

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST'S BROTHER FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED

Dad Shah, brother of well-known woman human rights defender Fozia Baloch, was forcibly disappeared from his home in Karachi, Sindh, on 21 April by state officials allegedly belonging to the Counter Terrorism Department. Despite the presence of multiple eyewitnesses when he was taken, the police have failed to adequately investigate the case, and his family members have since been harassed and arbitrarily detained by law enforcement for raising the issue of his disappearance. The disappearance of Dad Shah, whose sister advocates for human rights in Balochistan, is seemingly part of a wider crackdown on Baloch activism. Amnesty International calls on the authorities to immediately reveal the fate and whereabouts of Dad Shah and release him and cease harassment of him and his family.

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

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah
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Hon. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah,

*I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the enforced disappearance of **Dad Shah**, a 38-year-old Baloch man from Karachi, and the subsequent harassment and intimidation of his family. Dad Shah was taken on 21 April by personnel reportedly from the Counter Terrorism Department, accompanied by individuals in civilian clothing, from his family home. Since that time, his whereabouts remain unknown, and authorities have failed to disclose any information regarding his fate or location.*

Dad Shah's family initially faced resistance from the police to adequately investigate his disappearance, and the police have failed to name state authorities in the eventual criminal report. On 25 April, Dad Shah's sister, human rights defender Fozia Baloch, and mother were prevented from holding a press conference, subjected to ill-treatment, and arbitrarily detained by police. Such actions appear to constitute reprisals against family members simply for advocating for the rights of their family members and amount to interference with their right to freedom of expression.

This is not the first time Dad Shah has been subjected to enforced disappearance. He was forcibly disappeared in August 2023 and reportedly pressured during his detention to silence his sister's advocacy for human rights in Balochistan. He suffers from multiple allergies and his family worries for his health as he remains missing. This history heightens concerns for his safety and the risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Therefore, I urge you to:

- **Immediately disclose Dad Shah's whereabouts, ensure he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that he provided access to adequate healthcare;**
- **Ensure that he is released immediately and not subject to trumped up charges solely to silence him and his family's activism;**
- **Conduct a prompt, independent, and impartial investigation into his enforced disappearance, including the alleged involvement of CTD personnel, and hold those suspected to be responsible to account in fair proceedings;**
- **End all forms of harassment, intimidation, or reprisals against Dad Shah's family.**

I trust your commitment to justice and human rights will guide your actions to urgently address these grave concerns.

Yours sincerely

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dad Shah, a 38-year-old man of Baloch ethnicity residing in Karachi, Sindh province worked with his brother at a family-owned shop. Dad Shah has a keen interest in poetry and translating literary works into Balochi language and often shared his work on social media. His sister, **Fozia Baloch**, is a well-known woman human rights defender from Balochistan affiliated with the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) and actively campaigns for the rights of families searching for their disappeared loved ones and has supported families demanding justice for victims of extrajudicial executions.

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) is a peaceful grassroots civil rights movement advocating for human rights in Balochistan. The organization has been subjected to a crackdown in recent years, with its [leadership](#), including activists Mahrang Baloch, Bebagh Zehri, Beebow Baloch, Shah Jee Sibghat Ullah, and Gulzadi Baloch, under unlawful pre-trial detention in a secret trial for over a year under trumped up anti-terrorism charges. Activists, lawyers and journalists speaking up against this crackdown are also being targeted. In January 2026, human rights lawyer, Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatta, who are also Mahrang Baloch's lawyers in several cases in Islamabad, were [sentenced](#) to 10 years of imprisonment for social media posts expressing solidarity with Baloch activists, particularly Mahrang. Journalist Sohrab Barkat was also arrested in December 2025 facing charges of posting on social media about Balochistan. In October 2025, dozens of Baloch activists, including members of BYC, were [placed](#) under section 11-EE of the Anti-Terrorism Act, constituting a "terror watch list", severely curtailing the right to liberty and movement of the activists. Recently, local authorities in Sindh province placed restrictions on members of the BYC from attending the annual women's march in Karachi, Aurat March Karachi, on 10 May, stating that the organization was a "proscribed organization" under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 despite no such designation being done under the law.

After Dad Shah was forcibly disappeared during a raid at his family home in Karachi, his family approached the local police station to file a complaint regarding his abduction, but the police refused to file a First Information Report (FIR). Eventually, when the report was registered four days later, it was against "unknown persons" despite the family's insistence that state personnel be named.

His sister, Fozia Baloch, and his mother decided to hold a press conference at the Karachi Press Club on 25 April regarding Dad's disappearance. When they arrived at the press club, the police had already cordoned off the premises and prevented them from addressing the media. On their way back home, Fozia and her mother were stopped by the police, subjected to ill-treatment, arrested, and booked in a criminal case. They were released shortly after, and the case was dismissed after a legal challenge in court.

Enforced disappearances in Balochistan province and against people of Baloch ethnicity have been extensively [documented](#). According to the government's Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, as of November 2025, the Commission had investigated 10,718 cases nationwide. The Defence of Human Rights (DHR) has documented 3,140 cases since 2006, of which 1,362 victims remain forcibly disappeared. It documented 60 additional cases in 2025. Pakistan is not signatory to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and has no law criminalizing enforced disappearances. Amnesty International has previously [documented](#) that families of the disappeared are often subjected to harassment, unlawful detention and surveillance by the state, especially if they speak up and campaign for the return of their family members.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Urdu.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 29 November 2026

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

NAME AND PRONOUN: Dad Shah (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: N/A