

WORLD SINDHI CONGRESS ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



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ABOUT

World Sindhi Congress (WSC) is a human rights advocacy organization based in the UK, US, and Canada. It aims to create a better understanding among the international community about Sindhis's disadvantaged status in Pakistan and about Sindhi people's struggles for their human rights, including the right to self-determination. In addition, WSC strives to create an association of Sindhis around the world. WSC is a registered company in England and Wales, the UK, Louisiana, the US, and Canada, organized only to carry out non-profit activities.

Mission:

The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) promotes and undertakes the struggle for self-determination for Sindhis. WSC continues to provide a voice to Sindhis and international communities worldwide who want to see Sindh as a sovereign state. WSC believes this sovereignty is essential to achieving a just and lasting peace in the region.

Objectives:

- To create a better understanding among the international community about Sindhis's persecuted status in Pakistan and about Sindhi people's struggles for their human rights, including the right to self-determination.
- To support Sindh's organizations working on human rights, sustainable development, equal rights for women, and religious minorities and advocate conflict resolution and peaceful initiatives.
- To promote and encourage the solidarity of Sindhis living throughout the world.
- To create awareness of Sindhis worldwide by:
 - Organizing seminars
 - Publishing newsletters, reports, and research papers
 - Presenting the case and plight of Sindhi people within the international community including the UNHRC, European Commission, the UK, USA, and Canadian legislators
 - Working with media, non-governmental organizations, academics, and other conscientious individuals

Executive Committee

Asif Panwhar
Farhan Kaghzi
Gul Sanai
Hafeezan Wadhio
Hajan, Kalhoro
Hidayat Bhutto
Imran Baloch
Lakhu Luhana
Rehman Kakepoto
Rubina Shaikh
Saghir Shaikh
Umed Laghari
Zubair Bhambhro.

Officers

Chairperson:	Dr. Rubina Shaikh
Secretary-General:	Dr. Lakhu Luhana
Senior Vice-Chairperson:	Hajan Kalhoro
Vice-Chairperson:	Zubair Bhambhro
Deputy Secretary-General:	Umed Laghari
Finance Secretary:	Gul Sanai
Information Secretary:	Farhan Kaghzi
Cultural Secretary:	Hafeezan Wadhio

UK and Europe Organizing Committee

Hidayat Bhutto (Organizer)
Fahmida Baloch (Deputy Organizer)
Sharjeel Soomro (Secretary)
Abdul Rauf Laghari
Ahmed Nawaz Ansari
Ali Memon
Fida Jatoi
Haresh Kumar
Moazam Mughul
Sikandar Khaskeli

USA Organizing Committee

Saghir Shaikh (Organizer)
Malik Dino Shaikh (Deputy Organizer)
Raja Dahar (Secretary)
Paras Shah
Liaquat Panhwar

Canada Organizing Committee

Asif Panwhar (Organizer)
Dua Kalhoro. (Deputy Organizer)
Yaswant Mahraj

The Current Situation in Sindh

The people of Sindh continue to suffer numerous rights violations at the hands of the Pakistani state. This includes enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of Sindhi political activists, the state-sponsored rise in religious extremism, persecution of religious minorities, misappropriation of natural resources, forced eviction and economic hardship due to large-scale infrastructure projects without consultation, and the complete denial of rights and opportunities for social, economic, cultural and political development. The state's actions have led to systematic discrimination, hostility, and the persecution of indigenous Sindhi people. Currently, the Sindhi people are facing the following rights violations:

Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances of Sindhi Activists

Enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of political and human rights activists is the norm in Pakistan, where security agencies continue to operate with impunity. Released victims are detained for various lengths of time in which they undergo physical and psychological trauma, while others are killed in custody. By August 2021, the Federal Commission for the Recovery and Inquiry of Enforced Disappearances in Pakistan received 8,122 reports of enforced disappearances. Eyewitnesses to these disappearances indicate that the majority of perpetrators seem to be state-sponsored security personnel, i.e. rangers, police, and intelligence agencies. Despite domestic and international pressure, the Commission on Enforced Disappearances remains underfunded and lacks the necessary authority to properly investigate the hundreds of reported cases. While the Criminal Laws Amendment Bill 2021 seeks to provide stricter laws and better avenues of justice to victims, the state is working to actively undermine these efforts.

Massive Infrastructure Projects without Consultation or Consideration

Pakistan's continued dedication to massive infrastructure projects through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) continues to fuel inequity within Sindh. State agents continue to move forward or support with damn projects, despite public outcries in Sindh. In addition to the dam projects, Bahria Town Karachi moves forward with its plans in the Malir District. Despite a ruling by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2018, BTK has not paid reparations and continues its illegal seizure of indigenous land. These initiatives will result in loss of traditional lands, the usurpation, and degradation of natural resources, and the loss of livelihoods. Historical mismanagement of such infrastructure projects and the lack of consideration given to how these projects will negatively impact local populations, putting the people of Sindh in a disadvantaged and dangerous position.

Forced Conversions and Kidnappings of Sindhi Hindus

Sindhi Hindus face targeted discrimination and violence including. This pervasive violence has resulted in the exodus of the Hindu population out of Pakistan. Within the last year, numerous cases were reported of Hindu girls, the majority of whom were under the age of 16, being forcibly abducted and converted. In most instances, the girls were then forcibly married off or kept in the

custody of their kidnappers with little to no recourse for the girls or their families. Families who reported the kidnappings were often the targets of violence.

Spread of Religious Extremism in Sindh

There are an estimated 20,000 new madrassas across Sindh, mostly funded by foreign money and under the patronage of the government. Islamic militarism is increasing, and Sindh is witnessing unprecedented violence against non-Muslim and non-Sunni sects of Muslims. Underage religious minority girls are the targets of kidnappings and forced conversions as textbooks and school curriculums teach intolerance and bigotry, further aggravating tensions between these groups. Several incidents of destruction and burning of Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Ahmadi places of worship have been reported.

Misappropriation of Sindh's Natural Resources

Sindh remains one of the most resource-rich states of Pakistan with some of the largest oil and gas reserves in the world. These resources contribute to 69% of all of Pakistan's revenue, and Sindh has the only seaport in the country. Sindh has 71% of the gas fields in Pakistan, 62% of the oil of Pakistan, and one of the largest coal deposits in the world and 99% of Pakistan's total coal reserves (worth an estimated \$23 trillion). However, Sindh only receives 11% of federal funding and 60% of Sindhis live below the poverty line. 50% of the population has diseases borne out of inadequate sanitation, and a lack of health facilities and proper infrastructure. More than 60% of Sindhis do not have access to drinkable water. The Federal government relies on Sindh's resources but then appropriates funding unequally and inequitably in favor of Punjab, perpetuating Sindh's status as one of the poorest provinces in the country despite its contributions.

A Message from the Chair

The 2021-2022 year has been dedicated to advocacy, outreach, and humanitarian aid for the World Sindhi Congress. Numerous protests, petitions, fundraisers, and seminars to advocate and raise awareness on the human rights violations in Sindh were organized and attended by WSC around the world. WSC grew its media presence to better connect with members and fellow advocates, in addition to numerous statements, press releases, and interviews.

Sindh's current situation is marked by continuous human rights violations, an environment of fear and oppression, and . Enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings continue unchecked, while measures to address the abuse are stalled. Indigenous Sindhi people are disproportionately and negatively impacted by these projects, which infringe on their lands, misappropriate their resources, and loss of livelihoods. Religious extremism continues to rise, driving Sindhi Hindus and other religious minorities from the province. In relation to this, cases of the abduction and forced conversion of Hindu girls and women in Sindh persist as a major issue.

Mismanagement of natural resources and manmade climate change resulted in a humanitarian crisis, as the monsoon rains that started in June of this year in Pakistan manifested into high floods that have led to massive destruction throughout the country. Of the affected areas, Sindh has seen the worst aftermath of the monsoon rains. 1,823,360 million houses were damaged from the flooding, 742,695 of which have been completely destroyed. The flood has also impaired 414,869 livestock and 3,773,707 acres of crop area. Over 11 million people were impacted by the flooding in Sindh and face challenges in continuing education, receiving adequate healthcare and resources, and being displaced from their homes.

Representatives from the World Sindhi Congress were able to meet with the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) a total of three times during 2021, where they raised the issue of disappearances in Sindh, and attended virtual sessions in the United Nations regarding widespread human rights abuses in Sindh. This year, we were also able to collaborate with other organizations to build relationships and advocacy networks. World Sindhi Congress worked with the AAPG, Voice for Sindhi Missing Persons, and many others to raise human rights issues with the international community. These connections regularly took the form of seminars that the World Sindhi Congress used to inform and engage with community members.

The work we have accomplished this year is possible because of our dedicated members and fellow defenders of human rights, whom we thank and honor for their efforts. The World Sindhi

Congress salutes human rights advocates for their unwavering support and efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to those impacted by the floods. The World Sindhi Congress salutes each of you.

The continued repression of democracy in Pakistan, along with the ongoing human rights crisis, contribute to a major security threat in the region. It is vital that WSC continues its advocacy in the coming year by working closely with other oppressed nations in Pakistan and partnering with other non-governmental organizations. With your support, we will continue our outreach with the United Nations and other international governments to advance human rights in Sindh.

Accomplishments



Dr Rubina Greenwood Elected as Vice-President of UNPO on 22 April, 2022

Dr Rubina Greenwood, Chairperson of WSC, was announced as one of the vice-presidents of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization at the General

Assembly in Washington, D.C. Dr. Greenwood was elected along with Elizenda Paluzie of Catalonia. Dr. Edna Adan Ismail, who represents Somaliland, was elected as President.

WSC Attends UNPFII in New York on 27 April, 2022

World Sindhi Congress delegate, Raja Dahar Joyo, attended the ongoing 21st Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) held at the UN Headquarters in New York.



Delegation Attends 49th UN Human Rights Council Session on 15-17 March, 2022

On 15 March, a WSC delegation joined a protest against human rights violations and attended a conference on 'State of Human Rights and Civil Liberties in Pakistan and its Occupied Areas'.



On 16 March, WSC organized a protest against human rights violations in Sindh and attended the Global Human Rights Defence press conference on the 'Human Rights Situation in China and Pakistan - Why It Matters for the World'. Delegates joined the Balochistan Human Rights Council to protest against human rights violations in Balochistan and attended the "Baloch Lives Matter" Seminar on 17 March.

WSC Statements during 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 17 June, 2022

WSC Delegates presented the cases of arrests and registering cases against hundreds of peaceful participants paying tribute to Saeen GM Syed on his death anniversary on 27th April, protesting against Bahria Town on 6th June 2021, and the arrest of Aslam Khairpuri under sedition and terrorism charges at the 50th session of the UNHRC, as well as raising concerns over the lack of access to education for Sindhi children and the closing of schools in Sindh.



WSC Delegation Meets with WGEID on 10 May, 2022

A delegation from the World Sindhi Congress, joined by the relatives of victims, met with the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances during its 127th Session in Geneva. WSC requested the UN WGEID undertake a visit to Pakistan to assess the extent of enforced disappearances and speak with

victims, relatives, and human rights organizations.

WSC Delegates Present Memorandum to UN Secretary General on 24 September, 2022

WSC presented a memorandum to the UN Secretary General that requested the UN set up a committee to investigate the unprecedented floods, as the floods have left millions of Sindhi people stranded without aid from the government of Pakistan. The letter requested an international effort for the relief and rehabilitation of millions of people devastated by flooding.



UNPO Submits Report on the Right of Self-Determination in Pakistan on 18 July, 2022

WSC joined the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization in submitting an article for the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights

Council on the right of self-determination of minority nations in Pakistan.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Gives Statement on Human Rights and Blasphemy Laws on 28 April, 2022

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Hon' Mélanie Joly responded to WSC correspondence on human rights and blasphemy laws in Pakistan by stating that "the promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, are an integral part of Canada's foreign policy, as well as a key priority for our engagement with Pakistan."



Canadian MP Sponsors Petition Against Blasphemy Laws on 5 May, 2022

As a result of WSC advocacy, Canadian MP Garnett Genuis has sponsored a Parliamentary Petition against blasphemy laws in Pakistan, forced conversion of Hindu Girls, forced abduction, and the Notan Lal Case.

APPG Inquiry Report Published on 18 May, 2022

The UK Parliament's All Parties Parliamentary Group on Pakistani Minorities produced an inquiry report on 'Abductions, Forced Conversions, and Forced Marriages of Religious Minority Women and Girls in Pakistan'. In the process of the inquiry WSC had meetings and contributed a brief including the status, data and underlying causes of forced conversions of Sindhi Hindu girls.



Activities



International Human Rights Day: Remembering Karima Baloch hosted by the Sindhi Baloch Forum on 11 December, 2021

Dr Hidayat Bhutto and Raja Dahar of WSC were panelists at a virtual event by the SBF honoring the life and work of late activist Karima Baloch, and discuss the human rights situation in Sindh

and Balochistan on International Human Rights Day.

WSC Canada Celebrates 118th Birth Anniversary of GM Syed

Members of the WSC Canada Chapter gathered on 15 January 2022 to commemorate Saeen GM Syed and his legacy on his 118th birthday in Peterborough, Canada.



WSC Condemns Murder of Satan Lal on 31 January, 2022

Satan Lal was a Hindu businessman murdered in Daharki in the province of Sindh of Pakistan on 31 January 2022, after attempting to report multiple threats to his life. World Sindhi Congress called for the persecution of his killers and an end to religious violence in Sindh.

Notan Lal Convicted on False Blasphemy Charges on 7 February, 2022

World Sindhi Congress is working to raise international awareness and pressure for the release of Notan Lal, who was sentenced to 25 years in prison on false blasphemy charges on 7 February 2022. Members have written petitions, letters, and spoken with members of international governments about Lal's case and the unjust nature of blasphemy laws in Pakistan.





WSC Celebrates Mother Language Day on 21 February, 2022

WSC marked Mother Language Day on 21 February to spread awareness on the history, suppression, and devaluing of the Sindhi language.

WSC Condemns Arrest of JSQM (A) Chairperson on 6 April, 2022

World Sindhi Congress condemned the arrest of JSQM (Arisar) Chairperson Mr. Aslam Khairpuri and numerous Sindhi political leaders and workers while returning from Thatta, after attending the death anniversary of renowned nationalist leader Shaheed Shafi Karnani.



Celebration of Life for Irshad Abassi on 16 April, 2022

WSC Canada hosted an event to celebrate the life of Irshad Abassi on 16 April at Sindh House in Peterborough, Ontario. Family and friends paid tribute.

WSC Condemns Mass Arrests of Jeay Sindh workers on 25 April, 2022

WSC condemned the arrest and registering cases under treason and terrorism charges on 25th April 2022 of hundreds of peaceful Jeay Sindh workers and supporters, including scores of women, who were travelling to pay tribute to Saeen GM Syed.





WSC Canada Celebrates 27th Death Anniversary of GM Syed on 27 April, 2022

Sindhi, Baloch, and Pashtun leaders and community members met at Sindh House in Peterborough, Canada to celebrate the legacy of GM Syed.

Golden Jubilee Celebration of End of One Unit on 14 May, 2022

WSC organized a virtual seminar for the Golden Jubilee celebration of End of One Unit with Aijaz Qureshi, Baseer Naveed, Khalique Junejo, Nasir Mansoor, and Dr. Lakhu Luhana.



WSC Condemns the Killings of Allah Dino Rahimoon and Nawab Rahimoon on 18 May, 2022

World Sindhi Congress condemns the enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of nationalist political workers Allah Dino Rahimoon and Nawab Rahimoon.

National Self-Determination of Oppressed Nations in Pakistan Event on 25 June, 2022

WSC Canada organized a seminar in the Toronto Public Library, where speakers spoke about the struggle for the right to self-determination for minority nations in Pakistan.





WSC Marks Remembrance Day: Heroes of Sindh on 25 June, 2022

WSC UK organized an event honoring Remembrance Day and the heroes of Sindh with music and speakers on 25 June in Sheffield, UK.

WSC attends Baloch Lives Matter Event on 12 July, 2022

WSC's Dr. Lakhu Luhana attended the "Baloch Lives Matter" event in the UK Parliament, hosted by Baroness Natalie Bennett, to discuss human rights violations in Balochistan. The event was broadcasted live on YouTube.



BHRC Hosts Humanitarian Crisis in Balochistan Event on 24 July, 2022

WSC Secretary General Dr. Lakhu Luhana joined the Baloch Human Rights Council's virtual discussion on the international community and the Humanitarian Crisis in Balochistan.

WSC Hosts "No Sindhis are NOT Racist" Discussion on 30 July, 2022

Farhan Kaghzi and Baseer Naveed hosted a WSC event on Twitter to discuss colonization in Sindh on 30 July.



WSC Condemns Attack on University Students on 14 August, 2022

Dr Hidayat Bhutto condemned the attack on Sindhi students at the University of Karachi while speaking with Voice of Sindh News.

Members Participate in Hunger Strike in New York on 17 August, 2022

WSC members joined a hunger strike organized by the Sindhi Foundation at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, U.S. The strike was organized to protest against enforced disappearances and forced conversions of religious minorities in Sindh, and to call for international aid for flood relief.

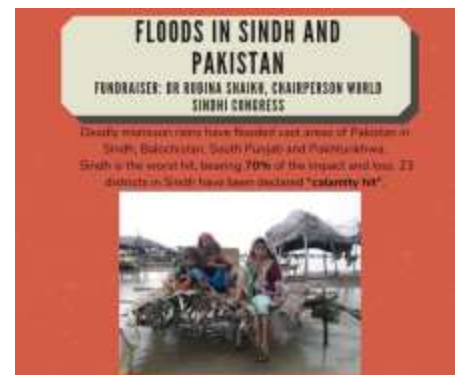


Protest in Toronto Organized by WSC, PCC, and BHRC on 17 August, 2022

Sindhis, Baloch and Pashtuns living in Canada participated in a protest held by the World Sindhi Congress with the support of Baloch Human Rights Council Canada and Pashtun Council Canada in front of City Hall Toronto to spread awareness for the devastation caused by the monsoons, the loss of human life and property, and the mismanagement of the federal and Sindh government.

Fundraiser for Flood Relief Begins on 4 September, 2022

Dr. Rubina Shaikh, Chairperson of WSC, announced a fundraiser to provide humanitarian aid to the over 20 million people in Sindh impacted by the cataclysmic flooding. Monsoons caused flooding across Pakistan in Sindh, Balochistan, South Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with Sindh bearing 70% of the impact.



WSC Holds Protest Against Genocide in Sindh on 22 September, 2022



World Sindhi Congress organized a large protest in front of the UNHRC in Geneva, joined by the exile leaders of Balochistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and human rights defenders from various countries of Europe. Members protested heinous crimes against Sindhi, Baloch, Kashmiri, and

Pashtun people through enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, persecution of religious minorities, loot and occupation of their resources, along with negligence in the flood response.

Hunger Strike Led by WSC UK on 25 September, 2022

WSC UK members organized a hunger strike and protest in front of the Pakistan High Commission in London to protest the criminal negligence of the Pakistani government that has resulted in the drowning of Sindh and Sindhi people.



34th International Conference on Sindh

Planned for 19 November, 2022



WSC has organized the 34th International Conference on Sindh, with a focus on the catastrophic monsoon flooding in Sindh. Topics will include humanitarian responses to the disaster, causes of the flooding, and disaster mismanagement. A fundraiser for flood relief will also be held during the conference.

In Memoriam



WSC Grieves the Loss of Zafdar Sindhi on 8 December, 2021

WSC mourns the passing of Zafdar Sindhi, and expresses condolences to his family and Sindh. Zafdar Sindhi promoted national and secular thought, boldly preached GM Syed's thoughts on social media, and was a true lover of Sindh.



WSC Mourns Comrade Mohammed Saleh Billoo on 19 December, 2021

WSC mourns the loss of Comrade Billoo, who worked tirelessly for the advancement of the communist causes in Pakistan and inspired Sindhi activists from his home in Nawabshah.



WSC Mourns the Death of Maqbool Aliani on 20 February, 2022

WSC is deeply saddened by the untimely death of Maqbool Aliani, who was a conscientious advocate of Sindhi and Baloch people and a friend of WSC.



WSC Grieves Saeen Akbar Barakzai on 7 March, 2022

Saeen Akbar Barakzai passed away in London on 7 March, 2022. He was a talented poet, writer, and the founding Executive President of Baloch Human Rights Council. Barakazi was a devoted proponent of the cause and rights of Sindhi and Baloch people, and a friend of the World Sindhi Congress.



WSC Grieves Irshad Abbasi on 7 April, 2022

WSC mourns the death of Irshad Abbasi. Abbasi served as the Vice President of SANA, and was a friend and supporter of WSC.



WSC Grieves Yusuf Masti Khan on 29 September, 2022

WSC mourns the death of Yusuf Masti Khan, a dedicated member of the Awami Workers Party who campaigned tirelessly for worker's rights and public and national rights throughout his life.

World Sindhi Congress Media Presence

WSCs connects Sindhis around the world with social media. WSC shares events, news, and updates daily across eight platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn. World Sindhi Congress continues to grow its social media presence and strengthen the international Sindhi network.

