

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST FACES FORCIBLE RETURN TO PAKISTAN

On 6 February 2020, security officers arrested Geelaman Pashteen, a Pashtun human rights activist and supporter of Pakistan's Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), based on an Interpol Red Notice requesting his extradition to Pakistan. His forcible return to Pakistan would violate international law, as he would be at risk of torture and enforced disappearance.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
P.O. Box 547
Government Road
Manama
Bahrain
Email: contactus@mofa.gov.bh
Twitter: @khalidalkhalifa

Your Excellency

On 6 February 2020, Bahraini security forces arrested a Pakistani national, **Hazrat Naeem Abdul Qayum**, also known as **Geelaman Pashteen**, based on an Interpol Red Notice. Geelaman Pashteen is a poet and human rights activist who resides and works in Bahrain. As a supporter of Pakistan's Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), he has been peacefully calling for equality and justice for human rights violations against the Pashtun community in Pakistan.

In 2019, the Pakistani authorities intensified their [crackdown](#) on the PTM, which campaigns against human rights abuses – arresting and arbitrarily detaining dozens of its supporters, subjecting them to surveillance, intimidation, prosecution and violence leading to multiple deaths, solely for peacefully exercising their human rights.

If returned to Pakistan, Geelaman Pashteen, as a supporter of PTM and peaceful advocate for change, would be at risk of serious human rights violations, including enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment.

We urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Geelaman Pashteen, and under no circumstances deport him to Pakistan or to any other country where he would be at real risk of serious human rights violations. We call on the Bahraini authorities to ensure the principle of non-refoulement is always respected, as indicated under customary international law.

Yours sincerely,

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hazrat Naeem Abdul Qayum, aged 24, also known as Geelaman Pashteen, has been peacefully using his [Twitter](#) account to call for equality and justice for human rights violations against the Pashtun community; and for the release of [Manzoor Pashteen](#), a leader of the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM – Movement for the Protection of Pashtuns). Manzoor Pashteen was arrested and detained on 27 January 2020 under draconian colonial-era laws on charges including “sedition”, for a speech he gave criticising the Pakistani military.

The PTM is a movement that says it uses non-violent means to campaign against extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances and other human rights violations Pakistan’s Pashtun ethnic minority suffer through. In the past, senior government officials – including Prime Minister Imran Khan and army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa – have said they recognise and sympathise with the PTM’s grievances.

Despite these statements, the Pakistani authorities have intensified their crackdown against the group. Dozens of its supporters have been arrested, arbitrarily detained, subject to surveillance and intimidation, and violence. Across the country, their rallies have been banned or disrupted, denying them the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or Arabic

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 26 March 2020

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Geelaman Pashteen (he/him)

ADDITIONAL TARGETS: High Commissioner Muhammad Nafees Zakaria, High Commission for Pakistan, 34-36 Lowndes Square, Belgravia, London SW1X 9JN