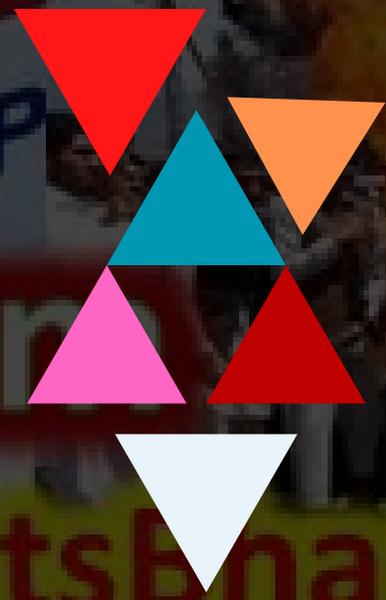


ISSUE NO-6 SEPT-2023

# ASIAN HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

HIGHLIGHTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA



Date : 22 SEP , 2023

Time : 11:00 AM (IST)

*Miseries of people in Pakistan  
Occupied Jammu, Kashmir,  
Gilgit and Baltistan*



**Sept-23**

 @asianhumanrights

## *About AHRF*

**Asian Human Rights forum** is a forum of **Human Rights Defenders**, Highlighting Human Rights Situations in Asia, particularly South Asia. We will bring stories of human rights violations round the clock on our website. Our team will also participate in different human rights conferences to highlight violations of human rights in Asian countries.

We will contribute in meetings with United Nations Human Rights Council, European Parliament, Parliaments of different European countries, USA Senate & Congress, International NGOs & Think Tanks.

A monthly newsletter will be issued and sent to all human rights defenders.

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# Miseries of people in Pakistan Occupied Jammu, Kashmir, Gilgit and Baltistan

Human rights violations in Pakistan's forcefully and illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as well as in Gilgit-Baltistan, have been a subject of concern for several decades.

The United Nations has released reports highlighting concerns about human rights abuses in these regions. For instance, the UN Human Rights Office produced a report in 2018 that documented a range of violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and the excessive use of force by security forces.

Amnesty International has published reports on human rights violations in these areas, which include cases of torture, unlawful detentions, and excessive use of force by security forces.

Here are some of the key human rights issues reported in these regions:

## Restrictions on Freedom of Expression:

The Pakistani government has been suppressing freedom of expression, particularly for those who advocate for the rights of Kashmiris. Journalists, activists, and political dissenters have faced harassment, censorship, and even violence. Numerous reports by local and international media outlets have documented the restrictions on freedom of expression. This includes the harassment and arrests of journalists and activists who speak out against the government's policies.

## Arbitrary Detentions:

There have been reports of arbitrary arrests and detentions of political activists, journalists, and civilians. These detentions have been carried out without due process or access to legal representation.

## Extrajudicial Killings:

There have been extrajudicial killings by security forces in these regions. Many of these cases involve encounters where individuals are killed without proper legal procedures, often with claims of terrorism. Local residents and individuals living in these regions have shared their personal testimonies and experiences, often via social media and independent news outlets, describing incidents of human rights violations, such as arrests, torture, and extra judicial killings.

## Torture and Inhumane Treatment:

Reports of torture and inhumane treatment of detainees, particularly those who are struggling to end Pakistan's illegal occupation, have raised concerns.

## Censorship and Internet Shutdowns:

The Pakistani government has imposed restrictions on internet access and mobile communication in these regions, particularly during periods of unrest. This has hindered the flow of information and the ability of citizens to communicate with the outside world. Evidence of internet and mobile communication shutdowns during periods of unrest can be found in the form of reports from organizations monitoring internet shutdowns and independent research.

## Disenfranchisement:

In Gilgit-Baltistan, the local population has been denied the right to self-determination and full democratic representation. Pakistan has maintained direct control over the region, leaving people without political and civil rights.

## Land Confiscation and Demographic Changes:

Reports of land confiscation and demographic changes have raised concerns. There have been allegations of altering the demographics in these regions to undermine the indigenous culture and rights.

## Lack of Legal Protections:

Human rights activists have pointed out the absence of adequate legal protections and mechanisms for redressal of human rights violations in these regions.

## Restrictions on Religious Freedom:

There have been reports of restrictions on religious freedom, particularly against religious and sectarian minorities in these areas.

There have been video and photo evidence of security forces' actions in the region, including crackdowns on protests and alleged violence against civilians.

Reports and statements from international human rights organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), have highlighted human rights violations in these areas.

The Pakistani government's own statements and actions, including the imposition of restrictions and curfews in these regions during periods of unrest, have been documented in the media and reports.

# Miseries of people in Pakistan Occupied Jammu, Kashmir, Gilgit and Baltistan

The human rights situation cannot be reported in details as Pakistan's occupying forces do not allow journalists, Human Rights activists and independent observers freedom to report events of Human Rights violations, making it challenging to verify and document violations comprehensively.

The Indian government has been focusing on improving infrastructure in Union Territories of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh. Road connectivity, including the newly constructed Ladakh highway and highest train bridge over river Chinab has been a priority. Efforts have been made to improve electricity supply, digital connectivity and other civic facilities.

These Union Territories have received utmost attention by Indian government in terms of economic development. Various government schemes aim to boost agriculture, horticulture, and tourism. The industrial sector is also a focus for investment and job creation. Prosperity, education, health care and well being of people of Jammu Kashmir and Ladaakh has improved very much.

On the other hand, Both PoJK and GB have no infrastructure, including roads and a limited degree of connectivity. There are no efforts to build educational institutes like Medical Colleges and Universities. There is no economic development in these regions compared to the rest of Pakistan. A significant portion of the economy relies on agriculture, and there has been no industrial development. Tourism is a potential source of income due to the scenic landscapes but no real effort has been made to improve tourism facilities. People of Pakistan's illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan are living with minimum civic facilities with joblessness at peak.

## Reference Link

- [PoK residents defy oppression, demand basic rights in region-wide protests](#)
- [Massive protests in Gilgit-Baltistan against Pakistan Army, government's human rights violations- WATCH](#)
- [Gilgit-Baltistan and its Saga of Unending Human Rights Violations, by Alok Bansal](#)
- [Human Rights Violations in Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir](#)

## MASSIVE PROTESTS IN POK LEADERS CALL FOR FREEDOM



PoK protests | Massive protests in Gilgit-Baltistan against ...



Pakistan violating human rights in PoK, Gilgit: activists at UNHRC



Massive protests erupt across occupied Gilgit-Baltistan, deman...

# Human Rights violations of Armenians by Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh

The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, is a complex and historically rooted conflict involving Armenia and Azerbaijan.

## Historical Background:

Nagorno-Karabakh is a mountainous region in the South Caucasus, located within the borders of Azerbaijan. It has a predominantly Armenian population and has a history of ethnic and territorial disputes.

During the Soviet era, Nagorno-Karabakh was an autonomous region within the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the question of Nagorno-Karabakh's status became a major issue. The predominantly Armenian population in the region sought independence or integration with Armenia, leading to ethnic tensions and violence.

## The First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988-1994):

The conflict escalated into a full-scale war in the early 1990s, leading to significant casualties and displacement of people. Armenia supported the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, while Azerbaijan aimed to regain control of the region with the help of Turkey. In 1994, a ceasefire was brokered by Russia, the United States, and France, resulting in de facto Armenian control over Nagorno-Karabakh, although it remained internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

After the ceasefire, Nagorno-Karabakh maintained de facto independence and self-governance, with strong support from Armenia. However, its status was not internationally recognized, and the conflict remained unresolved. In September 2020, a new round of hostilities erupted in Nagorno-Karabakh, leading to significant fighting, casualties, and destruction. A ceasefire agreement brokered by Russia was reached in November 2020. Under this agreement, parts of Nagorno-Karabakh were returned to Azerbaijani control, and Russian peacekeeping forces were deployed to monitor the situation.

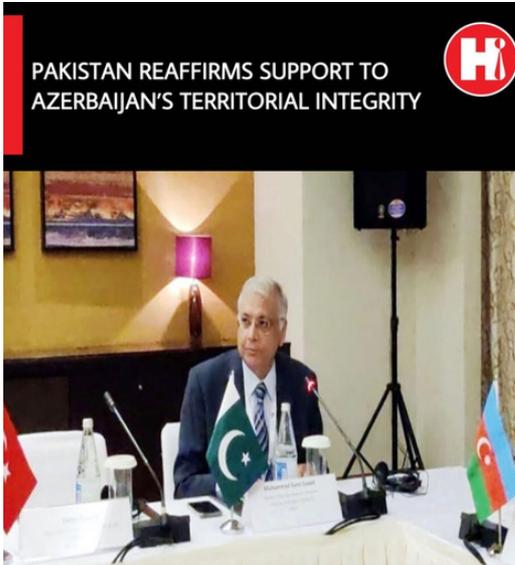
Nagorno-Karabakh was under a precarious ceasefire, with Russian peacekeepers present. In 2022, the risk of military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan increased due to the failure of mediation efforts, increased militarization, and frequent ceasefire violations. Periodic violations of the 2020 ceasefire eventually escalated into a two-day conflict beginning September 13, 2022—the most significant provocation since 2020. The death toll has been disputed, with estimates ranging from one to three hundred killed in the cross-border attacks. Azerbaijan, backed by Turkey and Pakistan, launched attacks on several locations inside Armenian territory, which forced the evacuation of more than 2,700 civilians. Armenia and Azerbaijan have exchanged accusations of blame for initiating the violence. Despite its focus on the conflict in Ukraine, Russia claimed credit for mediating a truce between the warring parties. Additional border clashes were reported on September 21, September 23, and September 28, less than one week after the Russian-brokered truce.

In December 2022, Azerbaijani activists occupied the Lachin corridor, ostensibly protesting environmental degradation caused by illegal mining in Nagorno-Karabakh. However, the protesters reportedly had state backing from Baku, and they blocked all traffic except for Red Cross and Russian convoys. The Russian peacekeepers, in place to ensure the artery remains open for Armenian supplies, were unwilling or unable to secure and reopen the highway. As a result, residents in Nagorno-Karabakh faced severe shortages and rationing.

On April 23, 2023, Azerbaijan opened a checkpoint on the highway, which it claimed was necessary to intercept and deter military shipments from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh. The protests ended days later, suggesting that the government's true objective was to block Armenian passage. Armenia and ethnic Armenian leaders in Nagorno-Karabakh condemned the checkpoint, saying Azerbaijan seeks to isolate Karabakh Armenians and solidify its control over the region. Russia, meanwhile, issued only a mild statement criticizing the move. The peacekeeping force's passivity in the face of repeated efforts to restrict Armenia's access to the region has eroded trust in Russia as a viable security guarantor.



# Human Rights violations of Armenians by Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh



In a flurry of diplomacy in May 2023, the United States, European Union, and Russia all hosted peace talks. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken hosted four days of talks with the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and said they made steps toward normalization and peace. Shortly after, European Council President Charles Michel mediated discussions between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and stated they made “clear progress” toward peace. Then, in late May, Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted a trilateral meeting with the two leaders to discuss the reopening of transportation links between Armenia and Azerbaijan, though no agreement was reached. After three days of U.S.-held talks on Nagorno-Karabakh in late June, Blinken applauded “further progress” toward a peace agreement and said both sides showed a willingness to negotiate seriously.

In addition to the increased dialogue, Pashinyan said his government recognizes the entire Nagorno-Karabakh region as the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. In return, he called on Azerbaijan to acknowledge Armenia’s internationally recognized territorial boundaries and guarantee rights and protections for ethnic Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nonetheless, the security situation remains tense. Sporadic gunfire has occurred along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border throughout the peace talks, emphasizing the tenuous nature of the talks and how easily the two militaries could slide back into war. Furthermore, despite Pashinyan’s concession on territory, the two sides still disagree on important issues like the demarcation of their shared border and transport routes. Domestic concerns also factor into peace prospects; after the 2020 truce, Pashinyan faced popular backlash and a standoff with the Armenian military over the loss of territory. If talks drag on or a peace deal unacceptable to the Armenian military is reached, Pashinyan could again face pressure to change course or resign.

Further complicating diplomatic efforts, Azerbaijan tightened access to Nagorno-Karabakh, banning even Red Cross convoys from passing through the Lachin Corridor to the region over alleged smuggling of unsanctioned products. Azerbaijani security forces also detained an individual passing through a checkpoint for medical care in Armenia, leading to a suspension of medical evacuations for critically-ill patients. With no supplies allowed to pass through the corridor, shelves sat empty and two children died as the humanitarian crisis turned critical. Azerbaijan offered aid, but the region’s leaders rejected it, saying they would not accept aid from the country responsible for the crisis.

On September 19, days after an agreement to reopen the Lachin Corridor for aid deliveries sparked hopes of easing the crisis, Azerbaijan launched an “anti-terrorist” offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh. Karabakh officials said at least two hundred people died in the operation, which Azerbaijan said was aimed at neutralizing Armenian military installments. Within two days, Azerbaijan claimed to have regained full control over the region, and Russia-mediated negotiations began in Yevlakh, Azerbaijan, over the disarmament of Armenian separatists and the reintegration of Nagorno-Karabakh into Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, protestors took to the streets in Yerevan, Armenia, accusing the government of failing to protect ethnic Armenians and demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. At stake is the status of around 120,000 ethnic Armenians living in the disputed territory; thousands immediately fled to Armenia, fearing persecution if they stayed, and officials have demanded security guarantees for those who remain before they agree to give up their weapons.

# The case of Tibet, **Illegally occupied by China:**

Tibet was historically an independent state or region, with its own government and cultural identity. China's occupation of Tibet in the 1950s violated Tibet's sovereignty. Tibet maintained its autonomy until 1951 when, following the Battle of Chamdo, Tibet was occupied and annexed by the People's Republic of China. Today, China governs western and central Tibet, while the eastern areas are now mostly within Sichuan, Qinghai and other neighbouring provinces.

## **Human Rights Abuses:**

Human rights abuses in Tibet have been ongoing for decades. These include restrictions on freedom of speech, religion, and movement, as well as torture, forced labor, and cultural suppression. Human rights violations in Tibet have been a subject of concern for many years, with abuses by the Chinese government. Here are some of the human rights violations that have been reported in Tibet:

## **Freedom of Religion:**

Tibet is predominantly Buddhist, and religious freedom is a major issue. The Chinese government has been constantly repressing Tibetan Buddhism, including control over the selection of reincarnate lamas (such as the Panchen Lama) and the destruction of monasteries.

## **Cultural Suppression:**

The suppression of Tibetan culture and language has been done by Chinese systematically. Tibetan language and cultural expressions have been marginalized in favor of Mandarin Chinese. This includes changes to the education system and the imposition of Chinese language and culture on Tibetans.

## **Arbitrary Detention:**

Arbitrary detention and imprisonment of Tibetans, including monks and nuns, who have expressed dissent or called for greater autonomy, is common practice of Chinese Communist Party. Human rights activists have raised concerns about unfair trials and lack of due process.

## **Torture and Ill-Treatment:**

Torture and ill-treatment of Tibetans in detention have been documented by various human rights organizations. Methods of abuse include beatings, electric shocks, and psychological abuse.

## **Restrictions on Movement:**

Tibetans are subjected to restrictions on their movement, both within Tibet and internationally. Travel permits are required, and Tibetans may face obstacles in traveling freely, which hampers their ability to seek education, healthcare, or work opportunities.

## **Environmental Concerns:**

China's policies in Tibet, such as large-scale infrastructure projects, have raised environmental concerns. These projects can disrupt ecosystems and potentially displace local communities.

## **Suppression of Protests:**

Tibetan protests, including self-immolations, have occurred as expressions of dissent against Chinese policies. The Chinese government has responded with heavy-handed tactics to suppress these protests, leading to injuries and deaths.

## **Demographic Changes:**

China has encouraged the migration of Han Chinese to Tibet, leading to demographic changes that undermine the Tibetan identity and culture.

## **Lack of Autonomy:**

Tibetans have sought greater autonomy or independence from China, but China maintains tight control over Tibet's political and religious institutions. Tibetans do not have the autonomy they desire.

## **International Recognition:**

The government-in-exile, headed by the Dalai Lama, has sought international recognition for Tibet's right to self-determination. Some countries and organizations recognize the Tibetan cause and question China's control over the region.

# The case of Tibet, **Illegally** occupied by China:

- In 1950, China invaded Tibet, citing both practical reasons, such as **border security** and **resource access**, and **ideological motives**, like "liberating" Tibet.
- Negotiations proved tense, and the **People's Liberation Army (PLA)** entered Tibet in **Oct 1950**.

• However, Tibet had a history of independence and a unique culture.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

- PLA **captured Chamdo**, demonstrating Tibet's vulnerability.
- In 1951, Tibet **signed the Seventeen Point Agreement** under compulsion, subordinating itself to China.
- In 1959, growing resistance and Chinese suppression led to a violent national uprising.
- The Dalai Lama fled to India, never to return, as China solidified control over Tibet.



Photo: WP

Since then, China has **stifled dissent**, installed **Han Chinese** in **religious roles**, and promoted Han Chinese **immigration**, altering Tibet's demographics and culture.



Society and culture of the Han dynasty  
Photo: Wikimedia Commons



# Some Mix News

**Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui**  
@murtazawahab1

Have checked. No such demolition of the Mandir has taken place & Mandir is still intact. Administration has intervened & Hindu Panchayat has been asked to assist police in ascertaining the true facts. Will keep everyone posted on this. PPP stands with people of all communities



D Dawn.com @dawn\_com -1d  
According to residents of the area, the operation took place while the area was without electricity late on Friday night. That's when the diggers and a bulldozer arrived to do their work....

13:08 · 16/07/2023 from Earth · 38.5K Views

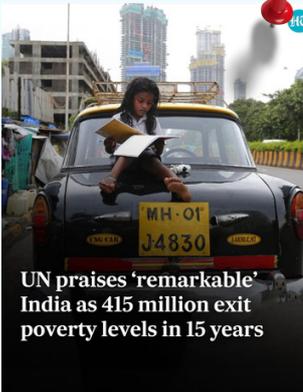
**Taha Siddiqui**  
@TahaSSiddiqui

**#BREAKING** Many videos from #Parachinar show #Shia residents fighting back state backed #Sunni groups. Reportedly 9 dead & it started due to land dispute but its well known Parachinar Shias are repeatedly targeted by Pak army proxies for challenging #Talibanization of this region



0:45 12.2K views | 0:21 1,521 views

11:43 · 11/07/2023 from Earth · 34.4K Views



UN praises 'remarkable' India as 415 million exit poverty levels in 15 years

16,089 likes  
hindustantimes A total of 415 million people moved out of #poverty in India within just 15 years from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021, the #UN said

The report demonstrates that poverty reduction is achievable.



**DR. ADNANALI QAMARALI SARKAR**  
MD (Anesthesiology)

**The National Investigation Agency on Thursday arrested Dr. Adnanali Qamarali Sarkar in connection with Maharashtra ISIS module case for promoting violent activities of the banned terrorist group**



Bangladesh: Maulana Selim Gazi of a madrassa in Baufol, Potuakhali raped a minor boy Al Rafi (12) continuously for a year; boy died of extremely severe anal infection  
News: Hindu voice

**Sumit Peer**  
@sumitp191

One of the attackers involved in the cold-blooded killings of 250 people at the Music fest in Israel had studied from a Pakistani Madrassa in Karachi. #IsrealAtWar #hamasattack #Pakistan



PROOF 4G DASHCAM

15:23 · 09/10/2023 from Earth · 1,327 Views



**LIFESTYLE**

**100 KILLED IN DRONE STRIKE AT SYRIAN MILITARY ACADEMY PASSING-OUT CEREMONY**

337 likes  
thecurrentpk 100 people were killed and 240 injured in a drone attack on a military academy in the Syrian city of Homs on Thursday.

**THERE WILL BE A REACTION**

FPWorld

Watch: Khalistani Terrorist Gurbatwant Pannun Again Threatens India, Warns Of Hamas-like Attack

1,412 likes  
firstpost #FPWorld: #GurbatwantSinghPannun, head of the banned separatist group #Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) operating from #Canada, has again issued a threat to #India, this time, warning the country with a #Hamas-like attack if 'India is going to keep occupying Punjab, there will be a reaction.'



Pastor shot, wounded in Jaranwala

29 likes  
tribune Unidentified assailants on a motorcycle shot and wounded a local pastor, Eliezer, as he was heading home after dropping his child off at school.

The attack, allegedly driven by accusations of blasphemy, has sent shockwaves through the community.

Local authorities responded to the incident, with City Police Officer (CPO) Usman Akram Gondal, SSP Operation Dr Rizwan Ahmed Khan, and SP Jaranwala Bilal Sulheri arriving at the scene shortly after receiving the report.

The injured pastor was rushed to a nearby hospital for immediate medical attention.

As per the statement of Pastor Eliezer given from his hospital bed, the assailants on the motorcycle confronted him, accusing him of insulting their religion before opening fire.



Ahmadi place of worship vandalised in Karachi

48 likes  
dawn.today An Ahmadi place of worship was vandalised in Karachi's Drigh Road area within the limits of Shah Faisal Colony, police and spokesperson for the community said on Tuesday.

Korangi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tariq Nawaz told Dawn.com that around four persons damaged the minarets on Monday.

He said that police had taken cognisance of the matter and asked a member of the community to lodge a first information report (FIR).

The senior officer said that a person identified as Bilal was in touch with the Shah Faisal Colony station house officer (SHO) till Monday night and officials had advised him to lodge a report.

01:52 · 25/07/2023 from Earth · 430 Views

**#SengeSering**  
@SengeHSering

In Pakistan, a day is not productive day if it is not used to harm religious & ethnic minorities.  
PAK is true case of modern-day apartheid state.

In recent video, Muslims with assistance of law enforcement are destroying Ahmadi mosque on Driggs Road in Karachi's cantonment bazar




کراچی میں ڈیڑھ سو سال قدیم مری ماتا مندر مسمار کر دیا گیا

'رات کو جب بجلی غائب تھی، بلڈوزر سے مرکزی دروازہ اور دیواریں چھوڑ کر اندرونی ڈھانچے مسمار کر دیا گیا'

566 likes  
dawnnews tv Shri Ramnath Mishra Maharaj of Shri Panchmukhi Hanuman Temple told Dawn that it was built 150 years ago, we also heard stories about old treasures buried in his courtyard.

In addition to this, it was also heard that the temple was sold by Imran Hashmi and Rekha alias Nagin Bai to another party for 7 crore rupees and the buyers want to build a commercial building there.

