed to provide justice to disappeared persons and their families.
15. The superior judiciary, as the guardian of the fundamental rights of citizens, must be thoroughly sensitized on the issue of enforced disappearances and should deal with cases of enforced disappearances proactively and on a priority basis. It is suggested that such exercise may be carried out through the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) which is headed by the hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan.
16. Superior courts must ensure that production orders issued by them in cases of enforced disappearances are properly and effectively implemented and mechanisms in this regard must be developed on an urgent basis. Furthermore, fines must be imposed consistently on officials who either: (i) fail to properly investigate cases of enforced disappearances, (ii) fail to make proper efforts to trace the whereabouts of missing persons, or (iii) refuse to produce before the courts persons who are in their unlawful custody.
17. The federal and provincial governments must implement the recent landmark verdicts passed by various High Courts in relation to the abolition of illegal detention centers, the provision of compensation to the families of disappeared persons and the imposition of fines on those responsible for ineffective investigation in cases of enforced disappearances. Furthermore, the relevant governments should withdraw their appeals filed against the said verdicts.
18. All political parties of Pakistan should play their due role in ending enforced disappearances in Pakistan through criminalization of enforced disappearances. Political parties must hold consultations in this regard with various stakeholders particularly the civil society and families of the disappeared.
19. A joint platform should be established which would include human rights activists, advocacy groups and victims' groups from all territories of Pakistan, for developing a strategic plan and a way forward for fighting against the practice of enforced disappearances in Pakistan.

20. The civil society should carry out comprehensive research on the issue of enforced disappearances in Pakistan and develop mechanisms for documentation of cases of enforced disappearances and maintaining databases in accordance with international standards.
21. The civil society should work towards internationalizing the issue of enforced disappearances in Pakistan and for this purpose liaison with international organizations like the UN, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, AFAD, etc.

### **April to June 2021**

The cases of Enforced Disappearance were reported in this quarter as well. The Government showed its concern and mentioned tabling a law to criminalize Enforced Disappearances during these months. No new cases were released or traced in the internment center or any jail during this time. 40 victim families of enforced disappeared persons in KPK set up a day and night camp outside the KPK provincial assembly starting from 7th June to 20th July 2021.

- ***Defence of Human Rights*** commemorated “International Week of the Disappeared” starting from 24th May till 31st May 2021. The very last week of May, families of the disappeared and human rights activists around the world join hands in the activities to commemorate International Week of the Disappeared (IWD).

This week is observed to show solidarity with the victim families of enforced disappearances. Most of the families have been struggling to find the truth and justice for decades now. This week shall be a reminder for all those families that they do not stand alone in this struggle to find their disappeared loved-ones.

This year also became extremely challenging for the victim families and human rights defenders because of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. The issue of enforced disappearances along with internment centers (illegal detention centers), extra judicial killings and other violations of human rights persists even in such challenging times as well.

The victim families are facing numerous issues along with economic, social and psychological devastation. The lockdown in the entire country has left people unemployed and economically unstable. It is important to note that, last year, Pakistan’s Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (COIOED) temporarily suspended its work in the wake of COVID-19. It resumed its work after many months but the process of the hearing is very slow, which leaves many cases unsolved. This has put tremendous psychological pressure on the families who are not able to seek answers to their questions.

List of activities conducted by DHR on the occasion of “International Week of the Disappeared” IWD 2021

- ❖ DHR launched a Press Statement with stats regarding the recent updates of enforced disappearances in the country in both english & urdu.
- ❖ DHR conducted a 5 day Campaign to ratify the convention by doing online posts of the top 5 articles of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance & also translated them in Urdu (local) language.
- ❖ DHR conducted a Poetry & art Competition on topics such as ( human rights & disappearances in Pakistan) It was in both Urdu and English language. The top 6 were featured on our social media platforms. The top 3 were rewarded prize money as well. **30 young individuals participated in the competition**
- ❖ DHR made a video which included messages from the Chairperson & other victim families. **3 victim families took part in this activity.**
- ❖ DHR conducted a Flash Protest on 27th May 2021, in the restricted Red Zone of Islamabad which houses important government offices such as Parliament House and Supreme Court. To make this protest a success the participants had to reach the protest venue discreetly via public transport. **30 members from different victim families & 5 members of DHR took part in this activity**

The online campaign included video messages from victim families, campaign for the ratification of the convention & enactment of a domestic law for criminalization of enforced disappearances in Pakistan. The art & poetry competition encouraged the youth to be a part of this cause and play an active role in raising their voice against injustices. DHR Pakistan has so far registered 2808 verified cases of enforced disappearance till May 2021.

There are many cases of disappearance pending in the five high courts of the country. A glance at the cases pending in Islamabad High Court may show a glimpse of judicial response to the ED situation. Presently there are 53 cases of enforced disappearance going on in Islamabad High Court; in majority of these cases the court has given the production order for the disappeared person but compliance to these orders by the government is zero. On the other hand the Supreme Court which had been very active in ED cases has traced back its steps.

For example in 2018 Supreme Court dismissed and transferred 90 cases to the Commission of Inquiry which still stand unresolved. The Commission of Inquiry for Enforced Disappearances (CoIoED) has totally failed to address the impunity surrounding enforced disappearance leaving victims and their loved ones without any redress & relief. The Commission has also failed in holding any single perpetrator accountable during the last 11 years of its tenure.

- 24 to 30 May 2021 “International Week of the Disappeared” 2021 IWD activities
- 2-Jun-2021 Islamabad Meeting with Human Rights Minister Madam Shireen Mazari
- 7-Jun-2021 "Criminal Laws (Amendment) bill, 2021” was tabled

After a long and tireless struggle of victims of enforced disappearances, the present Government of Pakistan agreed to criminalize enforced disappearance. A bill for this purpose was presented in the National Assembly on 7th June 2021 named *Criminal Laws Amendment Act 2021*.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1623007/important-bills>

While the initial draft of the proposed legislation makes the offence of enforced disappearances punishable with imprisonment up to 10 years of term, opposition parties and human rights groups have reservations on the lack of legal mechanism in the proposed bill to hold perpetrators accountable. There are serious concerns that the proposed bill is not according to the international standards and the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). Pakistan is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) since 2008. ICCPR upholds the inherent dignity of each individual and promotes conditions within states to allow the enjoyment of civil and political rights. It is now the duty of the State of Pakistan to ensure the dignity and protection forwarded by ICCPR and ICPPED, which are clearly flouted by the practice of enforced disappearances.

We hoped, despite shortcomings contained in the proposed bill, that it would criminalize enforced disappearances and would be a first step to put an end to this heinous crime. As per rules the bill went to the Standing Committee of Interior headed by Raja Khurram Shehzad Nawaz for further deliberations before being presented to the Parliament for voting. However, the Standing Committee recommended changes to the original bill and added such new clauses in the proposed bill which on one hand shows the growing fear among the perpetrators of the pressure of the human rights community and on the other hand intend to intimidate victims of enforced disappearance to the last degree. If the bill is passed with the new clauses added, no one in Pakistan will ever dare to launch a complaint against enforced disappearance of their loved one or raise their voice.

One of the clauses added by the Standing Committee will insert a new section 514(1) in Pakistan Penal Code which reads:

**The allegation or complaint in respect of Enforced Disappearance etc.**

***“Whoever files a complaint or gives information that proves to be false he or another person has been subjected to Enforced, Forcible or Involuntary Disappearance, or an attempt has been made in this regard, he shall be guilty of an offence punishable up to five years imprisonment and fine up to Rupees One hundred thousand.”***

This amendment restricts the possibility to lodge a complaint with regards to enforced disappearance, a clear conflict can be seen with the fundamental right stipulated through Article 10 of the Constitution of Pakistan which protects against illegal deprivation of life and liberty.

This proposed section violates Article 17 (3) of the ICCPED. Article 17 requires an official register to be maintained by the State, containing all the relevant information with regards to the victims of enforced disappearance. If a restriction on filing a complaint is imposed, it will deter the families of the victim to register their complaints from fear of imprisonment, this will ultimately result in a failure to maintain any sort of official record on behalf of the State.

Further, it is in clear violation of Article 13 of the United Nations Declaration to Protect All Persons from Enforced Disappearance which in a nutshell stipulates that each state will provide maximum support to the victims of ED to launch a complaint, investigate a matter of ED even if there is no formal complaint and “*No measure shall be taken to curtail or impede the investigation*”.

The second amendment in the proposed bill adds section 514(2) in Penal Code which reads as under:

***“Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, in respect of Enforced, Forcible or Involuntary Disappearance, no officer or functionary of State, including the departmental head, or head of an institution shall be charged with the offence if there is no evidence available to implicate such officer or functionary,” reads subsection (1) of Section 514.***

This is in clear violation with the judgement provided by the Islamabad High Court (2018 CLC 1858) which stipulated that the Chief Commissioner and the Inspector General of Police shall be accountable for the lack of response of the criminal justice system according to the required standards in general and cases alleging acts of enforced disappearance. The same judgement went on to deliberate that the onus shall be on the public functionaries to dispel any impression regarding involvement of the State or its instrumentalities in an alleged abduction, to dispel this onus, the functionaries are to establish prompt, responsive and effective investigations.

Further, this amendment violates many Articles of the UN Declaration as well as ICCPED, namely, Article 14 and 18 of the Declaration and Article 6 of the Convention. The framers of the UN Convention, while fully cognizant of the role of superior authorities in the practice of enforced disappearance have clearly and very intelligently emphasized the need to penalize the authorities who not only commit an act of enforced disappearance but fail to stop such acts under their command. Article 7 of the ICCPR binds all state parties to protect their citizens from torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, the obligations

include not just prohibitions of torture but active measures to prevent its use. The above mentioned proposed section 514(2) seeks to protect the state functionaries from any claims of enforced disappearance, therefore conflicting with the requirement of active preventive measures of the ICCPR which stem from Article 7.

The Criminal Laws (Amendment) 2021 bill is yet to be voted for passage in the National Assembly. The recent two amendments by the Committee are in clear contradiction to the purpose of the bill which is to criminalize the act of enforced disappearance through the adoption of the ICPPED. The menace of enforced disappearances has afflicted Pakistani citizens for almost two decades now. The intimidating clauses in the new draft of the bill shows that the political government is powerless against the perpetrators of the enforced disappearance and is unable to provide relief to the victims, but rather wants to declare them criminal through this bill.

- 8-Jun-2021 Peshawar Protest with the victim families of KPK
- 16-Jun-2021 Islamabad Visit to national assembly to lobby & campaign with Parliamentarians
- 24-June-2021 Islamabad Lobby and Meeting with MNA's in Parliament house regarding the recent update of Criminalizing enforced disappearances

### **July - August 2021**

There were more cases of enforced disappearances reported in this quarter as compared to the previous one. DHR received a total of 17 cases of enforced disappearances during the third quarter of 2021. Many of the cases of enforced disappearances which were reported in 2021 were not picked up at the same time but are reported later on.

The government presented an amendment act in “criminal laws” in Pakistan regarding criminalizing enforced disappearances on 7th June 2021 by Human Rights Minister Madam Shireen Mazari. This bill was then presented to the interior committee of the National Assembly which had its meetings on 15th July & 26th August, and made various changes to

the bill which were not acceptable by the victims & HRD's. The changes that were made are repressive & against the international standards.

DHR conducted campaigns, lobby meetings, legal battles and traditional day activities to support the victims' families. Through the campaign a total of 4 cases of enforced disappearances registered by DHR were released during this quarter. MUHAMMAD AHMAD KHAN S/O MUHAMMAD YOUNUS KHAN Disappearance Date :10-09-20201 and Released Date :16-09-2021. ABDUL RAZAQ S/O MUHAMMAD ISHAQ Disappearance Date: 07-09-2021 and Released Date: 11-09-2021. ZAKHEAL S/O Pan jan Disappearance Date: 06-07-2021 and Released Date : 20-07-2021. Lastly, Sulman Farooq Chaudhary S/o Muhammad Shareef Chaudhary Disappearance Date: 04-10-2019 and Released Date : 30-09-2021.

- **Meeting with the head of the state PM Imran Khan & Human Rights Minister on 14th July 2021**

On 14th July 2021, Amina Masood Janjua, Chairperson Defense of Human Rights, had a successful meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan in which Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari and Prime Minister Special Assistant were also present. The meeting focused on the illegal practice of enforced disappearances and human rights violations in the country. During the meeting, Amina Masood Janjua presented a list to Imran Khan in the form of a book, which contained the names of all the missing persons registered in the Defense of Human Rights, along with the research book of Defense of Human Rights namely "Grief Untold".

Amina Masood Janjua said that by the year 2021, 2800 cases of enforced disappearance have been registered in DHR, out of which 483 have been released, 203 have been traced and 77 people have died and 1354 cases are still missing with no information is given and no whereabouts are known about them. The missing include 336 from Punjab, 778 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 111 from Sindh, 23 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and 49 from the capital Islamabad.

The highlights of the meeting between Ms. Amina Masood Janjua, Shireen Mazari, and Prime Minister Imran Khan are as followed:

1. Foremost, Amina Janjua emphasized on the disappearance of her husband, Masood Janjua, who has been missing for the past 16 years. Imran Khan said that he was well aware of their heroic struggle and had been participating in their sit-ins and demonstrations, and further gave her reassurance about raising his voice against enforced disappearances.
2. Amina Janjua talked about the ineffectiveness of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances which has been working since 2011 but has not achieved any significant success. The commission has failed to achieve much in the last 10 years. Thousands of cases have been sent

to the Commission but most of them fail to get any proper trial or hearing even after the production order.

3. The Prime Minister was informed about the sit-in of 40 families in Peshawar that has been going on for a month but no government official has taken any action nor has there been any hearing to date. The Prime Minister called the Chief Minister of KPK and asked him to pay heed to the problems of the aggrieved families.
4. Amina Janjua further briefed the Prime Minister about the standing of Pakistan in terms of human rights records. 194 countries will inquire Pakistan in the Universal Periodic Review next year regarding the inability to ratify the Convention against Torture and the delay in approving the latest Criminal Law.
5. Moreover, Amina Janjua congratulated the Prime Minister on introducing the latest Criminal Amendment bill on the prevention of enforced disappearances but showed concerns about the bill not being approved yet. Shireen Mazari further added that the bill is nowhere to be found now after the Prime Minister gave his clearance on the bill. It was further requested that when the bill is presented for discussion in the Parliamentary Committee, Amina Masood Janjua and other human rights activists should also be invited to be a part of the discussion.
6. Prime Minister Imran Khan was further informed about the cases registered in Islamabad High Court that have a good standing but are still stuck. Amina Janjua further demanded to rehabilitate and compensate the families of the disappeared.
7. Prime Minister Imran Khan was apprised of the problems facing the internment centers. He reassured that this problem will be resolved after the missing people have been traced.
8. Lastly, it was demanded that the case of Zakhil and Sadiq Amin and all the other recent cases that are currently missing, be resolved immediately.

Amina Janjua considered this long-awaited meeting a success and believes that Imran Khan is serving the country with true sincerity and his sincere efforts will surely bring back Masood Janjua, along with all the other enforced disappeared victims and the curse of enforced disappearance will be forever removed from the beloved homeland.

#### ● **Provincial Consultation Meeting in KPK , Peshawar on 28th July 2021**

Defence of Human Rights Pakistan organized a provincial consultative summit on the issue of enforced disappearances in Kpk, Peshawar, the aim of which was to chalk out a strategy to end enforced disappearances in the region. The summit provided an opportunity to evaluate and refine commitments and pledges from key stakeholders.

This summit provided different stakeholders:

1. A platform to learn from different area experts on how to tackle with the issue of enforced disappearances
2. A chance to meet, network & connect with the relevant stakeholders of the field
3. An opportunity to be a part and represent their area in a provincial level consultative exercise for identifying a way forward with regards to the issue of enforced disappearances in Pakistan



The consultation was moderated by Mrs. Amina Masood Janjua throughout the different topics of discussion of the event. The introduction and discussion revolving around enforced disappearances were focused on including the views and opinions of the families of the victims, journalists, activists, politicians, lawyers, and human rights experts from different parts of the country. The consultative meeting had representation from all different areas of KPK, including representation from ex-FATA & PATA. The prominent ones among the speakers were:

- **Media Society:** *Sohraab & Irfaan from Mashriq newspaper, Waseem Ahmed, dawn news*
- **Activist Group:** *Jalal ud Din Waziristani from Waziristan, Ramzan, Fida Jan from End violence against women organization, Dr. Sarfaraz, ANP, Abu Sufiyan Mesud (Qabil Tahufuz Movement Pakistan)*
- **Legal Society:** *Sajeed Afridi; Advocate of Peshawar High Court, Javed Ibrahim Paracha, ex MNA and advocate, Naveed Paracha Advocate of Peshawar High Court, Ali Azeem, Advocate Peshawar High Court, Palwasha, Advocate Peshawar High Court*
- **Four stories of enforced disappearance were narrated by families of the victims (Aftab Ali Shah, Zahid, Muhabat Shah, Sabeeha Begum)**

Multiple topics which revolved around the issue of enforced disappearance in the KPK region were under discussion:

- ❖ The legal status of Internment centers, DRC, Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances and Action in Aid to Civil Power Regulation Ordinance in KPK
- ❖ Role of Courts in tackling the issue of enforced disappearances, particularly in the context of upholding the rule of law, approval of the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act 2021, and safeguarding the constitutional rights of citizens in the province.
- ❖ Role of provincial legislative bodies like provincial assemblies in resolving the issue of enforced disappearances and promoting accountability of state institutions in the province.
- ❖ Role of civil society and human rights defenders in dealing with the economic, social, and emotional issues of enforced disappearances and providing support to the victims in the province.

The participants of the consultation presented their proposals for the complete elimination of enforced disappearances. The main points of the recommendations of the Provincial Consultative Summit in Kpk, Peshawar are as follows:

1. To create awareness among people that they should stand against the issue of enforced disappearance collectively.

2. The Supreme Court of Pakistan should have a bench who would do volunteer work and take up cases of Enforced Disappearances.
3. Civil society should carry out comprehensive research on the issue of enforced disappearances in Pakistan and develop mechanisms for documentation of cases of enforced disappearances and maintaining databases in accordance with international standards.
4. Constitutional courts should stop treating the present Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances as an adequate alternative remedy, since the Commission has consistently proven itself to be an ineffective forum which has promoted, rather than ending, the impunity of the perpetrators and has failed to provide justice to disappeared persons and their families.
5. The Government of Pakistan must provide the families of disappeared persons a basic financial subsistence allowance. Furthermore, the families of disappeared persons and human rights defenders working for ending enforced disappearances should be provided with security and protection
6. The provincial Courts should make a bench & hear the cases of enforced disappearances on top priority. To dedicate a day separately to the cases of enforced disappearances in KPK High Courts.
7. The victim families have no facilities to connect to the victims detained in the internment centers. The family should be provided with facilities like video link in times of Covid & SOP's in centers.
8. To create a panel of lawyers ( female and male both) to address social issues in KPK.
9. Centralized system should be introduced in provincial Courts. The lawyers demand that everything needs to be open and clear to the public. High courts have funds and have access to everything. Accountability should be there in Courts and Judges regarding the cases of enforced disappearances.
10. There should be a system of archives of data in the cases of enforced disappearances. All legal orders, presidents should be stored in it.
11. To have a consolidated list of enforced disappeared persons in Pakistan. Which will have information and links with nadra and police. That list should be sent to all the authorities and they should be checked and verified.
12. Internment centers in KPK need to give information regarding the people who are detained in the centers. RTI act can be used to extract information if needed.
13. The people of former FATA and PATA are not happy with the merger. They want their traditional mechanism of Jiragh not justical systems that have a delayed system of justice over the years.
14. Political parties play an important role & can keep pushing the current government to pass provincial law against disappearances.
15. Youth and students in KPK should be brought forward to raise issues of human rights and enforced disappearances.

- ***30th July 2021 “Day of Masood” 16th Year of his disappearance***

***“16 years of pain”***

### ***Words by Wife Amina Masood Janjua***

“When I look back and realize that 16 years have passed searching for Masood , my nerves shatter and the intensity of the dagger-like pain increases, however I also become thankful that through a struggle started in Masood’s name has brought thousands of disappeared loved ones home and united countless broken hearted families. Every day when I hear good news , it gives me strength and courage to keep going and is the greatest reward for me. I will never forget Masood or give up hope for his safe and sound return no matter what. I will proudly embrace this grief -the worst torture on Earth for the rest of my life” says the wife of Masood on the 16th year of his disappearance.

The movement of disappeared persons started with the enforced disappearance of Masood Janjua and his friend Faisal Faraz from Rawalpindi. Masood Ahmed Janjua, a businessman from Rawalpindi, “disappeared” on 30 July 2005, while travelling on a bus to Peshawar with his friend Faisal Faraz, a 25-year-old engineer from Lahore. His mysterious disappearance could not be accounted for initially but later on certain evidence convinced Masood Janjua’s wife, Amina that he had been picked up by an intelligence agency of the country. It was further established through the statement of one Dr.Imran Munir who remained in the custody of the military, was court martialed though released later on by the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Dr Imran in an official statement given to the government functionaries testified that he has seen Masood Ahmed Janjua in a secret detention centre. In October 2006, Pakistan Supreme Court judges began hearing Masood Janjua and Faisal Faraz’s case. Several other persons subjected to enforced disappearances testified to seeing both men in detention. Their cases are pending before the Supreme Court of Pakistan however, state officials deny their detention and all knowledge of their whereabouts to date.

The last update in the case of Masood Janjua is that his wife, Amina Masood Janjua stated ; “ On 16th October 2018 while I was in Berlin attending a UDHR’s 70th anniversary activities, Masood’s case was heard by a special bench and within 5 minutes the honorable Judges transferred all the cases of Disappeared to the Commission of Inquiry. The fact that it was advocated on 2nd May 2018, that the required document from Dr Imran Munir has been submitted to the Supreme Court of Pakistan stays unaccounted for to date”. At that time a categorical order should have been passed in tracing the famous businessman and educator from Rawalpindi. The judge vehemently comforted the petitioner that justice will be done, but did not pass any order. After four days of that hearing, the judge heading the bench, Justice Ejaz Afzal, was retired from the Supreme Court.

The struggle to find truth, justice and freedom for Masood Janjua continues as the family and human rights defenders remember him on the 15th year of his disappearance. The human rights community around the globe keep raising their voice in solidarity. Defence of Human Rights and the global human rights community demands for the immediate release and justice

to Masood Janjua. Defence of Human Rights Pakistan demands from the government to end the 15 years of torture and bring back Masood Janjua and all the disappeared of Pakistan. As Masood Janjua's wife says: "I can die but not give up the struggle to trace my loving husband Masood."

- ***Meeting with family for livelihood AFAD Project on 4th August 2021***

The deserving victim families were called to share their plans regarding the livelihood activities. 6 families were carefully selected which will either start or invest in their existing business for livelihood.

- **Joint Webinar by DHR & AFAD**

**Topic: *Proposed Amendment Bill to criminalize enforced disappearances in Pakistan: Hopes and Concerns***

**10th August 2021**

Defence of Human Rights, Pakistan (DHR) in collaboration with the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) organized a webinar on the proposed Amendment Bill to criminalize enforced disappearances in Pakistan. This is a significant development in the field of human rights work in Pakistan. The panel in the webinar included four international speakers from different human rights organizations and two local speakers from Pakistan.

On the 7th of June 2021, a proposed Criminals Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 was introduced by the Ministry of Human Rights in the National Assembly aimed at declaring the disappearance of a person as a non-bailable and punishable offence. This is for the first time in the history of Pakistan that an effort has been made to criminalize enforced disappearance and is already being viewed as a feat by human rights organizations that have been lobbying locally to make this happen.

The Civil Society in Pakistan and the international human rights community are hopeful that if passed, this amendment will lead to positive changes but there might also be concerns that shall need to be addressed. The webinar focused on discussing both the hopes and concerns regarding the proposed amendment bill.

Here are some of the key points of the webinar. The webinar started with the brief introduction, history and struggle of the victim families explained by Amina Janjua, Chairperson of Defence of Human Rights. She said "We have high hopes regarding this bill. When I met the PM in July, I informed him that the process has been really slow. There is no talk about the bill anymore. Nonetheless we are still hopeful that this is an important milestone in the history of human rights & our struggle".

She further added that we, as human rights organizations, need international pressure for this bill to be accepted and implemented by the state. Our stories are not

highlighted through media so we use social media platforms to highlight our issue. Afad has been supporting us in every effort, seminars and all the training we have taken to lobby and advocate to criminalize enforced disappearance.

The next speaker Farhatullah Baber, ex senator and spokesperson of PPP, said In Pakistan, the issue of enforced disappearance has become very very serious. Amina has become a strong and consistent voice against this issue since the very beginning. This bill can be called the very first step towards eradicating enforced disappearance from the country.

Mr. Baber also shared his concerns regarding the bill, one of it is a short term concern that this bill is drafted in haste with no serious intentions. Also without adequate thought and inclusion of stakeholders such as victim families and CSO's. The framers of this law did not give any importance to the fundamental rights. The long term concern for him is that after 8 weeks gone by in tabling this bill, not a single progress has been made to start the debate on this law.

Umer Gilani, advocate Islamabad Highcourt during his speech said, more than 7000 cases of abductions have been reported in Pakistan, why has no single state official been put on trial for that? He further added the role of intelligence agencies is to gather information for security reasons, and not to have any permission or mandate to arrest, abduct or disappear a person. He believes that legal fight has to continue along with campaign and lobbying as it was in Mahera Sajid's case in which the court awarded a monthly subsistence allowance.

Juliette Rousselot, Programme Officer from International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) said that "We as international human rights organizations accept and welcome this bill". Also we will stand by our local partners and organizations in Pakistan till this bill has been passed. The Governments in Pakistan are too slow to take action, legislate and effectively pursue. Passing of law is the first step but there should be continuous accountability in putting an end to this practice.

Debendra Adhikari, South Asia Coordinator from Forum-Asia said that enforced disappearance is actually a very big crime as it is the crime against humanity. It is a continuous crime because of which its impact is even more grave.

Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia Director of Human Rights Watch in clear words said that enforced disappearances even for a short period is still considered disappearances and illegal. It is a continuing crime. It is important to know that disappearances are one of the most heartbreaking human rights violations.

Joey Faustino, Secretary General of Asian Federation Against Involuntary & Enforced Disappearance said that the bill is definitely a step forward for the families

of the disappeared in Pakistan. As this step is being taken, we should not lose sight of the struggle for justice and truth. He concluded with the determination that AFAD is and will continue to provide assistance to its partner organizations. AFAD and DHR is conducting a research report which will include data of 400+ victims.

Rimmel Mohyidin, South Asia Campaigner for Amnesty International while concluding the session said that the law lacks the attention to details such as the psycho-social aspect, or the economic, rehabilitation aspect of enforced disappearance. She said that we forget that in Pakistani society mostly men are abducted and subjected to disappearance, so women then have to develop the political role and appear in the public eye to fight for their return.

The victim families go through stigmatization, psychological effects, health, and education issues. There are so many layers to this issue which need to be incorporated while this law is being tabled or implemented. She further added that families have died waiting for the safe return of their loved-ones, example of Sadaf Chughtai. She also added that on the one hand the Government shows signs of improvement, bringing a law and on the other hand they are still disappearing people such as the recent case of Seenger Noonari from Sindh.

In the past, the successive governments in Pakistan have not been able to criminalize enforced disappearance. The introduction of this bill is thus a crucial and pioneering step to criminalize the heinous crime of fearless disappearance and bring the perpetrators to justice. The passing of this Act will allow the families to know the truth about their loved ones and attain a sense of closure.

However, the proposed bill has many shortcomings which were addressed by the speakers. And the fact that it has only been tabled in the National Assembly and has not been approved by the House yet is alarming. Pakistan is in dire need of a strong legislation to completely eradicate the crime of enforced disappearance in the country. Therefore, this webinar highlighted the dire need of passing this bill, addressing its loopholes & a way forward for the issue of enforced disappearances.

- **Campaigned through letters to parliamentarians, committee members regarding the proposed ED amendment from 10th August to 25th August 2021**
- **Commemoration** “International Day of victims of enforced disappearance” through campaign online, issue press statements & a Protest on D. chowk along with victim families, support groups, HRCP, AWP & and CSO’s.

[https://e.jang.com.pk/08-31-2021/pindi/pic.asp?picname=02\\_03.png](https://e.jang.com.pk/08-31-2021/pindi/pic.asp?picname=02_03.png)

[https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=31\\_08\\_2021\\_012\\_005](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=31_08_2021_012_005)

*Defence of Human Rights* commemorated “International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappeared” on 30th August 2021 with the victim families & support group.

International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances on ‘August 30th’ of each year, is a day nominated to draw attention to the individuals who are illegally arrested by state departments and then disappeared without any trace. This day is marked to enhance the awareness regarding the severity of the crime of Enforced Disappearance in Pakistan and subsequently around the globe.

- **On 9th Sep, Facilitated interviews for a report by Amnesty International South Asia, Meeting with 4 victim families**
- **Chairperson DHR Amina Masood participated in 21st session of Committee on Enforced Disappearance (CED) on 13th Sep 2021**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Amina-Masood.aspx>

<https://sabahnews.net/archives/131890>

- **Provincial Consultative Meeting in Lahore, Punjab on 15th September 2021**

### **Oct to Dec 2021**

The last quarter of 2021, was filled with hopes & disappointments by the government. As the victim families sat in front of D-chowk from 1st Oct to 4th Oct 2021. The demand of the victims was clear: they wanted a law that criminalizes enforced disappearances, they wanted to know the truth about their disappeared loved-ones & they wanted compensation for the lost years.

- 23rd Oct 2021 Provincial Consultation with victims, lawyers, human rights defenders of Sindh & Balochistan in Karachi
- 21st Nov 2021 Asma Jahangir Conference
- 24th Nov 2021 Book and short film launch and crackdown on DHR

Defence of Human Rights of Pakistan aims to bring this issue to the frontline through a project supported by Taiwan Foundation of Democracy ; ***“To highlight the sufferings of the victims of Enforced Disappeared and find a way forward to this grave human rights violation through publications”***; in order to prioritize this issue regarding violation of fundamental rights in Pakistan. Thus bringing it in the eyes of every conscientious citizen to play its role in the solution of this burning issue.

Story Book Title: *“We are disappeared, We are aggrieved” - From Punjab to Balochistan, From Khyber to Gwadar*

Short Film Title: **“Hoping Against Hope!”**

Defence of Human Rights had its book launch and short film screening event at AQS gallery. Scheduled to be from 3 pm to 5 pm. We received a call just at 1 pm from the gallery owner that authorities had sealed the gallery for an unknown reason. First they said it was due to a vip movement then they said it was because of a program in PAK CHINA FRIENDSHIP CENTER. They went on making excuses till we (chair and members) reached there. It was closed and the owners had gone away, sitting at the CDA office.

When we went to the CDA office again stories were being made but finally they spoke the truth out which was that it was sealed by the Assistant Commissioner because of the DHR event for the issue of enforced disappearance. We tried to convince the CDA people side by side calling Deputy Commissioner HAMZA SHAFQAT and Madame Shireen Mazari HUMAN RIGHTS MINISTER. Gallery owner told us that they will be charged with Anti State activity and arrested in case they didn't cooperate. We can see the silent complaint on their faces as their business was also ruined because of this incident.

The Personal Secretary of DC kept buying time and making useless excuses saying that DC Hamza is in the Parliament and can't be reached. Finally putting the phone off. Maam Shireen Mazari didn't pick my call as she was in a meeting. It was 3 pm and we were still on the road. We were panicked and were even ready to have a standing event in the parking lot, but the gallery owners said in that case all of us will be arrested.

Finally some friends helped us out by confirming the booking at ISLAMABAD HOTEL near Aabpara. We rushed there simultaneously calling and messaging our 45 to 50 guests to come to Islamabad Hotel instead of AQS, as the venue changed due to unexplainable circumstances. It took time to settle down and set our stage, therefore the program started by 4 pm and ended at 6 pm.

Not more than 28 guests showed up in the Islamabad Hotel. All the important politicians and embassy guests didn't show up obviously because of hassle and inconvenience. Honorable ambassador of ARGENTINA came to the AQS gallery and was told by the guards there that the event had been cancelled.

We are so shocked and hurt that we are forced to think that maybe we are living in a Police State where Constitutional and Fundamental Rights are never respected and Civil liberties, Freedom of Speech, Assembly and Protest do not exist. There is only one law here which is “Might is Right”



- 9th Dec 2021 Voice of Baloch Missing Persons rally
- 10th Dec 2021 DHR organized a protest with victim families on “International Human Rights Day”

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10th December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document that proclaims the inalienable rights which everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

This year’s Human Rights Day theme relates to “Equality” and article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. The principles of equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of human rights. The words of the Founding Father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah were that, “We are equal citizens of one State”, Hence equal rights to all citizens.

Human Rights Day is generally marked to highlight different human rights issues all over the world. Many governmental and non-governmental organisations active in the human rights field also organise special events to commemorate the day, as do many civil-society organisations.

- Conference on International Human Rights Day organized by MNA Akhter Mengal titled “Pakistan’s Tragedy Missing Persons”. All the organizations working on the issue of enforced disappearances participated along with victim families, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists & politicians.

**Fact Sheet**  
Update on 22-Dec-2021

Provinces	Missing	Released	Traced	Dead	Total
<b>AJ&amp;K</b>	18	15	02	01	<b>36</b>
<b>Balochistan</b>	63	08	02	01	<b>74</b>
<b>ICT</b>	50	29	5	03	<b>87</b>
<b>KPK</b>	779	100	132	25	<b>1036</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	330	314	73	40	<b>757</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	117	56	04	08	<b>185</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2175</b>

Note: Traced means those missing persons who have surfaced after a period of disappearance but remain detained under certain charges.

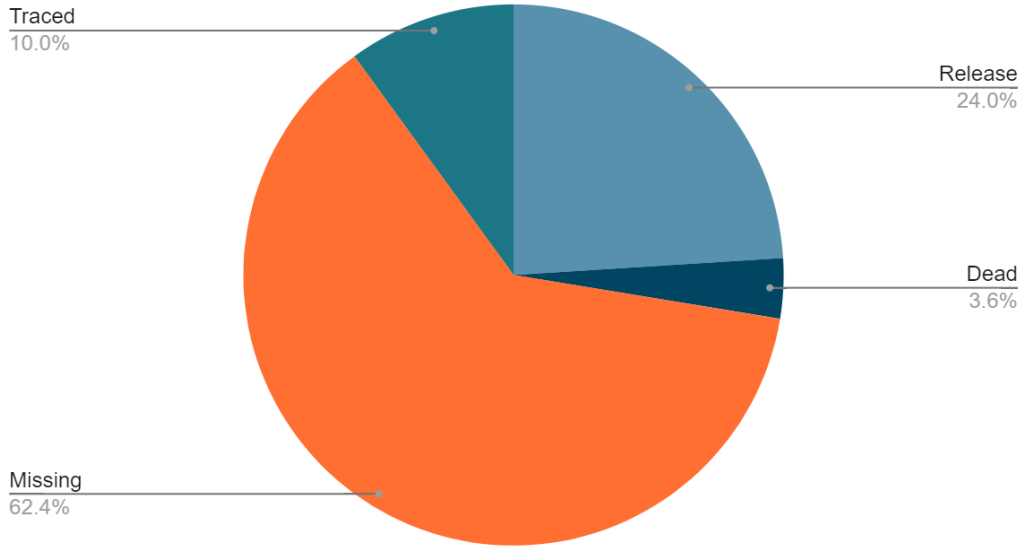
**TOTAL MISSING person Cases REGISTERED BY  
DHR.....2175**

Still Missing Persons.....1357  
 Traced Persons.....218  
 Released .....522  
 Total Dead.....78  
 Incomplete Data.....60  
 Old data of traced cases .....600  
**Grand total .....2835**

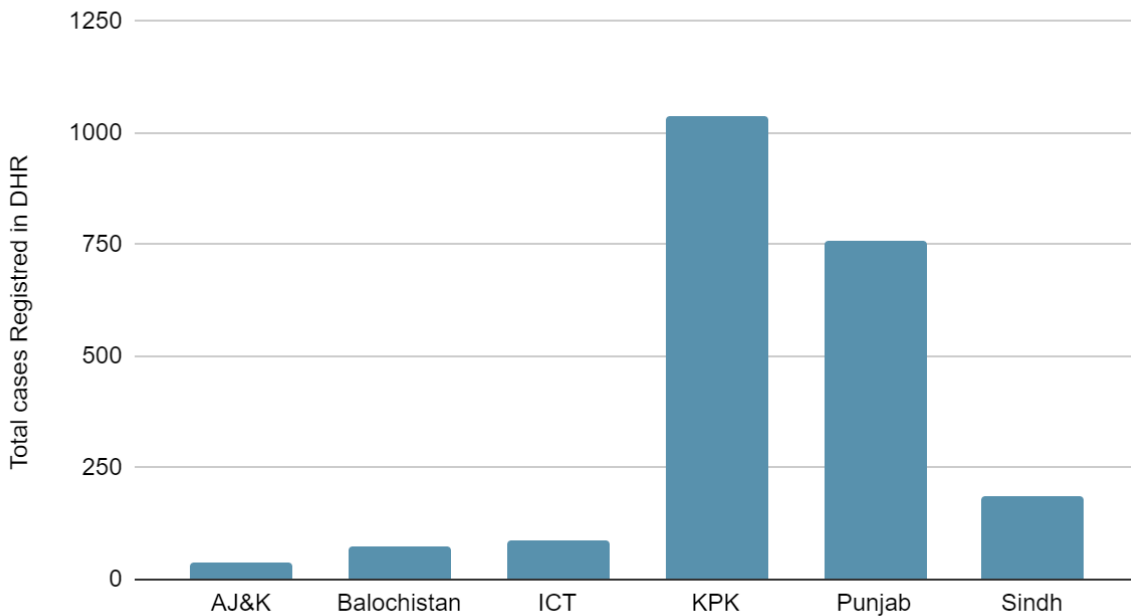
**Fact Registered by DHR in 2021**

Registered Disappeared :32 Released :12 Dead:0 Traced:5  
 UN WGEID : 36

### Fact sheets



### Total cases Registered in DHR vs.



**Legal Intervention 2021**

DHR has filed 20 cases in the country's High Courts from January to December, out of which 09 have been decided.

**List of cases filed in 2021:****Habib Ur Rehman S/o Sultan Mehmood:**

Habib Ur Rehman went missing on 07-07-2009. The case was registered before the Honourable High Court of Peshawar on 18-01-2021. The case was fixed on 01.02.2021 in which the Honorable court held that in the foregoing circumstances, respondent number 2 is directed to appear in person along with a report about the detenu on the next date of hearing. Furthermore, it is expected that respondent number 2 after consulting all state agencies will apprise the Court regarding the whereabouts of the detenu. Petitions were relisted on 19.03.2021 in which 2 respondents appeared and gave their report that expressed complete ignorance regarding the whereabouts of Habib Ur Rehman said detenu. On 24-05-2021, 2 of the respondents appeared and requested an adjournment for their reply so on 25-06-2021 police department gave their report that they have completed their investigation and expressed that they are not involved in the abduction of Habib Ur Rehman. On 04-10-2021 the Court directed all the remaining respondents to appear before the court and give their reports So lastly the case was held on 04-09-2021 the Court has closed the case because all the respondents submitted their reports and they do not have any concern about the enforced disappearance of detenu.

**Sultan Mehmood S/o Abdul Rasheed:**

Sultan Mehmood went missing on 07-07-2009. The case was registered before the Honourable High Court of Peshawar on 18-01-2021. The case was fixed on 01.02.2021 in which the Honorable court held that in the foregoing circumstances, respondent number 2 is directed to appear in person along with a report about the detenu on the next date of hearing. Furthermore, it is expected that respondent number 2 after consulting all state agencies will apprise the Court regarding the whereabouts of the detenu. Petitions were relisted on 19.03.2021 in which 2 respondents appeared and gave their report that expressed complete ignorance regarding the whereabouts of Sultan Mehmood said detenu. On 24-05-2021, 2 of the respondents appeared and requested an adjournment for their reply so on 25-06-2021 police department gave their report that they have completed their investigation and expressed that they are not involved in the abduction of Sultan Mehmood. On 04-10-2021 the Court directed all the remaining respondents to appear before the court and give their reports So lastly the case was held on 04-09-2021 the Court has closed the case because all the respondents submitted their reports and they do not have any concern about the enforced disappearance of detenu.

**Idrees s/o Mehmood:**

Idrees went missing on 07-07-2009. The case was registered before the Honourable High Court of Peshawar on 18-01-2021. The case was fixed on 01.02.2021 in which the Honorable court held that in the foregoing circumstances, respondent number 2 is directed to appear in person along with a report about the detenu on the next date of hearing. Furthermore, it is expected that respondent number 2 after consulting all state agencies will apprise the Court regarding the whereabouts of the detenu. Petitions were relisted on 19.03.2021 in which 2 respondents appeared and gave their report that expressed complete ignorance regarding the whereabouts of Idrees said detenu. On 24-05-2021, 2 of the respondents appeared and requested an adjournment for their reply so on 25-06-2021 police department gave their report that they have completed their investigation and expressed that they are not involved in the abduction of Idrees. On 04-10-2021 the Court directed all the remaining respondents to appear before the court and give their reports So lastly the case was held on 04-09-2021 the Court has closed the case because all the respondents submitted their reports and they do not have any concern about the enforced disappearance of detenu.

**Younus S/o Mehmood:**

Younus went missing on 07-07-2009. The case was registered before the Honourable High Court of Peshawar on 18-01-2021. The case was fixed on 01.02.2021 in which the Honorable court held that in the foregoing circumstances, respondent number 2 is directed to appear in person along with a report about the detenu on the next date of hearing. Furthermore, it is expected that respondent number 2 after consulting all state agencies will apprise the Court regarding the whereabouts of the detenu. Petitions were relisted on 19.03.2021 in which 2 respondents appeared and gave their report that expressed complete ignorance regarding the whereabouts of Younus said detenu. On 24-05-2021, 2 of the respondents appeared and requested an adjournment for their reply so on 25-06-2021 police department gave their report that they have completed their investigation and expressed that they are not involved in the abduction of Younus. On 04-10-2021 the Court directed all the remaining respondents to appear before the court and give their reports So lastly the case was held on 04-09-2021 the Court has closed the case because all the respondents submitted their reports and they do not have any concern about the enforced disappearance of detenu.

**Mehmood s/o Abdul Rasheed:**

Mehmood went missing on 07-07-2009. The case was registered before the Honourable High Court of Peshawar on 18-01-2021. The case was fixed on 01.02.2021 in which the Honorable court held that in the foregoing circumstances, respondent number 2 is directed to appear in person along with a report about the detenu on the next date of hearing. Furthermore, it is expected that respondent number 2 after consulting all state agencies will apprise the Court regarding the whereabouts of the detenu. Petitions were relisted on 19.03.2021 in which 2 respondents appeared and gave their report that expressed complete ignorance regarding the whereabouts of Mehmood the detenu. On 24-05-2021, 2 of the respondents appeared and

requested an adjournment for their reply so on 25-06-2021 police department gave their report that they have completed their investigation and expressed that they are not involved in the abduction of Mehmood. On 04-10-2021 the Court directed all the remaining respondents to appear before the court and give their reports So lastly the case was heard on 04-09-2021 the Court has closed the case because all the respondents submitted their reports and they do not have any knowledge about the enforced disappearance of detenué.

Cases of Aziz Ur Rehman S/o Abdul Shaheed, Nisar Ahmad S/o Abdul Sattar and Fazal Wadood S/o Abdul Rasheed were registered before the Honorable High Court of Peshawar on 28-01-2021. These cases were heard many times but the Honorable Justice disposed of the case by receiving the reports from respondents.

In the case of Muhammad bashir S/O Muhammad Faqeer honorable Lahore High Court Rawalpini bench closed the case by directing Police Department to investigate the case.

Cases of Zahid Amin and Sadiq Amin S/o Khan Badshah, Fazal Rehman S/o Qadeem, Mudassir Shah S/o Merhamat Shah, Altaf Ali Shah S/o Syed Qamar Ali Shah, Zabta khan S/o Zota khan, Qari Roban S/o Jalil, Atta Ullah S/o Murad Khan, Ali haider shah S/o Gahfoor shah, Muhammad Moavia Hassan S/o Hafeez Ur Rehman, Khalil Ur Rehman and Attiq Ur Rehman S/o Saddiq Ur Rehman are still pending and yet to be decided.

### **Psycho-Social Intervention:**

In 2021 Defence of Human Rights provided rehabilitation support to the families of the Disappeared. DHR organized counselling sessions in different cities of Pakistan. Around 100 families of the Disappeared were given psycho-social counselling sessions. The session took place in the provincial capitals like Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore and some other cities with higher numbers of the cases of the Disappeared like Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Attock city and Swat. The response of the families was enormous as they felt much better and mentally and spiritually strong enough to carry out the struggle for their disappeared loved-one. The last psychosocial session of 2021 was carried out on 28th of December in Peshawar.

### **DHR psycho-social counselling Stats 2021**

- 13 family members from Lahore
- 15 family members from Attock
- 30 family members from Rawalpindi and Islamabad
- 17 family members from Karachi
- 25 family members from Peshawar.



**Contact us;**

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