

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS IMPRISONED

On January 24, human rights lawyers Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha were given ten-year prison sentences on “cyber terrorism” and “false information” charges for their posts on the social media platform, X, for expressing solidarity with Baloch and Pashtun activists and criticizing the Pakistan military. They were arrested on January 23 and remain imprisoned in Adila Jail, Rawalpindi. Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha are prominent lawyers who have defended the rights of countless people and are being targeted solely for their advocacy and work defending human rights in Pakistan.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 4.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

Prime Minister's Office
Constitution Avenue, G-5/2 Islamabad, Pakistan
Phone: 042-35888703
Email: info@pmo.gov.pk

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

**CC: Pakistani Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh**

3517 International Court, NW,
Washington DC 20008

Email: consularsection@embassyofpakistanusa.org

Hon. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

I am writing to express my concern about the unjust sentencing and conviction of human rights lawyers **Imaan Mazari** and **Hadi Ali Chattha**.

On January 24, an Islamabad district and sessions court sentenced Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha to ten years each in prison based on their posts on X primarily expressing solidarity with Baloch and Pashtun activists and criticizing the Pakistan military's policies. Hadi Ali Chattha was charged with resharing Imaan Mazari's posts.

The trial of the two lawyers was conducted with unusual haste, and they were consistently denied the right to cross-examine witnesses and bring evidence against them. Furthermore, their conviction was announced while a transfer application was still pending against the presiding judge, who Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha had accused of bias.

Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha are lawyers who have defended the rights of countless people and are currently representing journalists, activists, and victims of enforced disappearances and blasphemy allegations. Their imprisonment impacts many of these people who deserve the right to be represented by their lawyers. The use of laws such as PECA to silence and criminalize peaceful dissent is a clear violation of Pakistan's obligations under international human rights law.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha and quash their convictions. I also call on you to end the misuse of the criminal justice system, including cybercrime laws, to target human rights defenders.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Imaan Mazari and **Hadi Ali Chattha** have been subjected to arbitrary detention and criminal charges several times for their human rights work in recent years. Imaan was arrested under charges of terrorism after her speech at a Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) rally in August 2023. She was released on bail a week later. In October 2024, Imaan and Hadi were [arrested](#) under terrorism charges for removing police barricades set up in relation to an international cricket team's visit in Islamabad. They were released days later. After a case was filed against them in August 2025 under PECA for so-called "anti-state" tweets, arrest warrants were issued. Both lawyers were granted pre-arrest bail; however, Hadi was briefly arrested on October 29, 2025, in relation to the case. On January 15, 2026, the court [canceled](#) Imaan and Hadi's bail after Imaan filed an application excusing non-appearance on account of illness. On January 16, the court ordered their arrest within 24 hours. They were granted temporary bail on January 19; however, additional charges were brought against them through a previously unknown First Information Report dated July 2025 relating to a protest by the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) in Islamabad. They secured pre-arrest bail on January 21. However, they were [arrested](#) on their way to court on January 23 for a case relating to a lawyers protest in September 2025. Immediately before their sentencing on January 24, Imaan informed the court via video link that she was being denied food and water in jail and boycotted court proceedings on account of mistreatment under detention. They were sentenced to five years for "glorification of an offense", ten years for "cyberterrorism", and two years for spreading "fake and false information" under PECA.

Imaan Mazari is a 32-year-old human rights lawyer from Islamabad and Hadi Ali Chattha is a 33-year-old human rights lawyer from Multan. Both Imaan and Hadi got married in 2023. Imaan and Hadi have been representing victims of state oppression for years, particularly representing journalists targeted under Pakistan's anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws, victims accused under the blasphemy laws, and victims of enforced disappearances. In June 2025, Imaan was awarded the World Expression Forum's Young Inspiration Award 2025.

Pakistani authorities have carried out a wider crackdown on freedom of expression. Since the passage of the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act in 2016, scores of [journalists](#), human rights defenders, and members and supporters of opposition parties have been detained and harassed under the law. In January 2025, the Act was amended to further restrict online speech and add section 26-A which allows for a maximum three-year prison sentence for "fake or false information". In recent months, Amnesty International has also [documented](#) a system of surveillance and censorship in Pakistan, used to target [journalists](#) and human rights [lawyers](#). Use of internet [shutdowns](#) and [slowdowns](#) are being deployed with increased frequency to curb [protests](#) and the flow of [information](#). Activists, particularly those belonging to Baloch and Pashtun ethnic identities, have been [targeted](#) through [antiterrorism laws](#) and subjected to [enforced disappearances](#).

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Urdu, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: July 29, 2026

NAME AND PRONOUN: Imaan Mazari (she/her); Hadi Ali Chattha (he/him)