



SINDHI FOUNDATION

SINDH'S STRENGTH IS THE WORLD'S STRENGTH

DAUGHTERS GONE FOREVER *ABDUCTIONS AND FORCED CONVERSIONS REPORT*

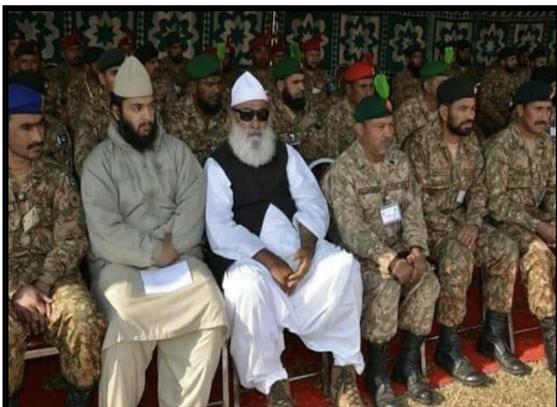
Every year **1,000** young Sindhi Hindu girls between the age of 12 through 28 are abducted, forcibly married, and converted to Islam. Every month between 40 to 60 Sindhi girls are converted, averaging up to **2 girls a day**. According to Pakistan's own human rights commission from January 2004 to May 2018 there were **7,430 cases** of such abductions of Sindhi girls in Pakistan. The actual number is estimated to be much larger as most of these cases go unreported.

Sindhi Hindu girls, part of the biggest religious minority in Pakistan, are kidnapped, forcefully converted to Islam, and unwillingly married to Muslim men. The Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2013 has not been enforced effectively and the state's response to forced marriage has been mixed. In a 2018 report conducted by the University of Birmingham, it was found that the abductor, on behalf of the victim, often files a counter-FIR accusing the victim's family of harassing the willingly married and converted girl and of conspiring to convert the girl back to her original religion. The girl is then asked to testify in court whether she married and converted of her own free will or was abducted. In most cases the girls remain in the custody of the abductor whilst judicial proceedings proceed so she is often subject to further threats, intimidation and coercion and therefore testifies in favour of the abductor.

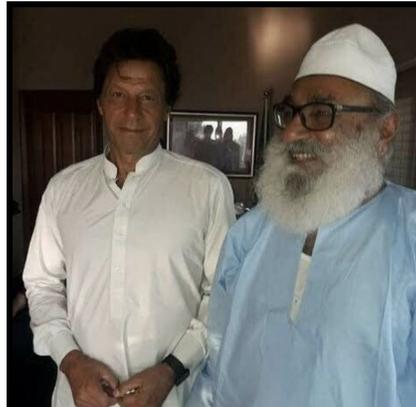
According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, families who try to report their daughters as missing are often **ignored by the police** and their First Information Report (FIR) is never submitted. Therefore, girls are left with their abductors, where they are often **coerced into silence** through threats or use of violence against them or their families.

According to Open Doors World Watch List 2019, between November 2017 to October 2018, Pakistan ranked fifth in the list of worst places to be a Christian, and one of two places where Christians suffer the most violence. According to the report, an estimated **700 Christian women** and girls are abducted every year and often forced to marry Muslim men. Many women are even subject to acid attacks and/or set aflame for refusing to marry and convert their religion.

Mian Mitho, a religious leader and politician, has participated in countless conversions of young Sindhi girls. He has close connections with both the army and Prime Minister, **Imran Khan**, which has allowed him to do so without receiving any punishment for his actions.



Left: Mian Mitho with the Pakistan Army.



Right: Mian Mitho with Prime Minister Khan.



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MOST RECENT CASES: DAUGHTERS GONE FOREVER

In recent times, several cases of forced conversion have come to fruition highlighting religious persecution in Pakistan. The cases described below are just a few of the thousands of girls subject to female inequality, violence, and religious persecution and conversion in the region.

Mehak K. – 15 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Mehak Kumari was abducted on January 15, 2020 from the Jacobabad district of Sindh. It is alleged that Ali Raza Solangi converted her to Islam at the Dargah Amrot Sharif in Shikarpur before marrying her; this is Solangi's third marriage, and it is said that he hasn't submitted permission for his wives. Mehak was forced to publish a video saying that she converted to Islam willingly and she was the legal age of 18 to marry.



Bharti B. – 24 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Bharti Bai, now Bushra, had her wedding ceremony disrupted by Shah Rukh Gul, several men, and the police. She was abducted and forced to convert to Islam on December 1st, 2019. Through a picture and documents published on social media, it was said that she willingly converted to Islam and married Shah Rukh Gul. It is said that she is currently in Karachi.



Huma Y. – 14 years old – Christian-Abduction, Forced Conversion

Huma Younus, from the Zia Colony in Karachi, was abducted on Oct 10th, 2019, from her home and forced to convert to Islam. She was forced to marry Abdul Jabar, a Muslim man, and was taken to Dera Gazi Khan 600 kilometers away. Her parents are fighting this in court with the help of Christian lawyer Tabassum, but Huma has yet to return to her family.



Renuka K. – Sindhi Hindu-Abduction, Forced Conversion

Renuka Kumari was attending the Institute of Business Administration in Sukkur, Sindh, when she was abducted on August 29, 2019, by fellow classmate Barbar Aman. Witnesses claim that she is in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) worker Mirza Dilawar Baig's residence, and that she was forcibly converted to Islam. The police have Aman's brother in custody.





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Manisha K. – 14 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Manisha Kumari of Jacobabad, daughter of Revat Mal, was abducted on August 10, 2019, and is being held in an unknown location. She is said to have been forcibly married to Ghulam Mustafa Channa.



Mehak K. – 22 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Mehak Keswani was kidnapped from the Defence Housing Authority in Karachi on December 13, 2019 by a fellow classmate, Muhammad Ashar. Sources say that she was taken to Daragah Bharchoondi Shareef in Ghotki province, where a formal conversion ceremony was performed by Pakistani politician, Mian Javed. Her family has yet to be contacted by anyone, despite reporting the abduction the day-of-the incident.



Pooja K. – 14 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Pooja Sotahar Kumari was abducted by three armed men from her home in Hyderabad on July 8, 2019. The daughter of Fatan Sotahar, it is said that she has been forcibly married to Syed Irshad Shah. Her father believes that she had been killed or been sold to someone and has requested that the case be investigated.



Jagjit K.– Minor-Sikh– Abduction, Forced Conversion

Jagjit Kaur was kidnapped at gunpoint by a group of men and a woman in the Nankana Sahib area near Lahore. She was taken to Darul Aman in Lahore where she was forced to convert to Islam and married to Muhammad Hassan on August 28, 2019. The Governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Sarwar, has promised to return the girl to her family, but has yet to deliver on his promise.



Komal M. – 14 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Komal Meghwar from Tando Allahyar in Sindh Province was abducted from Karachi's Golimar area and forced to convert to Islam.





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Naina – 17 years old – Punjabi Hindu –Abduction, Forced Conversion

Naina is the daughter of Ragu Ram. She was allegedly kidnapped on March 13, 2019, from Rahim Yar Khan, which is 400 kilometers from Lahore in Punjab. The man that allegedly kidnapped her was an influential Muslim man named Tahir Tamri, and he accomplished the abduction with help from his father and brothers. It is said that Naina was taken to a seminary called Jamiatul Saeed Gulshani-i-Maimar in Karachi to be converted and married to Tahir Tamri.

Sarmi and Shanti M. – Minors – Sindhi Hindu –Abduction, Alleged Forced Conversion

Sarmi Meghwar and Shanti Meghwar were abducted around the Umar Village, Tharparkar, Sindh on January 14, 2020.

Sonia M. – 14 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Alleged Forced Conversion

Sonia Meghwar was abducted in Tando Yousaf, a village near Hyderabad, just days after the Holi celebration. Her father claims that the abduction was executed by Hazrat Khan Pathan, a man whose father had not yet repaid an overdue loan of 12,000 Rupees. Sonia is still missing and may have been converted to Islam.

Gaini K. – 14 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Gaini Kohli, part of the Sindhi Hindu community in Jam Khan Pitafi Village in Badin District, was abducted from her home by four men on March 17, 2019. While the identities of three of the men remain unknown, she is said to have been married to Pir Jan Agha Khan Sarhandi at his seminary in Samaro town.

Permila M. – 16 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Alleged Forced Conversion

Permila Maheswari, a resident of Katchi Muhallah in Tando Muhammad Khan City, was abducted on March 15, 2019, by an influential Muslim family. Permila's whereabouts are unknown.

Vidya M.– 16 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Alleged Forced Conversion

Vidya Maheswari was kidnapped from Maripur Karachi. Still missing and presumed to be forced to convert to Islam.

Lakshmi K. – 10 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction

Lakshmi Kumari has been abducted in Sukkur, Sindh Pakistan.



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PAST CASES: DAUGHTERS GONE FOREVER

Namrita Chandani – Medical Student – Sindhi Hindu – Alleged Murder

On Monday, September 16, 2019, in a suspected hate crime, a Sindhi Hindu medical student of Bibi Asifa Dental College was found dead in Larkana. That day, her body was found lifeless in her hostel room on a charpoy with a piece of cloth tied around her neck, suggesting suicide to local authorities. However, her room was also locked from the inside.

After the demands of her family to reopen the case, the Sindh government ordered a judicial inquiry and in early December released a 17-page report claiming that with all the evidence and witnesses presented that she, in fact, committed suicide. The News International reported, “Namrita was under severe stress following the refusal of her marriage proposal by her friend,” adding, “Owing to severe stress and dejection and frustration Namrita committed suicide.” Can this conclusion be trusted?



There is still uncertainty concerning how her death occurred, or at whose hands. Despite 11 fingerprint cards provided by the Lakarna police, no fingerprints from the scene that could be identified by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). The fingerprints provided were notably of low-quality, having been submitted a month after the incident. It has been said that the Lakarna police seemed reluctant to provide the fingerprints to NADRA, for many of the suspects— including staff members and university personnel— had entered the room before authorities arrived.

Her death showed asphyxiation signs consistent with either strangulation or hanging, which is to be ascertained on circumstantial evidence by the police. Since she wasn't found hanging as someone would be found in a typical suicide hanging, strangulation seems the most probable answer for her death. Though it isn't clear if she did it to herself or if someone did it to her. Doctor Amrita of Chandka Medical College Hospital conducted the postmortem and couldn't determine if it was a murder or suicide and left it for the police to investigate. While the postmortem report failed to ascertain if Namrita was raped, a male's DNA profile obtained from semen stains or sperm fraction indicate that a sexual act had been committed.

Sources have reported that the Lakarna police have detained 32 suspects, including two of Namrita's classmates: Mehran Abro and Ali Shan Memon. They became suspects after the police traced the call data from Namrita's phone. Abro had said that they were romantically involved and that Namrita wanted to marry him but that he rejected the idea of marriage because his parents would not have approved of her; there is no way to prove or disprove this claim, with Namrita unable to speak for herself.



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Payal L. – 17 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Payal, daughter of Magha Mal Kohistani, was kidnapped by her teacher, Kamran Soomro, on June 29, 2019, in Sindh, Pakistan's southern province. Payal was preparing for an entrance exam in order to pursue a university education. During her disappearance her family worked tirelessly to bring Payal home and a number of protests erupted throughout the province pleading the Pakistani government for her safe return. Payal was missing for nearly a week before word was given that she had converted to Islam, Payal herself confirming the conversion over an online video with her abductor. She is now being held away from her family and her plans of pursuing a higher education have ended. Her family and members of the Sindhi community suspect Mian Mitho, the influential religious leader and politician involved in forced conversions (discussed above) is behind Payal's sudden conversion.



Reena and Raveena L. – 13/15 – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

On March 20, 2019, while the Hindu community in the Daharki area of Sindh's Ghotki district was celebrating Holi, two sisters, Reena and Raveena, disappeared from their home. Their father, a poor cobbler, and his two sons, spent the night searching for the girls. They moved from door-to-door asking if anyone had seen the two. They inquired at local hospitals and even at their local police station. However, by morning, there was still no trace of the girls. The girls' family and local community members conducted a protest and filed a First Information Report (FIR). The next day, a video emerged on the social media showing the two girls converting to Islam in Bharchundi Sharif in Daharki. A man named Mian Javed converted the two and changed Reena and Raveena's names to Aasia and Shazia. The same day, the sisters were married off to much older Muslim men, Safdar Khobar and Barkat Malik. A video of the ceremony was taken and posted to social media. The case of Reena and Raveena has become the face for forced conversions in Pakistan.



Sonia S. – 9 years old – Christian – Abduction, Rape

Sonia Shakeel was living with her parents in Moloani, Faisalabad. On November 21, 2018, Sonia and her 8-year-old sister Amrat were playing outside away from their residence. When Sonia did not return after two hours, her father and neighbors, Javaid Masih, Rafiq Masih and Manzoor Masih, started searching for her. Eventually, they found her in the fields belonging to Muslim landlord, Niaz Jutt. The group witnessed an unknown person running from the scene while Sonia lied on the ground. Her clothes were torn and she was bleeding. Afterwards, the police took the victim to the hospital for a medical examination, which was sealed and sent to the local police station. The police did not provide a copy to the victim's family and is said to have ties with the perpetrators. Nothing has been legally done about the incident since.





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Harinder K. – 16 years old – Hindu – Abduction, Rape, Death Threats

Harinder went missing on October 27, 2018. After realizing the absence of his daughter, her father, Sai Singh, her uncle Mahinder Singh, and other relatives searched for her around the neighborhood. On their return home Mahinder noticed a parked government's Rescue 1122 Ambulance numbering NK-3. After he went closer to the vehicle he saw two individuals, Ahsan Ali and Shameem Haider, raping Harinder. Mahinder Singh and a friend, Surjeet Singh, shouted and hit the ambulance while the perpetrators drove away towards Buche-ki Road. The group followed the ambulance by foot, while the perpetrators threw Harinder out of the ambulance. The family filed an official complaint at the local police station where they registered an information report and arrested the perpetrators the next day. Nevertheless, police were biased and in favor of the perpetrators for the entire duration of the investigation. The victim and her family have received violent threats by the perpetrators to withdraw the complaint.



Binish P. – 16 years old – Christian – Violence, Blasphemy Threats

Binish was pressured by Tahir Abbas, a 25-year-old Muslim man, to marry him and convert to Islam. Over several months Binish continuously rejected all of Tahir's offers. On August 22, 2018, after refusing several offers, Tahir threw Binish off of a roof. She sustained severe injuries to her legs and spine. The family went to Karachi station to report the crime, however, the authorities refused to file the case. Binish's family said that the perpetrator's family, backed by religious fundamentalists, threatened them with official blasphemy accusations (punished with death penalty in Pakistan). In cases such as this one, it is common practise of the police to refuse filing reports, as threats from the perpetrators families are often supported by extremist religious groups. Both the victims and the police themselves are therefore often reluctant to report or take action on the crime. Binish is under treatment for a spinal fracture and leg injuries at a local hospital. The police have not arrested Tahir Abbas.



Versha S. – 12 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion, Allegedly Killed

Versha was abducted outside of her home on September 9, 2018, in Tando Allahyar, Sindh. When Versha's family and neighbors were unable to find her, they turned to the local police. According to Shiva, the father of the victim, the police were not cooperative due to the family's religious background. Then, two days later, the police told Shiva that Versha had converted to Islam by choice and handed over the certificate of proof. Her family believes that an Islamic religious leader, Muhammad Ayub Jan Farooqi, abducted, raped, and forcefully converted her. Farooqi's name is in the conversion certificate and is known for such conversions. Post this disclosure, when the family requested to arrange a meeting with their daughter at the magistrate office, Versha was absent. Her family has reason to believe that Farooqi has killed her. An investigation is being held by the police but is not impartial, no legal action has been initiated on the matter.





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Kamini C. – 14 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Kamini was abducted on her way to tuition on September 2, 2018 in the Balochistan province. Her family, unable to find her, filed the crime at the local police station. The family visited the police station twice on September 3, 2018, but police said the investigation had not yet commenced. With this, police authorities stated that if she had already embraced Islam they would be unable to return her. The next day, police informed Kamini's family that she had converted to Islam and married a Muslim man named Muhammad Anwar. The marriage certificate was shown to them. Kamini's father, Chand, argued that the signature on the affidavit did not match his daughter's, and insisted on a court appearance and reopening of the investigation. He also visited notable figures in the area for help. Nevertheless, due to fear of Islamic clerics, who currently provide the abductor protection, there is a general unwillingness to assist in such cases.



Ravita M. – 16 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

On June 6, 2017, Ravita Meghwar, a young Hindu girl of the Tharparkar district of Pakistan, was abducted from her parent's home. Her kidnappers allegedly gave her family members sleeping pills, unbeknownst to them. Some of Ravita's family members, including her mother and father, were admitted to a rural health center in Islamkot in an unconscious state. Haqu, the girl's mother, and father, Satram Das, state that Ravita was taken by influential members from the Syed community and expressed the fear that Ravita might be forcibly married to Syed Nawaz Ali Shah, 20 years her senior, who according to them, used to tease her. Joint police teams from Tharparkar and Umerkot districts raided various villages to trace the girl, but to no avail. Not long after, her marriage to Shah was confirmed and following the family's police report the Sindh High Court allowed Ravita to live with Shah. She has not seen her family since.



Rinkle K. – 19 years old – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Early in the morning of February 24, 2012, Rinkle's family found her missing from their house in Mirpur Mathelo, Sindh. Hours later, her father received a phone call from Pir Mian Abdul Hayee alias Mian Shaman, an elder member of the Pirs of Bhurchandi Sharif shrine in the same district. Shaman said that Rinkle was at his house with a young Muslim man and that she wanted to become a Muslim. That same night, Rinkle's family came to know that not only had she converted to Islam, but was also said to have married a young Muslim man named Naveed Shah, who lived in the same neighbourhood where Rinkle lived. The local Hindu community and family members were outraged by the situation. The U.S. even stepped in demanding that the Pakistani government help the Hindu community. However, Rinkle's case was not investigated correctly, however, due to police favoring the Muslim community. She was then sent to live with her captor.





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Unknown Girl – 16 – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

An underaged Sindhi Hindu girl of the Meghwar community was abducted and forcibly converted to Islam in Badin on March 27, 2019. With her face covered in common Muslim clothes and no First Information Report (FIR) conducted by a family member, no one has been able to identify her from various photos and/or videos.



Mala M. & Permila M. – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction

Mala Meghwar, from Jhudo, Sindh, and Permila Mehshwari, from Tando Muhammad Khan, Sindh, were abducted on March 26, 2019, by armed Muslim men. These men participated in a gang supported by Pir Sarhandi.



Nisha M. – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Nisha, a young Sindhi Hindu girl and daughter of Deewan Mal, was abducted on February 10, 2019 from Mandir Gali, Pano Aqil, Sindh. She was forcefully converted in Dargah Bharchundi Sharif and married to her Muslim kidnapper.



Anusha M. – 16 – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Anusha Meghwar, a teenage Sindhi Hindu girl, was abducted on January 25, 2019, and forcibly converted to Islam.



Arti K. – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Forced Conversion

Arti Kumari was abducted on September 11, 2017 in Khairpur, Sindh, by a feudal lord named Ammer Wassan. It is said that she was abducted at gunpoint. She was a young teacher at Qasim Model school. Arti has been forcefully converted and renamed as Mahwish.



Sunita M. – 20 – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Still Missing

Sunita Maheshwari, daughter of Panoo Maheshwari, was kidnapped by Budho Khoso on August 30, 2012. As relatives failed to recover her, a case was registered against Bhudo Khuso and 6 others for her abduction.



Anjali – 12 – Sindhi Hindu – Abduction, Alleged Forced Conversion, Still Missing

Anjali was kidnapped from her home in Daharki (hometown of influential religious and political leader, Mian Mitho, described on the first page) on October 29, 2004 by armed Muslim men.





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RECENTLY ABDUCTED GIRLS WITH NO INFORMATION

1. Lachmi-Tarai Badin, Sindh
2. Gawaari-Taraioi Badin, Sindh
3. Champa-Budho Qambrani, Sindh
4. Klachmi Kumar-Salehpat, Sindh
5. Kalim Kumar-Salehpat, Sindh
6. Basheeren Kumari-Salehpat, Sindh
7. Manta Bheel-Shahdaddock, Sindh
8. Nisha Oad-Tando M. Khan, Sindh
9. Samina Oad-Karachi, Sindh
10. Krishma-Gharo, Sindh
11. Jeejan-Sahjarpur, Sindh
12. Salma-Khenjo, Sindh
13. Zareena Oad-Sardar Garh, Sindh
14. Payal Kohistani-Thatta, Sindh
15. Sonia-Thano Bula Khan, Sindh
16. Monika-Pithoro, Sindh
17. Kashmala-Bhawalpur, Punjab
18. Pathaani-Sarhari Nawabshah, Sindh
19. Simran-Rhori, Sindh
20. Sapna-Daherki, Sindh
21. Ainshi Kumari-Hyderabad, Sindh
22. Sonia, Khamosh Colony in Karachi
23. Sakeena-unknown
24. Sabera-unknown