



# EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS OF SINDHI POLITICAL ACTIVISTS IN 2014



WORLD SINDHI CONGRESS®  
22 Newfields, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6YT, UK  
+44 (01707) 330437 Fax +44 (870) 1226007  
WorldSindhiCongress@gmail.com <http://www.worldsindhicongress.org>  
711 7th Street NW, Springhill, LA 71075, USA  
+1-818-917-6910 Fax +1-866-366-960320  
Bridleridge Gdns SW, Calgary, AB T2Y4L3, Canada  
+1-403-400-5109  
UK Company Number: 0233412 State of Louisiana Organization ID: 35380366N

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sindhi diaspora is a group of cultures descending from an ancient and long standing civilization. Among ancient civilizations, Sindh was amongst the most advanced, but did not have the militarism of other nations. This peaceful history helped them survive several invasions, including colonization by the UK. After the end of colonization in 1946, Sindhi became a part of Pakistan and has been marginalized by the new governing forces since then.

In spite of human rights laws, including the right to life in Article 4, Clause 2 (a) of the Pakistani Constitution, Sindhi activists have been kidnapped, tortured, and killed, especially in the last decade. In spite of these violations and the outcry of Sindhis in mourning and protest, the government is silent about these problems, refusing to speak about them or even acknowledge them.

Among those killed are:

SAHAB KHAN GHOTO (40)	FEBRUARY 18, 2014
MAQSOOD QURESHI (44)	MARCH 21, 2014
SALMAN WADHIO (21)	MARCH 21, 2014
WAQAR DAWACH	MAY 14, 2014
JAMIL BABER	MAY 22, 2014
MUNIR CHOLIANI (40)	MAY 29, 2014
ANIS SOOMRO	JUNE 23, 2014
FATEH DAHRI	JULY 4, 2014
SALEEM PANHWER	JULY 4, 2014
JANI BHATTI	AUGUST 12, 2014
SHAKEEL KHOHARO (30)	OCTOBER 16, 2014
SYED PARYAL SHAH (28)	NOVEMBER 7, 2014
ROSHAN BROHI (25)	NOVEMBER 12, 2014
ASIF PANHWAR (22)	NOVEMBER 24, 2014
WAHEED LASHARI (42)	NOVEMBER 27, 2014
DR KHALID MAHMOOD SOOMRO (55)	NOVEMBER 28, 2014
SARVEECH PIRZADOO (21)	DECEMBER 1, 2014
WAJID LANGHAH (24)	DECEMBER 1, 2014
FAHIM BHUTTO (17)	DECEMBER 1, 2014
ROHIL LAGHARI	DECEMBER 1, 2014
KARIM MEMON (24)	DECEMBER 1, 2014
ALLAH WADHAYO MAHAR (21)	DECEMBER 1, 2014

These deaths are just a few examples of the human rights violations that have multiplied increasingly across the last decade. A full list of known killings from years past is in Appendix A. Sindhi activists are kidnapped, tortured, and intimidated; some are released, while others are shot, set on fire, mutilated, and disposed of in ditches and roadsides. Human rights organizations including Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) connect these disappearances with the

conflicts in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The kidnapping and death of activists must end, and the Pakistani government must speak about these atrocities.

## HISTORY

Sindh is an ancient country whose civilization stretches back to the earliest human settlements. The ancient Sindhi people embraced a peaceful way of life. Moenjodaro, a city that flourished in 2600 B.C., shows advanced city planning and well-developed arts, yet an absence of even basic military fortifications and weapons.<sup>(1)</sup> Based on accounts of scholars who accompanied Alexander during his invasion of Sindh, the Roman philosopher Strabo described the Sindhi belief that God the Supreme Creator incites no war.

Historically, Sindh was first invaded by the Arabs in 712 A.D. and then invaded again by Mughal rulers in 1718. Later in 1843, the British colonized Sindh after an unprovoked attack on the sovereign country, an act that was widely criticized by many British leaders at the time.

In 1946, British rulers had gave the Sindhi people only two choices for nationhood: either join India or join Pakistan. The Sindh Assembly voted to join Pakistan, basing their decision on the 1940 Lahore Resolution; the resolution stipulated "protection for minorities" and "sovereignty and autonomy" for constituent units. Since that choice was made, Pakistan's centralized pro-Islamist rule has completely contravened this founding resolution.

## EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLINGS

This report depicts the human rights violations in Sindh, Pakistan by Pakistani security forces and intelligence agencies in a systematic manner for more than a decade. The so called provincial and federal democratic governments are dead silent on these issues. This practice of mobilizing security forces against political and human rights workers is the key violation of the constitution of Pakistan and laws of state.

The constitution of Pakistan unambiguously recognizes right to life. Article 4, Clause 2 (a) reads "no action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law". Similarly Article 9 reads "no person shall be deprived of life or liberty, save in accordance with law". Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Pakistan is also a party to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 6 of the Covenant says "every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life."

The section below provides details of the mutilated and brutal killings of the political and human rights workers occurred only in the year 2014. A full list of known killings from years past is in Appendix A.

#### SAHAB KHAN GHOTO (40)

An extrajudicial killing of a young political and human rights activist Sahab Khan Ghoto belonging to Jeay Sindh Mutahida Mahaz (JSMM), Asian Human Rights Commission <sup>(2)</sup> reported that on February 14, 2014, Sahib Khan Ghoto along with his brothers, Israr Ahmed Ghoto and Naveed Ahmed Ghoto, were returning home after a hearing in the Court, Sukkur at around 12.30pm. On the way home, their vehicle was stopped near Navy Park Rohri by intelligence agency personnel. After learning of Sahab Khan Ghoto's identity, they took Sahib Khan forcibly, put him in the vehicle and went away to unknown place, leaving behind his brothers.

His family members and party workers staged a number of protests in different cities of Sindh province, demanding the safe recovery of Sahib Khan. Family members approached district police to take action against the culprits but they did not respond. His brothers also filed a petition in Sindh High Court, and that hearing was scheduled on February 25, 2014.

On February 18, 2014, his tortured and bullet-riddled body was dumped near a railway track Bhirya road, District Naushero Feroz, Sindh. Sahab Khan Ghoto was abducted two times previously by security agencies, but freed after illegal detention and torture.



#### MAQSOOD QURESHI (44) AND SALMAN WADHIO (21)

Maqsood Qureshi, spokesperson of Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM) and an accompanying JSQM activist, Salman Wadhio, were killed. It is reported that their car was fired upon from close range and then was set ablaze in District Nawabshah on March 20, 2014. The bodies were charred beyond recognition. Exactly two years ago Sirai Qurban Khyhwar, Roplo Choliani and Noorullah Tunio were killed in a similar manner and their bodies were almost unrecognizable. Maqsood Khan Qureshi was brother of the slain Sindhi nationalist leader Bashir Khan Qureshi who was also allegedly poisoned to death on April 7, 2012 by Pakistan Intelligence Services. JSQM had planned to hold a nationwide 'Freedom March' rally on 23rd March 2014 in Karachi. Maqsood Quershi was one of the key organizers for the 'Freedom March'.



*Maqsood Qureshi*



*Salman Wadhio*

### WAQAR DAWACH

Waqar Dawach was an activist of JSMM Kotri and was killed in a rally in Hyderabad on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2014.

### JAMIL BABER

Jamil Baber was a senior activist of JSMM in the Kotri district Jamshoro, and was killed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2014 at Kotri.



### MUNIR CHOLIANI (40)

Munir Choliani (40), a prominent Sindhi nationalist leader and Media Coordinator of Jeay Sindh Mutahida Mahaz (JSMM), was killed on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2014, when he was travelling from his home town Warah, District Larkana, to Sann District Dadu. He was with his wife, daughter and driver when his car was stopped on Indus Highway by plain-clothed security personnel. Munir Choliani along with his wife and daughter were abducted in their own car and later his wife and daughter were released at a nearby village Hyder Rind. The car was abandoned in Gidarchi Forest. Within hours, the bullet-riddled body of Munir Choliani was found near Boobak town, District Dadu. Munir Choliani was a political, human rights activist, and it is important to note that for the last 17 years he was completely wheelchair-bound due to the paralysis of his lower half.





## ANIS SOOMRO

Anis Soomro was the President of the JSMM district in East Karachi and was kidnapped and killed in a fake encounter at Soharab Goth Karachi on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2014.

## FATEH DAHRI AND SALEEM PANHWER

Fateh Dahri, Activist of JSMM west Karachi, and Saleem Panhwer, President of JSMM Korangi, were killed in a blast near garden Sadder Bazaar Karachi on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2014.

## JANI BHATTI,

Jani Bhatti, an activist of Jeay Sindh Mutahida Mahaz (JSMM) in the District of Malir Karachi, was abducted by intelligence agencies and killed in a fake encounter on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2014.

## SHAKEEL KHOHARO (30)

Shakeel Koharo (resident of District Larkano, Sindh) was killed on October 16, 2014 after being brutally tortured for 6 consecutive days by Pakistani security agencies who dumped his dead body on the road side in the Jamshoro district. He was a human rights activist and member of a Sindhi political organization, Jeay Sindh Mutahida Mahaz (JSMM), working for the rights of the Sindhi nation. No case was registered against him at any police station.



## SYED PARYAL SHAH (28)



سيڊ پريال شاه جي حياتي جي تصوير

Sayed Paryal Shah s/o Syed Bachal Shah was travelling from Kashmore to Daharki when he was abducted by plain-clothed security agents near the town of Obaro (District Sukkur) in early October 2014. He was the district president of Jeay Sindh Mutahida Mahaz (JSMM) nationalist party. His family members and party members continuously protested at the local press club for the safe recovery of their beloved president; they also filed a petition in the High Court of Sindh for illegal abduction, as no case was filed against him at any police station. On November 7, 2014, after 24 days of abduction, his mutilated and tortured body was found in Sajarpur, district Rahim Yar Khan, Punjab. Last year, his younger brother Zamin Shah was also killed by security forces in Madhu Goth, Karachi. He was married and the father of three daughters.



Syed Paryal Shah's body

### ROSHAN BROHI (25)

Roshan Brohi was abducted by plain-clothed security agencies from the Larkana district. He was a peon in a school, a human rights activist, and a member of a Jeay Sindh Mutahida Mahaz (JSMM) nationalist party, struggling for the rights of Sindh and the Sindhi nation. His family members filed a petition in High Court of Sindh for his illegal abduction. On November 12, 2014, after 27 days in abduction, his mutilated and tortured body was found in Gulshan Hadeed, National Highway, Karachi.



لاڙڪاڻو، مقتول روشن بروهي جي امڙ بيحال آهي. ننڍي تصوير روشن بروهي جي حياتي جي آهي.



### ASIF PANHWAR (22)

Asif Panhwar was a student in his final year at University of Sindh, Jamshoro, a human rights activist and a political worker of a student wing of Jeay Sindh Mutahida Mahaz (JSMM) nationalist party from Golarchi, District Badin, Sindh. On November 24, 2014, his mutilated and tortured body was found near Bakrani village, district Larkana. He was abducted by police and intelligence agencies on August 15, 2014 from Nasim Nagar, Qasimabad, Hyderabad, where a whole neighborhood witnessed his abduction by these forces. Later, no case was registered against him by either police or any other intelligence agency, and no agency admitted to having him in their custody. His family members had filed a petition in the Sindh High Court to declare his arrest by police, but court did not issue any order to the authorities.





Abducted By Law enforcement agencies of Pakistan.



Asif Panhwer after death

JSSF JSMM activist and Gen Sec. of Sindh University Asif Panhwar's mutilated dead body has been found from Larkana city, Sindh. He was abducted by Pakistani security forces



WAHEED LASHARI (42)

Waheed Lashari, a human rights activist and political leader of Jeay Sindh Qoami Mahaz (JSQM) nationalist party was killed. His mutilated and tortured body was found near a drainage canal, Malir, Karachi on November 27, 2014. He was abducted by police and intelligence agencies from the highway while travelling with his sister in a local van from Warah, district Larkana on September 25, 2014, where dozens of people witnessed his abduction. Neither was he produced in any case nor was his arrest shown in any police station. His family members and party workers continuously protested in front of Warah and other press clubs for his safe recovery and filed a petition in Sindh High Court.



وارھ : کنیہی گمر کیل جسقمر اگہواں وحید لاشاری جو فائیل فوٹو

DR. KHALID MAHMOOD SOOMRO (55)



Dr. Khalid Mahmood Soomro, a religious scholar, a human rights activist and a provincial general secretary of Jameat Ulma-e-Islam (JUI)-F party from Larkana district was killed by unidentified gunmen when he was offering morning prayer in Sukkur on November 28, 2014. Though he belonged to a religious party, his views and stance was very clear on Sindh national issues and always supported Sindhi nationalists in all movements. People of Sindh and all nationalist parties condemn that he was gunned down due to his



strong belief in the rights of Sindh.

SARVEECH PIRZADOO (21), WAJID LANGHAH (24), FAHIM BHUTTO (17), ROHIL LAGHARI, KARIM MEMON (24), AND ALLAH WADHAYO MAHAR (21) Sarveech Pirzadoo, Wajid Langhah, Fahim Bhutto, Rohil Laghari, and Allah Wadhayo Mahar were tortured and killed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2014. Because these killings are very recent, details are not known at this time.



*Allah Wadhavo Mahar*



**RED SALUTE TO  
SHAHEED KAREEM MEMON  
HE WAS KILLED BY AGENCIES**



These extrajudicial Killings are a continuation of the Pakistani security agencies' violent attitude towards Sindhi political and social activists. Over the last few years, hundreds of political workers have been abducted, tortured and held incommunicado. Some of them are set free after many months without trial, while others are not lucky: their tortured bodies are found on the road side.

The human rights record of Pakistan has worsened greatly during the past decade. In a recent human rights report, the Department of State reported gross violation of rights of citizens in Pakistan<sup>(3)(4)</sup>. As mentioned in the above report, kidnappings and forced disappearances continue, with reports of disappearances in nearly all areas of the country. Some police and security forces hold prisoners incommunicado and refuse to disclose their location. Human rights organizations including Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) report that many Sindhi and Baloch nationalists were among the missing, and reports of disappearances during the year are connected with the conflicts in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Nationalist political parties in the Sindh province reported disappearances and claimed that some of their members were in the custody of the intelligence agencies.

*ABOUT THE WORLD SINDHI CONGRESS (WSC): WSC is based in the UK, USA, Canada, and Sindh and is one of the most prominent human rights advocacy organizations for Sindh and Sindhis. The main objective of WSC is to create a better understanding within the international community about the persecuted status of Sindhis in Pakistan and about the Sindhi people's struggle for human rights, including the right to self-determination. WSC is a registered company in the UK and the state of California, USA, and is organized to carry out non-profit activities. For more information, visit <http://www.worldsindhicongress.com>*





# APPENDIX A EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS 2005-2013

SAMIULLAH KALHORO, central vice chairman of JSMM, was kidnapped from Jamshoro and was killed on March 5, 2005 in Karachi, Sindh. He was kidnapped by law enforcement agencies and tortured to death.

MUMTAZ BHUTTO, JSMM activist and brother of Muzaffar Bhutto, was killed in a blast on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 in his home in Jamshoro, Sindh.

ASAD ABBASSI, President of Jeay Sindh Student Federation of Mehran University, Jamshoro, was fired and killed at Jamshoro on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2009. MAJID MEMON, President of Jeay Sindh Mutehda Mahaz (JSMM) in Golarchi city District Badin, was killed by open fire in Golarchi's main bazaar street on December 26, 2010.

AFTAB SOLANGI, Vice President of JSMM in the District of Mirpurkhas, was harassed by agencies and found dead on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2010 in Mirpurkhas, Sindh.

BABER SANDILO, activist of JSSF Sindh University, was killed in Jamshoro on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2011.

ZULIFQUAR KOLACHI, Central finance secretary of JSMM, was killed in a blast in the Ibrahim Hyderi area of Karachi on March 5 2011.

PROF. AIJAZ SOLANGI, Chairman of the JSMM intellectual bureau, was killed by electric shocks on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 in Dadu City.

SERIAE QURBAN KHUHAWER, Central SVP for JSMM, was killed by bullets and then fired at the village of Bakhoro Mori in the district of Sanghar with his 3 colleagues on April 21, 2011. ROOPLO CHOLYANI, Central joint secretary of JSMM, was killed and burned in the village of Bakhoro mori in the district of Sanghar with his colleagues on April 21, 2011.

NOORULLAH TUNIO, Activist of JSMM, was injured in the Bakhoro Mori incident and later died in Patel hospital in Karachi on April 30, 2011.

JABBAR KEHAR, Intellectual of JSMM, was burned by unknown forces in his home in Dhamrah, district Larkana, and died in a civil hospital in Karachi on February 6, 2012.

MUZAFFAR BHUTTO, Central general secretary of JSMM, was kidnapped in February of 2011 from Saeed Abad toll plaza and was killed and dumped near Hyderabad on May 22, 2012.

SAJJAD MARKHAND, an activist of JSMM Qamber city, was kidnapped from Larkana city, killed and dumped near Khair Pur Nathan Shah in the district of Dadu on April 28, 2013.

AAMIR KHUHAWER, an activist of JSMM, was kidnapped from Larkana city was found shot to death in K.N Shah in district Dadu on April 28, 2013.

ZAMIN SHAH, a member of the central committee of JSMM was killed at Gulshan Iqbal Karachi on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2013.

SOBAL DAHAR, an activist of JSMM Karachi, was also killed the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2013.

AFZAL PANHWAR, a Central vice president of JSMM, was killed in Kotri city in fake encounter on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2013.

DEWAN PREM CHANDIO, a member of the central committee of JSMM, was kidnapped from Naseer Abada in the district of Larkana, killed and dumped in Layari Karachi on October 18, 2013.



# APPENDIX B AHRC APPEALS ON KILLINGS AND KIDNAPPINGS OF SINDHI ACTIVISTS

The Asian Human Rights Commission has formed many appeals to inform government agencies of the atrocities in Pakistan.

[PAKISTAN: A TEENAGER FALSELY BRANDED A TALIBAN AND SHOT DEAD IN A STAGED ENCOUNTER - A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER'S LIFE UNDER THREAT FOR EXPOSING SUCH ENCOUNTERS](#)

[PAKISTAN: SINDHI POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TARGETED BY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES](#)

[PAKISTAN: GOVERNMENT MUST HOLD JUDICIAL INQUIRY IN THE CASE OF BURNING ALIVE OF TWO NATIONALIST LEADERS](#)

[PAKISTAN: A NATIONALIST AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST KILLED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AFTER SEVERE TORTURE](#)

[PAKISTAN: THREE SINDHI NATIONALISTS WERE ARBITRARY DETAINED IN MILITARY CUSTODY; FAMILIES RECEIVE THREATS FROM ARMY OFFICIALS](#)

[PAKISTAN: THREE SINDHI NATIONALISTS WERE KILLED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY IN A FAKE POLICE ENCOUNTER - MANY YOUNG PEOPLE REMAIN MISSING AFTER ARREST](#)

[PAKISTAN: THE BODIES OF TWO MORE MISSING PERSONS FROM SINDH PROVINCE HAVE BEEN FOUND](#)

[PAKISTAN: SINDH UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES USE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOR DISAPPEARANCES OF STUDENTS](#)

[PAKISTAN: FOUR ACTIVISTS PROTESTING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THEIR LEADER ALSO DISAPPEARED AFTER THEIR ABDUCTION BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES](#)





# APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

## REFERENCES

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