



## **Weekly Human Rights Report**

**(08-07-2024 to 14-07-2024)**

New Delhi. 14 July 2024. This week's human rights report highlights developments in Pakistan, Sudan, Guinea, Malawi, and Saudi Arabia. Violations ranged from the killing of 23 people in Sudan to humanitarian crises and security force abuses in Guinea. Malawi faced challenges related to discrimination and access to justice for the LGBTQ people under relentless fundamentalist Christian threat. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia encountered scrutiny over a court sentencing a man to 20 years over social media posts.

### **I. Pakistan: Police Arrests Four Accused, after Eight Months Delay, in a Case of Torture of a Girl**

This week the police in Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab arrested four accused in a case of torture of a girl after delaying their arrest for eight months. Eight months back, a girl from Dera Ghazi Khan was tortured and her nose was cut by a man named Zafar Lashari and his four accomplices. The accused recorded their act by mobile and it was widely circulated on social media. According to reports, the accused took such extreme steps because the girl rebuked the sexual advances of these men. Despite the overwhelming evidence and outrage on social media, local police refused to file a complaint as the girl's family didn't file the complaint. For eight months no action was taken over this pretext. In this case, the police were forced to act after relentless pressure from civil society groups.

For more information:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1844489>

Viral video: <https://x.com/FarazPervaiz3/status/1810542478770258300>

### **II. Sudan: Paramilitary Force Kills 23 Civilians in Western Sudan**

This Sunday several villages in the Al-Rahad locality in North Kordofan state were attacked by the RSF militia of Sudan. In the deadly attack, at least 23 civilians have perished. Sudan, which is battling a bitter civil war between the Armed Forces and rebel militia group RSF has seen hundreds of dead civilians and thousands displaced internally in recent months. Both parties routinely violate the basic human rights of civilians and continue to commit atrocities in the country. RSF is yet to comment on these latest charges.

For more information:

<https://sudantribune.com/article288243/>

<https://tripurachronicle.in/world-news/23-killed-in-paramilitary-forces-attack-in-w-sudan/>

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2479800/deadly-ambush-rsf-attack-in-western-sudan-kills-23-civilians>

### **III. Malawi: Fundamentalist Christian Groups Continue to Harm LGBTQ People**

The country's constitutional court braces itself to hear the case of a transgender individual named Jana Gonani who has been charged under the country's section 153 (c) of the penal code which criminalises "unnatural" behaviour. Gonani is currently serving a prison sentence since 2021. Christian groups, especially evangelicals, like the Evangelical Association of Malawi and the Malawi Council of Churches have started their sit-ins and protests against the victim and in favour of criminalization of homosexuality. These fundamentalist Christian groups released a statement wherein they argued that it should remain a criminal act as such acts are a threat to the family and country. Fundamentalist Evangelicals have a long history of pushing laws against homosexuality and abortions in several African countries. These groups are supported financially and ideologically by [the American Evangelical churches](#) in spreading their extremist anti-women and anti-LGBTQ agenda globally. The role of Evangelical Churches in pushing for anti-gay laws in countries like Uganda are [well documented](#).

For more information:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jul/14/religious-groups-march-in-malawi-before-court-case-on-lgbtq-rights>

<https://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi-faith-groups-call-for-a-day-of-rage-against-legalization-of-homosexuality/>

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/03/19/africa-uganda-evangelicals-homophobia-antigay-bill/>

<https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/uganda-anti-lgbtq-bill-rcna76630>

#### **IV. Guinea: Opposition leaders from FDNC detained by the Military Junta this Week Without any Charges**

Human Rights situation under the junta regime in the West African state of Guinea continues to deteriorate. This week reports emerged that three members of the opposition coalition (FDNC), Oumar Sylla, Mamadou Billo Bah and Mohamed Cisse were detained by the security forces from the home of Oumar Sylla. But authorities have so far refused to acknowledge these arrests thereby making this enforced disappearance. The opposition FDNC was planning mass protests against the government led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya.

For more information:

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/07/06/authorities-in-guinea-arrest-members-of-the-opposition//>

<https://trtafrika.com/africa/leaders-of-anti-military-rule-protests-in-guinea-arrested-18182343>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/12/guinea-fears-torture-forcibly-disappeared-opponents>

#### **V. Saudi Arabia: Teacher Given Twenty-Year Sentence Over Critical Social Media Posts**

A 47-year-old man named Asaad al-Ghamdi was handed a harsh punishment of 20 years over a few social media posts. Incidentally, the accused is the brother of a man named Mohammed al-Ghamdi who was given a death sentence in July 2023 based only on his Twitter and YouTube activities. Asaad was charged and convicted by the country's counter-terrorist court. He was accused of "challenging the religion and justice of the King and the Crown Prince" and "publishing false and malicious news and rumours".

For more information:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/12/fresh-scrutiny-of-free-speech-in-saudi-arabia-after-brothers-convictions-over-tweets>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/saudi-arabia-court-hands-20-year-sentence-teacher-tweets>

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/saudi-teacher-gets-20-year-jail-term-over-critical-social-media-posts-6070728>

<https://www.jurist.org/news/2024/07/saudi-arabia-court-sentences-brother-of-government-critic-to-20-years-prison-over-social-media-activity-human-rights-watch/>

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240710-saudi-teacher-sentenced-to-20-years-for-social-media-posts/>