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Implementation of the UN Committee against Torture's Recommendations on Pakistan

Dossier submitted on the occasion of the "Hunger for Justice" hunger strike, Geneva, 9–11 October 2026

To	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Committee against Torture, through its Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations
From	EuroPak (European Pakistani Citizens Association), EU Transparency Register No. 5915507102096-10
Subject	Implementation of the Committee's concluding observations on Pakistan, CAT/C/PAK/CO/2 (2026)
Date	9 October 2026
Delivered at	United Nations, Geneva

Cover letter

Geneva, 9 October 2026

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva

The Chair, Committee against Torture
Attention: Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations

Dear High Commissioner,
Dear Chair of the Committee,

Today, members of the Pakistani diaspora from across Europe begin a three-day hunger strike in front of the United Nations in Geneva. They are not asking the United Nations for anything new. They are asking it to ensure that what its own Committee against Torture recommended to Pakistan in May 2026 is carried out.

In its concluding observations on Pakistan (CAT/C/PAK/CO/2), the Committee recorded torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and extrajudicial execution of human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, political opponents and protesters. It named former Prime Minister Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi, Mahrang Baloch, Idris Khattak and Ali Wazir. It asked Pakistan to review the situation of every person detained on political grounds, to investigate, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

Five months later, the evidence set out in this dossier shows that these recommendations are not being implemented. In September 2026 alone, four separate groups of UN independent experts raised new alarms about Pakistan: a Baloch man killed after more than a year of enforced disappearance, two human rights lawyers re-arrested hours after the Supreme Court granted them bail, and the forced return of Afghans at risk of torture.

The hunger strikers bring three demands, each grounded in the Committee's findings:

1. **Free the arbitrarily detained.**
2. **End torture. Allow UN inspection.**
3. **Restore an independent judiciary.**

We respectfully request that the Office of the High Commissioner and the Committee act on the specific requests in Section 4 of this dossier, and that this document be received as a civil society submission under the Committee's follow-up procedure. We would welcome the opportunity to present it in person to a representative of your Office during the hunger strike.

Yours sincerely,

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1. Summary

The Committee against Torture has already established the facts. In May 2026 it found that critics of the State in Pakistan face torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and extrajudicial execution, and it told Pakistan what to do. This dossier asks the United Nations to hold Pakistan to those recommendations.

What the Committee found (May 2026). Human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, political opponents and protesters are subjected to torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and politically motivated prosecution, including before military courts. More than 10,000 alleged victims of enforced disappearance were registered between 2010 and 2025. Pakistan's 2022 anti-torture law does not cover severe mental suffering, and torture investigations lack independence.

What has happened since. UN independent experts have issued fresh warnings on enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killing in Balochistan (4 September), on forced returns of Afghans at risk of torture (18 September) and on the re-arrest of lawyers Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha (30 September). Imran Khan remains in detention despite an order of Pakistan's Supreme Court in August 2026 for his transfer to hospital, as do his wife, Bushra Bibi, and his nephew, Barrister Hassan Khan Niazi. The pressure now extends to his family: his sisters Aleema Khan, Dr Uzma Khan and Noureen Niazi have been held since 20 and 21 September under 30-day preventive detention orders, and on 6 October his cousin Qasim Zaman, who came to Adiala Jail to visit him in his sisters' absence, was detained under a similar 30-day order.

What we ask.

Demand	What it means in practice
1. Free the arbitrarily detained	Release of persons whose detention UN bodies have found arbitrary; review of every case of detention on political grounds, as the Committee recommended; adequate medical care for all detainees
2. End torture. Allow UN inspection.	Independent investigation of all allegations; amendment of the 2022 Act; ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention; acceptance of individual complaints and inquiries; visits by the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
3. Restore an independent judiciary	An end to the trial of civilians before military courts; no immunity that shields officials from accountability for torture; courts able to enforce their own orders

The Committee has asked Pakistan to report back on key recommendations by **1 May 2027**. The United Nations should not wait until then.

2. What the Committee found

The Committee reviewed Pakistan's second periodic report on 22–23 April 2026 at its eighty-fourth session and adopted its concluding observations, CAT/C/PAK/CO/2, at the close of that session in May 2026. Its findings are summarised below by subject, in the Committee's own terms where quoted (OHCHR, May 2026; UN Geneva, April 2026).

2.1 Reprisals against critics of the State. The Committee expressed concern that "human rights defenders, civil society activists, journalists, lawyers, political opponents, protesters and other critics" faced torture, ill-treatment, intimidation, threats, harassment, physical attacks, excessive force, arbitrary detention, politically motivated charges, disappearance and extrajudicial execution. It referred to prosecution "on trumped up and politically motivated charges, including before military courts".

2.2 Named detainees. The Committee raised the cases of former Prime Minister Imran Khan and Idris Khattak, whose detention the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has found to be arbitrary, and of Bushra Bibi, Ali Wazir and Mahrang Baloch.

2.3 What the Committee asked Pakistan to do. Protect human rights defenders and critics from torture and ill-treatment; investigate all violations and bring perpetrators to justice; provide effective remedies to victims and their families; review the situation of persons detained or imprisoned on political grounds or in retaliation for their work; and ensure adequate medical care for all detainees.

2.4 Torture by police and the absence of independent investigation. Committee members raised "grave concern over consistent reports that the use of torture by the police was widespread throughout Pakistan", including beatings, sexual violence and sleep deprivation. They questioned whether the Federal Investigation Agency, which employs former police officers as senior investigators, can investigate police torture impartially.

2.5 The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act 2022. The Committee welcomed the Act but called for its definition of torture to cover severe mental and psychological suffering, in line with article 1 of the Convention.

2.6 Enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. More than 10,000 persons were registered as alleged victims of enforced disappearance between 2010 and 2025. Committee members asked what the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances

had achieved.

2.7 Military courts. Committee members asked how Pakistan would prevent the trial of civilians by military courts, a practice contrary to international human rights standards.

2.8 Detention conditions. Prisons were at 152% of capacity in 2024, with one doctor for 6,000 inmates at one facility. The Committee called on Pakistan to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which would open places of detention to independent inspection.

2.9 Non-refoulement. The Committee was deeply concerned by the mass deportation of Afghans, including children, under the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan of 26 September 2023, without individual assessment of the risk of torture, and asked Pakistan to consider repealing or reviewing it.

2.10 Openness to scrutiny. Pakistan does not accept individual complaints to the Committee under article 22, and maintains a reservation excluding the Committee's inquiry procedure under article 20. Committee members asked whether Pakistan would accept article 22 and withdraw these reservations.

2.11 Follow-up. The Committee requested Pakistan to report by **1 May 2027** on its implementation of the recommendations on non-refoulement; extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances; accountability for torture and ill-treatment; and persons detained or imprisoned on political grounds or in retaliation for their work (OMCT, May 2026).

3. Since May 2026: the recommendations are not being implemented

In the five months since the Committee adopted its concluding observations, United Nations independent experts have publicly raised new violations in precisely the areas the Committee identified. Each case below is drawn from an official OHCHR press release unless stated otherwise.

3.1 Enforced disappearance ending in death (follow-up item: enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings). On 4 September 2026, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and three Special Rapporteurs denounced the case of Imran Ali, a Baloch man abducted from his home on 27 August 2025 by around 20 Counter-Terrorism Department agents and reportedly tortured. His family received no official information for a year. On 6 August 2026, police told the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances that he had been killed in an alleged "encounter" in May 2026,

after the Committee's review, and buried in June. His body reportedly arrived with six other undocumented bodies. The experts described a "widespread and escalating pattern" of unlawful detention, torture, enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killing of Baloch people (OHCHR, 4 September 2026).

3.2 Lawyers re-arrested hours after bail (follow-up item: persons detained in retaliation for their work). On 17 September 2026, human rights lawyers Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha were re-arrested on terrorism-related charges hours after the Supreme Court granted them bail. On 30 September, four Special Rapporteurs called for their immediate release, stating that the timing "appears to be an attempt to use the criminal justice system as punishment for freedom of expression" (OHCHR, 30 September 2026).

3.3 Forced returns despite the risk of torture (follow-up item: non-refoulement). Instead of reviewing the Repatriation Plan, the Ministry of Interior on 28 June 2026 ordered provincial authorities to detain and deport undocumented Afghans after 10 July. Between 10 July and 27 August, about 127,344 Afghans crossed back into Afghanistan, at least 14,186 of them reportedly forcibly removed. On 18 September, thirteen UN experts declared themselves "gravely concerned over Pakistan's forced return of Afghans" (OHCHR, 18 September 2026).

3.4 Imran Khan (follow-up item: persons detained on political grounds). Mr Khan has been held in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, since 5 August 2023. In August 2026, the Supreme Court of Pakistan ordered his transfer to hospital, family visits and contact with his sons; the Federal Government sought review of that order. Reports describe serious medical concerns, including loss of vision in one eye attributed to delayed treatment (summary of public reporting). His wife, Bushra Bibi, and his nephew, Barrister Hassan Khan Niazi, also remain in detention. The pressure has since extended to his family: his sisters Aleema Khan, Dr Uzma Khan and Noureen Niazi have been held since 20 and 21 September 2026 under 30-day preventive detention orders issued under the Maintenance of Public Order law, together with other family members, including Aleema Khan's sons; the detentions have been challenged before the Lahore High Court (Al Jazeera, 20 September 2026). On 6 October 2026, his cousin Qasim Zaman was detained near Adiala Jail when he came to visit him on one of the twice-weekly visiting days allowed by the Islamabad High Court; he is held under a 30-day preventive detention order under the same law (Daily Times, 7 October 2026). The Committee's recommendation to review his detention and ensure adequate medical care remains unmet.

3.5 What has not happened. As of 8 October 2026, EuroPak is not aware of any public step by the Government of Pakistan to review the cases of persons detained on political grounds, to amend the 2022 Act, to establish an investigative body independent of the

police, to ratify the Optional Protocol, or to accept articles 20 and 22 of the Convention.

4. Our requests

Each request below rests on a recommendation or concern the Committee has already recorded. None asks the United Nations to go beyond its existing mandate.

4.1 To the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. Publicly call on the Government of Pakistan to implement the Committee's concluding observations without waiting for the 1 May 2027 follow-up deadline, beginning with the review of all cases of detention on political grounds. *(Demand 1; section 2.3)*
2. Raise with the Government, at the highest level, the release of persons whose detention UN mechanisms have found arbitrary, and adequate and independent medical care for Imran Khan and all detainees with serious health needs. *(Demand 1; sections 2.2, 3.4)*
3. Report on Pakistan's implementation of the Committee's recommendations in the High Commissioner's updates to the Human Rights Council. *(Demands 1–3)*

4.2 To the Committee against Torture, through its Rapporteur for follow-up

4. Receive this dossier as a civil society submission under the follow-up procedure, and request interim information from Pakistan now on the developments in section 3. *(Demands 1 and 2; section 2.11)*
5. Through the Rapporteur on reprisals, monitor the safety of the lawyers, defenders and families named in the Committee's review and in this dossier, and of the participants in this hunger strike. *(Demand 1; sections 2.1, 3.2)*
6. Continue to call on Pakistan to accept the Committee's competence under article 22, withdraw its reservation to article 20, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention. *(Demand 2; sections 2.8, 2.10)*

4.3 To the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

7. The Special Rapporteur on torture and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to renew requests for country visits, and Pakistan to accept them without delay. *(Demand 2; sections 2.6, 3.1)*

4.4 To member states of the United Nations, including the member states of the European Union

8. Raise the Committee's recommendations, by name and by paragraph, at the Human Rights Council and in bilateral human rights dialogues with Pakistan. *(Demands 1–3)*

9. Call on Pakistan to end the trial of civilians before military courts and to ensure that no official is shielded by immunity from accountability for torture. *(Demand 3; sections 2.1, 2.7)*
10. For the European Union: make implementation of the Committee's recommendations a concrete benchmark in the monitoring of Pakistan's GSP+ trade preferences, since the Convention against Torture is one of the conventions Pakistan has undertaken to implement under that scheme. *(Demands 1–3)*

5. The hunger strike and EuroPak

Hunger for Justice – Geneva 2026 is a peaceful, authorised hunger strike held in front of the United Nations in Geneva on 9, 10 and 11 October 2026. Its participants are members of the Pakistani diaspora who have travelled from across the European Union. They have chosen to go without food to show that Pakistanis abroad will not accept the silence that surrounds the treatment of detainees, defenders and dissenters at home. Their declaration and signatures are attached as Annex B.

EuroPak (European Pakistani Citizens Association) is a human rights organisation representing the Pakistani diaspora in Europe, with members in ten EU countries. It advocates for democracy, the rule of law and human rights in Pakistan before the United Nations, the European Union and other international institutions, and is listed in the EU Transparency Register under No. 5915507102096-10. EuroPak's partner, the Freedom and Justice Project, took part in the Committee's review of Pakistan at its eighty-fourth session in April 2026.

EuroPak stands ready to provide further information to the Office of the High Commissioner and to the Committee, and to support the follow-up process through to Pakistan's report in May 2027.

Annex A. Implementation tracker

Status of the Committee's main recommendations as of 8 October 2026, based on public information available to EuroPak.

Committee recommendation (CAT/C/PAK/CO/2)	Report due	Status	Evidence
Review the situation of persons detained on political grounds or in retaliation for their work; ensure adequate medical care	1 May 2027	Not implemented	Imran Khan held since August 2023; Supreme Court hospital order of August 2026 contested by the Government (3.4)
Protect human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and critics from torture and reprisals	1 May 2027	Not implemented	Lawyers Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha re-arrested on 17 September 2026, hours after bail (3.2)
Investigate enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings; bring perpetrators to justice	1 May 2027	Not implemented	Imran Ali, disappeared August 2025, reported killed May 2026; six further undocumented bodies (3.1)
Ensure accountability for torture; investigation independent of the police	1 May 2027	No public step known	Investigations remain with an agency staffed by former police officers (2.4)
Respect non-refoulement; consider repealing or reviewing the Repatriation Plan	1 May 2027	Contrary action taken	Directive of 28 June 2026; at least 14,186 Afghans reportedly forcibly removed by 27 August (3.3)
Amend the 2022 Act to cover severe mental and psychological suffering	Next periodic report	No public step known	— (2.5)
End the trial of civilians before military courts	Next periodic report	No public step known	— (2.1, 2.7)
Ratify the Optional Protocol; accept articles 20 and 22	Next periodic report	No public step known	— (2.8, 2.10)

Annex B. Declaration of the hunger strikers

We, the undersigned, took part in the Hunger for Justice hunger strike in front of the United Nations in Geneva on 9, 10 and 11 October 2026. We endorse this dossier. We call on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee against Torture and all member states of the United Nations to ensure that Pakistan implements the Committee's recommendations: to free the arbitrarily detained, to end torture and allow UN inspection, and to restore an independent judiciary.

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Annex C. Sources

1. Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Pakistan, CAT/C/PAK/CO/2 (2026).
2. OHCHR, Committee against Torture concludes eighty-fourth session after adopting concluding observations on reports of Gabon, Italy, Pakistan and Tajikistan, May 2026.
3. UN Geneva, In dialogue with Pakistan, experts of the Committee against Torture welcome the 2022 Act on Torture, ask about the reported use of torture by the police and the Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan, April 2026.
4. OMCT, Pakistan: CAT highlights issues of refoulement, enforced disappearances and a systemic lack of anti-torture safeguards, 12 May 2026.
5. OHCHR, Pakistan: UN experts denounce student killing amid ongoing enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of Baloch people, 4 September 2026.
6. OHCHR, Pakistan must stop removals of Afghans at risk of torture and other serious human rights violations: UN experts, 18 September 2026.
7. OHCHR, Pakistan: UN experts call for immediate release of lawyers Mazari-Hazir and Chattha, 30 September 2026.
8. Reservations and declarations of Pakistan to the Convention against Torture.
9. Imprisonment of Imran Khan, summary of public reporting, accessed 8 October 2026.
10. Al Jazeera, Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan's sisters arrested before planned PTI march, 20 September 2026; see also Reuters, Police arrest Pakistan ex-PM Imran Khan's sister in Lahore ahead of party's planned march, 20 September 2026.
11. Daily Times, Imran's cousin Qasim Zaman detained under MPO, 7 October 2026.

Compiled for EuroPak by Baila Farooq, Director, EuroPak.