



## **CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY, PLURALISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **Weekly Human Rights Report**

**(22-07-2024 to 28-07-2024)**

New Delhi. 28 July 2024. This week's human rights report underscores several issues of human rights violations in Pakistan, Qatar, Sudan, Uganda and Venezuela. In Pakistan's Sindh province, a troubling incident has surfaced involving the abduction of a Hindu doctor, highlighting the vulnerabilities faced by minority communities. Meanwhile, in Balochistan, protestors advocating for their rights have been met with harassment and violent attacks by the security forces in the country, raising serious concerns about the repression of peaceful dissent.

In Sudan, serious reports have emerged from the capital city of Khartoum, where dozens of incidents of sexual violence have been documented, reflecting a dire need for comprehensive measures to protect women and address such heinous crimes. A UN body has declared the detainment of a public relations professional in Qatar as arbitrary, bringing to light issues surrounding the treatment of individuals in the context of freedom of expression. Additionally, in Venezuela, on the eve of the Presidential elections, reports have surfaced of harassment targeting opposition politicians and their supporters. This disturbing trend threatens to undermine the democratic process and the right to participate in free and fair elections.

#### **I. Pakistan**

##### **1. Hindu Doctor Abducted from His Home**

On Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, a Hindu doctor named Bhoora Lal was abducted from Mirpurkhas, Sindh. He was taken away by armed abductors from his home at gunpoint. The abductors also tortured members of his family members. The abduction of Hindu businessmen and professionals is [a very common occurrence](#) in the country. They are often arrested by goons from the majority community for the sake of ransoms. The vulnerability of the minority Hindus and lack of support from local police makes them an easier target. The CDPHR team talked to Sindhi activist Shiva Kachhi on the latest kidnapping who confirmed the incident.

For more information:

<https://x.com/VeengasJ/status/1815692083518407122>

## **2. Human Rights Atrocities by Pakistan Occupation Forces Continue in Balochistan on the Eve of the ‘Baloch National Gathering’**

The human rights situation of ethnic Baloch continued to be precarious in the country. This week a call for a “Baloch National Gathering” was given and held on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July. State security forces carried out several illegal actions to stop protestors from joining the call. Before the gathering, several reports emerged of security forces harassing the rights of peaceful Balochs to protest. In Gwadar, [a video emerged](#) wherein Pakistani military personnel were refusing the ethnic Balochs from entering Gwadar ahead of the protests. Similarly, three Baloch [boys were arbitrarily abducted](#) by law enforcement agencies this week. They were collecting funds for the protests. According to Pakistani rights activists like Veengas, [these coordinated actions this week were undertaken to stop](#) the Balochs from participating in the “Baloch National Gathering”. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, there were several reports of violence against several protestors.

[Several caravans leading](#) protestors to this gathering were harassed by state forces. In Mastung, Talar and Turbat reports emerged of firings and the use of tear gas shells. At least 11 Balochs were injured in Talar. Most of the details of the atrocities were hidden and not reported due to a blanket ban on the internet in the region.

For more information:

<https://theprint.in/world/pakistan-authorities-target-protesters-ahead-of-baloch-national-gathering/2195379/>

<https://theprint.in/world/pakistan-thousands-of-people-gather-near-gwadar-to-participate-in-baloch-national-gathering/2195619/>

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1844835/neither-dead-nor-alive-the-baloch-womens-fight-against-enforced-disappearances?s=09>

<https://m.thewire.in/article/south/a-baloch-national-gathering-against-enforced-disappearances-and-human-rights-abuses>

<https://x.com/VeengasJ/status/1816733695015059628>

[https://x.com/Jam\\_Baloch/status/1816175654859333826](https://x.com/Jam_Baloch/status/1816175654859333826)

<https://x.com/VeengasJ/status/1815984515216765203>

<https://x.com/VeengasJ/status/1815989351366660265>

<https://x.com/VeengasJ/status/1816715518956699849>

## **II. Qatar: Whistleblower Arrest for Raising Issues of Deaths of Workers Declared Arbitrary by a UN Body**

A UN body called the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) has declared that the detention of a whistleblower Abdullah Ibhaiss was arbitrary and lacked any legal basis. [After a spontaneous protest by 5000 foreign](#) workers in Qatar over work conditions, Qatar's Supreme Committee for Legacy and Delivery, the local body managing World Cup preparations in Qatar, instructed the communications team to clarify that protests were unrelated to the World Cup preparations. Ibhaiss, then a public relations specialist with the agency, voiced his concerns about the mistreatment of workers and refused to spin the story. He was removed as a result. [In 2021 he was arrested](#) in Qatar and sentenced to three years by a Qatari court. After his arrest, [he was tortured in custody](#) according to the victim's family. He was forced to confess that he misused public funds and accepted bribes. This week, the UNWGAD ruling confirms the allegations of human rights groups, and Abdullah's family and highlights the dire state of free speech and workers' rights in the country.

For more information:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/samindrakunti/2024/07/23/un-declares-abdullah-ibhaiss-detention-arbitrary/>

<https://www.dawn.com/news/amp/1847779>

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/dec/07/qatar-world-cup-whistleblower-was-tortured-claim-human-rights-groups>

<https://hostageaid.org/the-plot-against-abdullah-ibhaiss/>

<https://www.jurist.org/news/2024/07/human-rights-groups-demand-immediate-release-and-compensation-for-qatar-whistleblower-abdullah-ibhaiss-following-un-determination/>

### **III. Sudan: Reports Emerge of Widespread Sexual Assaults by the Rebel Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Capital Khartoum**

According to a new report released this week, at least 262 women were assaulted in the restive parts of Khartoum which are under the control of Khartoum. The youngest victim according to this investigation based on interviews of 42 care providers, social workers, lawyers and emergency volunteers, is a 9-year-old girl. One of the emergency care workers herself was raped by the RSF soldiers. At least four women/girls have reportedly died as a result of sexual assaults. A smaller number of sexual assaults were also attributed to the Sudanese Armed Forces. RSF has also been alleged to have “regularly abducted” and detained women and girls in the city.

For more information:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/jul/29/girls-as-young-as-nine-gang-raped-by-paramilitaries-in-sudan-report>

<https://apnews.com/article/sudan-war-rsf-sexual-violence-human-rights-watch-40a8a9cc75c7bc6610e2c67698c51fbe>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/07/29/africa/sudan-sexual-violence-women-intl/index.html>

### **IV. Uganda: At least 104 anti-corruption protestors arrested and detained**

Uganda’s police arrested several protestors in the country this week as protests break out in the country over corruption.

For more information:

<https://theprint.in/world/ugandan-police-say-104-people-were-arrested-in-anti-corruption-protests/2194241/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ceqde3dqd05o>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/23/uganda-police-detain-dozens-of-people-at-anti-corruption-protests>

<https://www.firstpost.com/vantage/ugandan-police-clash-with-detain-anti-corruption-protesters-vd400168/>

## **V. Venezuela: Political Repression Intensified on Eve of Elections**

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July, as Venezuela braces for the election, the clampdown on political opponents by the Maduro regime intensified this week. One of the opposition leaders campaigning against Maduro, Maria Corina Machado alleged [that she faced roadblocks and mysterious shutdowns of petrol pumps](#) on her campaign trail in the country. Earlier this year, the government successfully banned her from holding public office over charges of corruption and allegations that she supports American sanctions. After the ban, she rallied extensively for another candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia. Ahead of an opposition rally in Maracaibo which was joined by 200,000 people police tried to harass the organisers and confiscated the sound system. Other members of the campaign faced harassment too that included arbitrary arrests.

Apart from opposition leaders, a hundred-plus ordinary individuals working as volunteers for the opposition were also detained. Most of them have been detained over some legal pretext to prevent them from working for the candidates. All these cases of harassment seriously raise questions about the transparency of Presidential elections.

For more information:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0kry1zpqq8o>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/27/as-venezuelas-election-nears-opposition-figures-face-maduros-repression>

<https://www.icij.org/inside-icij/2024/07/maduro-regime-doubles-down-on-censorship-and-repression-in-lead-up-to-venezuelan-election/>