

URGENT ACTION

RELEASE CONVICTED HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYERS

On January 23, human rights lawyers Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha were arbitrary arrested and the next day, both sentenced to 10 to 17 years' imprisonment for social media posts deemed to be "anti-state" and "fake and false information" under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act. Eight months in and their appeal against their sentence and conviction has yet to be heard. Imaan Mazari-Hazir has experienced serious health concerns in detention for which she needed urgent healthcare and which the authorities repeatedly denied her access to. The Pakistani authorities must quash their conviction and immediately and unconditionally release them.

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 **Second UA 87.26**. 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
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: info@embassyofpakistanusa.org

Dear Hon. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

I am concerned about the continued unlawful imprisonment of human rights defenders and prominent lawyers, **Imaan Mazari-Hazir** and **Hadi Ali Chattha**. They were arrested on January 23 and on January 24, sentenced to a 10 to 17 years' imprisonment for social media posts under provisions of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 related to "cyber terrorism" and "fake and false information". While their trial raised significant fair trial concerns, Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha's applications to suspend their prison sentence and appeal against their conviction have also not been heard by the higher courts, particularly the Islamabad High Court. Considering this failure to hear their appeals within the two-week time frame stipulated by the Supreme Court, there is concern that the authorities are using delay tactics to prolong their arbitrary detention.

I am also concerned about reports regarding Imaan Mazari-Hazir's poor health for the past month during which she has suffered from dental and gastrointestinal problems. Imaan has experienced heavy bleeding in her gums, and the prison authorities failed to provide her with access to a dentist. She was also found to be suffering from a chest infection and experiencing stomach issues.

Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha are being imprisoned as retaliation for their work as human rights lawyers and exercising their right to freedom of expression.

I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha's convictions are quashed and they are immediately and unconditionally released. Pending their release, I urge you to ensure that Imaan Mazari-Hazir and Hadi Ali Chattha are granted access to adequate and all necessary healthcare without delay.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Human rights lawyers **Imaan Mazari-Hazir** and **Hadi Ali Chattha** were arrested on January 23, 2026 whilst traveling to court where they were due to appear in relation to a case filed against them. They were arrested despite being granted pre-arrest bail two days earlier. Eyewitnesses reported use of unnecessary force by law enforcement during their arrest. They were detained in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi near Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, and remain imprisoned there. On January 24, an Islamabad district and sessions court sentenced Imaan and Hadi with 10 to 17 years imprisonment under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), sections 9 (glorification of an offense), 10 (cyber terrorism), and 26-A (false or fake information), based on their posts on X primarily expressing solidarity with Baloch and Pashtun activists and criticizing the Pakistan military's policies. Hadi was charged with resharing Imaan's posts. Their trial was conducted with unusual haste, and they were consistently denied the right to cross-examine witnesses and bring evidence against them.

Since their imprisonment, Imaan and Hadi have filed applications [appealing](#) their conviction and suspension of the imprisonment. These applications have not been heard by the courts through delay tactics such as refusing to list the case. On March 2, the Islamabad High Court dissolved the bench that would hear their appeal. After appealing to the Supreme Court, the court directed the Islamabad High Court on May 12 to pass a verdict on the sentence suspension pleas within two weeks. Despite these orders, no substantial hearing of the appeal has taken place.

Imaan and Hadi 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. They were later released.

Imaan Mazari is a 33-year-old human rights lawyer from Islamabad and Hadi Ali Chattha is a 33-year-old human rights lawyer from Multan. Imaan and Hadi have been representing victims of state oppression for years. 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". 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: March 7, 2027

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