EuroPak

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EU Transparency Register No. 5915507102096-10

PRESS RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 October 2026

Three-day hunger strike at the United Nations ends with a call on the UN to act on Pakistan

Pakistani diaspora delivers dossier on the UN Committee against Torture's findings; strike closes as Pakistan imposes emergency rule on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

GENEVA — Members of the Pakistani diaspora from across Europe yesterday concluded a three-day hunger strike in front of the United Nations in Geneva, calling on the UN and its member states to act on grave and continuing human rights violations in Pakistan. The "Hunger for Justice" strike, organised by EuroPak, the European Pakistani Citizens Association, took place from 9 to 11 October 2026.

On the first day, a EuroPak delegation delivered a dossier to the United Nations, addressed to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Committee against Torture. The dossier documents Pakistan's failure to implement the recommendations the Committee adopted in May 2026, when it found that human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, political opponents and protesters in Pakistan face torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and extrajudicial execution. The Committee has asked Pakistan to report on key recommendations by 1 May 2027.

The dossier sets out the developments since May: the continued detention of former Prime Minister Imran Khan and the detention of members of his family; the re-arrest of human rights lawyers Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha hours after the Supreme Court granted them bail; new cases of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killing in Balochistan raised by UN experts; and the forced return of Afghans at risk of torture.

On the final day of the strike, the federal government imposed a state of emergency on the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sidelining its elected provincial government after a week of marches demanding the release of Imran Khan. Mobile networks were disrupted and roads closed. Participants in Geneva rejected the emergency as a measure to silence peaceful citizens exercising their constitutional rights.

The strikers were addressed online from the United Kingdom by Barrister Shahzad Akbar, who urged the United Nations to take action against human rights violations in Pakistan and called on the Pakistani diaspora to speak up against the emergency imposed on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

“For three days we stood at the door of the United Nations without food, because the people of Pakistan are being denied rights the UN has already said they are owed,” said Ahmed Sardar, President of EuroPak. “The UN Committee against Torture has documented the abuses. The evidence is now in the hands of the United Nations. What we ask is simple: that the UN and its member states act on their own findings, before more people are detained, disappeared or silenced.”

The participants presented three demands to the United Nations and its member states:

1. **Free the arbitrarily detained**, beginning with a review of every case of detention on political grounds, as the Committee against Torture recommended.
2. **End torture and allow UN inspection**, including independent investigation of all allegations, ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and visits by UN human rights experts.
3. **Restore an independent judiciary**, including an end to the trial of civilians before military courts.

EuroPak called on the High Commissioner for Human Rights to press Pakistan publicly to implement the Committee’s recommendations without waiting for the 2027 deadline, and on UN member states, including the member states of the European Union, to raise these cases at the Human Rights Council and in their bilateral relations with Pakistan.

The hunger strike has ended; the campaign has not. EuroPak will continue to pursue these demands before the United Nations and European institutions until they are met.

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About EuroPak

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. EU Transparency Register No. 5915507102096-10.

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Notes to editors

1. Committee against Torture, concluding observations on Pakistan, CAT/C/PAK/CO/2, May 2026; see the OHCHR session summary.
2. UN experts on lawyers Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha, OHCHR, 30 September 2026.
3. UN experts on enforced disappearances in Balochistan, OHCHR, 4 September 2026.
4. Emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Al Jazeera, 11 October 2026.
5. Photographs of the hunger strike and the delivery of the dossier are available on request.