

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:

1. Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
2. [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 11.20**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

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](https://twitter.com/khalidalkhalifa)

Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa

Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain
3502 International Drive NW, Washington DC 20008
Phone: 202 342 1111 | Fax: 202 362 2192
Email: ambsecretary@bahrainembassy.org
Twitter: [@BahrainEmbDC](https://twitter.com/BahrainEmbDC)
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

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. 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 their peaceful exercise of 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 and torture and other ill-treatment.

I 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. I call on the Bahraini authorities to ensure respect at all times for principle of non-refoulement under customary international law.

Yours sincerely,

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hazrat Naeem Abdul Qayum, aged 24, known by the name of Geelaman Pashteen has been peacefully using his [Twitter](#) account calling 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), who was arrested and detained on 27 January 2020 under draconian colonial-era laws, including for “sedition”, for a speech he gave criticizing the Pakistan 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 suffered by Pakistan’s Pashtun ethnic minority. In the past, senior government officials – including Prime Minister Imran Khan and army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa – have said they recognize and sympathize 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 PRONOUN: Geelaman Pashteen (he/him)