

## **Failure of Nawaz Sharif to protect civilians and rights**

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Pakistan has become a nation lost in the fallacies of religious wrongs. This may not be fixed as long as long as the government let the departments like the Council of Islamic Ideology - CII exist. Instead, the government should form an independent commission to safeguard minorities and women in Pakistan. Through this newsletter, we are urging the government of Pakistan to show that the minorities are protected, gender biased eliminated, sectarian killings and the poverty should be dealt with. The Government of Pakistan is uninterruptedly being poured upon with money, material, training and trips by the donors but the inability of the incumbents has made it all go in vain. There are no signs that the progress is being made in real.

Blasphemy law is lynching minorities. Sawan Masih of Lahore and Tahir Ahmed of Tando Allahyar are the two recent known victims of this law

A recent report from a US government advisory panel said Pakistan used blasphemy laws more than any other country in the world; listing 14 people on death row and 19 others serving life sentences for insulting Islam.

Blasphemy Law has contributed to an alarming number of mob attacks and vigilante violence against minorities. The United Nations has rejected Pakistan's request in the past to recognise this inhumane law.

Sectarian killings are still rampant. Recently, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar informed Senate that 1,710 people have been killed since 2008 in incidents of sectarian violence in Pakistan. The data compiled by the SOUTH ASIA TERRORISM PORTAL gives horrifying facts about the inability of the Pakistani government to deal with either the sectarian, targeted or random acts of violence.

Fatalities in Terrorist Violence in Pakistan from 2003 to 2014 reached to the enormous number of 51608, while Suicide Attacks in Pakistan from 2002 to 2014 totalled to 12544. These numbers show that the country is entirely at the mercy of killers. If numbers are divided based upon an average size of a family of 5 members, it will come to a whopping figure of 258,040. That's the real number of people effected by the violence in this country but The government of Pakistan has completely neglected the families of the terrorism victims by not raising this issue in bizarre negotiations with Taliban.

The unfortunate fact is that the judiciary is also being targeted and the young lawyers are wary of the situation. After the assassination of Razaqat Awan, the additional district and session judge, lawyers feel vulnerable to the terrorists. Awan was the same judge who dismissed a petition last year filed by the son of infamous Lal Masjid cleric.

Women's grievances continue to rise on many fronts. Victims of rape are also the victims of gender biased in this male dominated society.

In a grisly incident, Amina Mai self-immolated to protest against the release of the key suspect of her rape just outside the police station of this terrible occurrence. She was Class XI student. Another 13-year-old girl along with her mother caged themselves to protest the release of her kidnapers and rapist. The suspects walked out of the Police Station when MNA Pir Saqlain Shah used his influence in favor of the suspects.

In both the incidents, police was reluctant to move swiftly and the influence of the suspects hampered the law to intervene justly.

Lawyer and human rights activist Asma Jahangir has confirmed that a large number of women faced harassment at their workplaces in the country. “Even judges stare at young women lawyers and talk with them irrelevantly. So many times during hearings I had to request the judges to listen to me rather than looking at the young lawyers.” She put Gender discrimination, judicial bias constant threat to women

### **The Council of Islamic Ideology - CII**

Ironically, The Council of Islamic Ideology - CII, part of the government of Pakistan, is actively throwing this troubled nation back into Stone Age. The child marriage bill and a support for the underage girl’s marriage are the issues where CII has revealed itself openly as an organization which is working to keep women as sexual slaves. CII should be nullified to stop organised women abuse under the umbrella of the government of Pakistan. The next recommendation of CII would be banning laughter, TV and music, as suggested by Taliban. Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani, chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), seems to be serving Taliban’s interest by infiltrating in the government.

Council of Islamic Ideology issued edict that rape victims could not use DNA reports as primary evidence, and instead rely on the testimony of four witnesses. This abusive act would expose more women to Karo Kari, honour killings and underreporting of rape.

CII suggested that the Pakistani government should amend the national marriage law so that men interested in remarrying, no longer need the written permission of their first wives. This is a licence to keep women as sex slave and disposable commodity.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has condemned the retrogressive move by the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) to roll back the Muslim family laws and called upon the government to stand fast in defence of women’s rights.

The government of Pakistan is claiming to be a democratic government. But internet is still not free. YouTube has been blocked since 2012. According to a newly released survey by The Pew Research Center, Support is strong across emerging and developing countries except Pakistan for an Internet without government censorship. Pakistan had the lowest percentage of people expressing opposition to censorship – 22 per cent – but 62 per cent of people polled gave no response or were undecided.

The ruling party, came to power in the name of democracy, favors YouTube ban and recently opposed a resolution in the national assembly for restoration of YouTube. Mahatma Gandhi best

describes democracy without freedom as “What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or in the holy name of liberty or democracy?”

Health and mortality rates also needs immediate attention from the government as Pakistan [has the highest rate of first day deaths, according a recent report by](#) the charity Save the Children, Pakistan has the highest rate of first day deaths and stillbirths in the world at 40.7 per 1,000 births and fewer than half of women had a skilled health worker present at birth.

In this health crisis the news of the closure of the St Joseph's Hospice in Rawalpindi is sad news. Since 1964 St Joseph has helped and treated hundreds of mutilated and sick predominantly Muslim patients.

According to Dawn while putting this story in limelight “Despite the discrimination that Pakistan's Christian community often faces, the country has a long history of Christian missionary schools and hospitals providing services to Pakistanis across the country”. Many of Pakistan's elite attended missionary schools, and the schools and hospitals that the missionaries created are well-respected.

The grave situation in Tharparkar lingers to haunt this dirt poor region. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Timo Pakkala has mentioned a surge in [morbidity and mortality rates](#) as the main cause of deaths among children and adults.

The 2011 National Nutrition Survey states that 44 per cent of under-five children in Pakistan are stunted, 32 per cent underweight and 15 per cent suffer from acute malnutrition. The Chief Minister of Sindh has admitted in the parliament that in the 2011 drought of Thar, 140 people died; in the 2012 drought, 139, and in the 2013 drought 196 deaths were reported

Pakistan needs to address this drought and dry conditions on emergency basis. Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal has warned that [Thar-like drought](#) may hit half of the country if new water reservoirs are not built. The Minister has warned “Water shortage may turn out to be a worse crisis than the ongoing energy crisis as a phenomenon of climate change may reduce water availability up to 40 per cent, pushing Pakistan to be a water-starved country.”

The objectives to go through the problems faced by the people of Pakistan to have donors keep a rigid policy intact ensuring the money is really and directly benefitting the people of Pakistan.