



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER

HUMAN RIGHTS

REPORT 2012



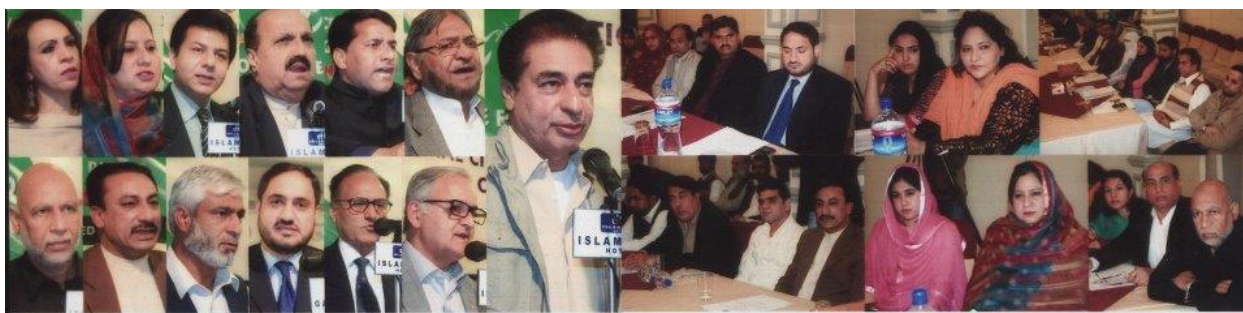
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ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2012



International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) Pakistan arranged a number of public and training events in 2012 for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Here are notable annual events of the IHRO in the year 2012.

MAJOR ADVOCACY AND TRAINING EVENTS IN 2012

Sr. #	Date	Event Name	No of Participants
1	January 8, 2012	National Seminar on Human Rights Advocacy	50 NGOs representatives participated
2	January 25, 2012	Training Session of IHRO District human rights assembly at Okara	50 members of IHRO and 35 other local people participated
3	February 5, 2012	Annual National Kashmir Day Seminar	85 participants
4	March 8, 2012	11 th National Women Rights conference on March 8, 2012 on International Women Day	150 women and 30 men participated from different districts
5	March 25, 2012	National Seminar "Water is Life" on International Water Day	120 local experts participated
6	April 7, 2012	Seminar "Health Rights are Human Rights" at IHRO Head office on World Health Day of the United Nations	70 Participants
7	June 12, 2012	World Day Against Child Labor "Roundtable Dialogue"	50 local participants
8	June 26, 2012	A national seminar on International Day against torture 2012 of the United Nations	125 people participated
9	August 5-10,	Annual Capacity Building Workshop on	35 people from civil

	2012	Human Rights Monitoring "held at head office	society organizations
10	August 2012	Pakistan Zindabad Convention"on Pakistan Independence Day 2012"	150 participants
11	August 12, 2012	National Youth Conference on "International Youth Day 2012	65 youth participated
12	August 19, 2012	UN World Humanitarian Day 2012	105 Humanitarians participated
13	September 15, 2012	Conference on " International Democracy day 2012" at Islamabad	135 representatives from different political parties and NGOs
14	October 2, 2012	One day symposium on "International Day of Non-Violence" 2012	More than 100 Representative of NGOs and press participated
15	October 26, 2012	United Nations Day 2012	Celebrated within IHRO volunteer network
16	November 23, 2012	National Civil Society Conference	155 Participants from civil society and others
17	November 25, 2012	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	150 persons including men, women participated
18	December 10, 2012	11 th National Annual Human Rights Conference on International day of Human Rights 2012	200 persons participated in this annual conference
19	December 27, 2012	Annual Meeting of Executive body and Members of IHRO	130 executive members and union members participated along President & Chairman of IHRO



11th NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2012

December 10, 2012, Islamabad

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECLARATION

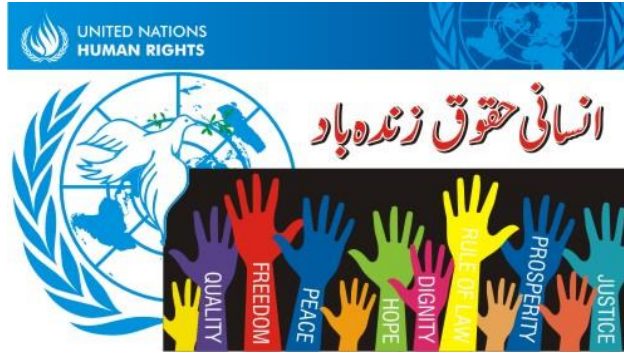
International human Rights Observer (IHRO) is a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and commemorates International day of Human Rights of the United Nations every year with great commitment on national and International level. IHRO arranged its 13th Annual National Annual Human Rights Conference to commemorate Human Rights Day 2013 in Islamabad today on 11th December 2012.

Participants including civil society organizations, religious and political parties, academia representatives of government and diplomats including individual human rights experts exchanged their information and ideas on various human rights issues in Pakistan and passed the following recommendations.

- ❖ This conference condemned all forms of human rights violations in including women, children and minority rights in Pakistan.
- ❖ This conference takes the notice of the human rights violations in the country due to military operations and other law informant agencies.
- ❖ This conference demands to the Government of Pakistan to respect the rights of speech, rights of association of all human rights and civil society organizations, Media groups and political parties for real democracy in the country.
- ❖ Democracy promote and protect the fundamental human rights, therefore democracy and democratic system must prevail and sustain the Pakistan without any compromise.
- ❖ Demands to the Government to restore immediately the Ministry of Human Rights and also enforce “National Human Rights Commission “ in Pakistan.

- ❖ This conference condemned all forms of terrorism in Pakistan which is major cause of violations of human right for last many years.
- ❖ Recommends the human rights advocacy and human rights education on government and private level to establish the culture of human rights in the country.
- ❖ Suggestion for more human rights legislation in the country.





IHRO

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING REPORT 2012

The human rights situation across the country was not satisfactory during 2012 with the judicial ouster of Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, attacks on civilians by militant groups, growing electricity shortages, rising food and fuel prices, and continuing political dominance of the military. Religious minorities continued to face insecurity and persecution as the government failed to provide protection to those threatened or to hold extremists accountable. Islamist militant groups continued to target and kill Shia Muslims particularly from the Hazara community with impunity. In September, the southwestern province of Balochistan experienced massive flooding for the third year running, displacing some 700,000 people.

Ongoing rights concerns included the breakdown of law enforcement in the face of terror attacks, continuing abuses across Balochistan, ongoing torture and ill-treatment of criminal suspects, and unresolved enforced disappearances of terrorism suspects. Abuses by Pakistani police, including extrajudicial killings, also continued to be reported throughout the country in 2012.

Sectarian Attacks

In 2012, at least 325 members of the Shia Muslim population were killed in targeted attacks that took place across Pakistan. In Balochistan province, over 100 were killed, most of them from the Hazara community. On August 16, gunmen ambushed four buses passing through the Babusar Top area of Mansehra district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The attackers forced all the passengers to disembark, checked their national identity cards, and summarily executed 22 travelers whom they identified as belonging to the Shia community. On August 30, gunmen shot dead Zulfiqar Naqvi, a Shia judge, in Quetta, Balochistan's capital. In two separate attacks on September 1, 2012, gunmen attacked and killed eight Hazara Shia in Quetta.

Students and teachers were regularly attacked by militant groups. On October 9, 2012, gunmen shot Malala Yousafzai, a 15-year-old student and outspoken advocate for children's right to education, in the head and neck leaving her in critical condition. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attack in the Swat Valley. The attack on Yousafzai garnered condemnation from across the political spectrum in Pakistan. Militant Islamist groups also attacked more than 100 schools.

Religious Minorities

Under blasphemy law continued as dozens were charged in 2012 and at least 16 people remained on death row for blasphemy, while another 20 served life sentences. Aasia Bibi, a Christian from Punjab province, who in 2010 became the first woman in the country's history to be sentenced to death for blasphemy, continued to languish in prison. In July 2012, police arrested a man who appeared to suffer from a mental disability for allegedly burn Quran. A mob organized by local clerics demanded that the man be handed to them, attacked the police station, pulled the victim out, and burned him alive. On August 17, Islamabad police took into custody Rimsha Masih, a 14-year-old Christian girl from a poor Islamabad suburb with a "significantly lower mental age," who was accused of burning pages filled with Quranic passages. Police had to beat back a mob demanding that it be handed the girl so that it could kill her. Threats against the local Christian community forced some 400 families to flee their homes. But Islamist groups who support the blasphemy law took a significantly different position, demanding a full investigation. The accuser, local cleric Khalid Chishti, was himself arrested for fabricating evidence in order to rid the neighborhood of Christians. On September 23, police officials stated they had found no evidence against Rimsha Masih, who was released and given state protection at an undisclosed location.

Members of the Ahmadi religious community continued to be a major target for blasphemy prosecutions and subjected to specific anti-Ahmadi laws across Pakistan. They faced increasing social discrimination as militant groups used provisions of the law to prevent Ahmadis from "posing as Muslims," forced the demolition of Ahmadi mosques in Lahore, barred Ahmadis from using their mosques in Rawalpindi.

Violence against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls including rape, "honor" killings, acid attacks, domestic violence, and forced marriage—remained a serious problem. Intimidation and threats against women and girls out in public increased in major cities in 2012.

Freedom of Expression

At least eight journalists were killed in Pakistan during the year, including four in May alone. On May 9 and 10 respectively, Tariq Kamal and Aurangzeb Tunio were killed. On May 18, the bullet-riddled body of Express News correspondent Razaq Gul was found dumped in a deserted area near Turbat in Balochistan province. On May 28, Abdul Qadir Hajizai was shot dead in Balochistan by armed men on a motorbike. The Baloch Liberation Front reportedly claimed responsibility for his killing. No one was held accountable in any of these cases. Journalists rarely reported on human rights abuses by the military in counterterrorism operations, and the Taliban and other armed groups regularly threatened media outlets over their coverage.

In June, gunmen shot at the building of Aaj TV, a private Urdu-language news channel, wounding two guards. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility and threatened such attacks would continue if media outlets did not reflect the Taliban's priorities and positions in coverage. However, as has been the case since the return to civilian rule in 2008, journalists vocally critical of the government experienced less interference from elected officials than in previous years.

Judicial Activism and Independence

Pakistan's judiciary continued to assert its independence from the government in 2012. In December 2011, the judiciary began controversial hearings into the so-called "Memogate" scandal investigating Husain Haqqani, Pakistan's former ambassador to the US on charges that he attempted to conspire against Pakistan's military in collusion with the US. In June, the Supreme Court controversially fired Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani for refusing to sign a letter to Switzerland asking for an investigation into corruption allegations against President Asif Zardari. Despite the adoption of a National Judicial Policy in 2009, access to justice remained abysmal and courts remained rife with corruption and incompetence. Case backlogs remain huge at all levels. The judiciary's use of suo motu proceedings—acting on its own motions—was considered so excessive that the International Commission of Jurists raised concerns about it.

While the Supreme Court was active in raising the issue of government abuses in Balochistan, no high-level military officials were held accountable for them. As has been the case since Pakistan's independent judiciary was restored to office in 2009, Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry and the provincial high courts muzzled media criticism of the judiciary in 2012 through threats of contempt of court proceedings. In October, both the Lahore and Islamabad high courts effectively barred media from criticizing the judiciary or giving airtime to critics in the aftermath of a multi-million dollar corruption scandal involving Arsalan Iftikhar, the son of the Supreme Court chief justice.

Militant Attacks and Counterterrorism

Suicide bombings, armed attacks, and killings by the Taliban, al Qaeda, and their affiliates continued in 2012, targeting politicians, journalists, religious minorities, and government security personnel. Many of these attacks were claimed by groups such as the Haqqani network, the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, and other al Qaeda affiliates. Security forces routinely violated basic rights in the course of counterterrorism operations. Suspects were frequently detained without charge or were convicted without a fair trial. Thousands of suspected members of al Qaeda, the Taliban, and other armed groups—who were rounded up in a nationwide crackdown that began in 2009 in Swat and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas—remained in illegal military detention; few were prosecuted or produced before the courts. The army continued to deny lawyers, relatives, independent monitors, and humanitarian agency staff access to persons detained during military operations. Terrorism suspects, particularly in the Swat Valley, reportedly died inexplicably of "natural causes." However, lack of access to the detainees made independent verification of the cause of death impossible. Aerial drone strikes by the US on suspected members of al Qaeda and the Taliban in northern Pakistan continued in 2012, with some 44 strikes taking place through early November. As in previous years, these strikes were often accompanied by claims from Pakistanis of large numbers of civilian casualties, although lack of access to the conflict areas largely prevented independent verification.

Human Rights Defenders

Community-based human rights activists faced increased threats. In June, Asma Jahangir, the country's most prominent human rights defender, alleged that she had discovered that an assassination attempt was being planned against her from "the highest levels of the security establishment.