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Monthly Report of November



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Global Human Rights Defence, Team Pakistan.
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Introduction

The aim of this monthly report is to provide a clear overview of the human rights violations in regard to minorities and marginalised groups in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that occurred during November 2022. In particular, the report will provide readers with an understanding of recent events and how these events have affected the rights of vulnerable groups, simultaneously highlighting the need for continued discussion and advocacy.

First, the report will give an overview of Pakistan, addressing its history as well as the current political structure. Secondly, the report will continue with an overview of significant human rights violations that occurred in November 2022, specifically focusing on children's and women's rights. Thirdly, the report will describe the current security issues encountered by the country affecting the rights and liberties of civilians. Finally, the report will discuss positive developments within the field of human rights and provide a chapter concerning relevant upcoming developments.

Country Profile

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is located in the Southern part of Asia bordering the Arabian Sea, with India on the east and Iran and Afghanistan on the west and China in the north (CIA, 2022). The country is divided into four provinces, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with two Pakistan-administered areas, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and the capital territory, Islamabad Capital Territory (CIA, 2022.). With an estimated population of 243 million people, Pakistan is the fifth-highest populated country in the world (CIA, 2022).

Pakistan gained independence on August 14, 1947, from the British Empire in India and is now a Federal Parliamentary Republic with its government seated in the capital, Islamabad (CIA, 2022). The current head of State is President Arif Alvi and the head of the government is the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who came to power after the former Prime Minister Imran Khan lost a vote of no confidence (CIA, 2022). Furthermore, Pakistan's Parliament is bicameral, composed of the Senate and the National Assembly (CIA, 2022). Pakistan follows a multi-party system with the major political parties being Pakistan People's Party, the Pakistan Muslim League (N), and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. The country's legal system is a common law system with Islamic law influence such as the Sharia (CIA, 2022).

Pakistan is a Muslim-majority country with Pakistan's Constitution, which was last amended in 2018, recognising Islam as the State religion, yet the Constitution emphasises that every citizen has the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion (Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, Article 20(a)). The religious minorities in Pakistan are mainly Hindus, Christians and Buddhists (Aceinland, 2021). Furthermore, Pakistan is ethnically and linguistically diverse with a majority of Punjabis and Pashtuns, as well as smaller populations of Sindhis, Saraiki, Muhajirs, Balochis, and other ethnic groups (CIA, 2022). The primary and national language is Urdu; however English is also recognised as an official language which is mostly spoken by the Pakistani elite and the majority of government ministries (CIA, 2022). Other languages spoken in Pakistan are Sindhi, Saraiki, Pashto, Balochi, Hindko, Burushaski and more (CIA, 2022).

Internationally, Pakistan is known as a nuclear power and a member of the United Nations (CIA, 2022). Furthermore, Pakistan is a founding member of the Commonwealth of Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (CIA, 2022).

Women's Rights

Throughout November 2022, different Pakistani offices and organisations held meetings with internal and external stakeholders on matters concerning women's rights. At the beginning of the month, the 19th Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG) meeting took place. This meeting was organised by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), UN Women, and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) of the US Department of State with the objective to understand the data architecture and finalise data collection mechanisms for the National Gender Data Portal (NGDP). The NGDP was developed to collect data on gender statistics, which is crucial to identify gaps in existing policy and the IPMG was established to enhance inter-provincial dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment with meetings conducted to facilitate the exchange of experiences and insights between national and provincial women's machinery. During the meeting held this past month, the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said development projects within his Ministry would be planned according to principles of gender responsiveness to ensure the interests of women. Iqbal mentioned the addition to projects meant to empower women and recognised that women have a vital role in the development process of any country (Staff Report, 2022a).

On November 29th, 2022, Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar, held talks with Afghan Taliban leaders alongside Pakistan's special representative for Afghanistan and the Afghan Foreign Minister. These talks came after the agreement to strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. In her visit, the Minister met with the Women's Chamber of Commerce, expressing Pakistan's interest in strengthening the links between female entrepreneurs in the two countries as well as the intention to favour the import of products created by women-run businesses. The Minister's talks with the Taliban are relevant to Pakistan's efforts towards ensuring women's rights given the effect the Taliban has had on this matter in Afghanistan causing increased concern for women's rights in recent weeks (Khan, 2022).

Another positive development is the recent work of the Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST Foundation), with their event alongside Institute of Technical & Vocational Education (ZABTech) completing their pilot project in which 60 female trainees completed Handloom weaving training. This furthered the mission of the two entities of ensuring adequate training and garnered support from PPP leader Aseefa Bhutto Zardari who pointed out her party's focus on women empowerment (Staff Report, 2022b). A similar pilot initiative occurred in the Punjab province, where the Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to develop the skill set of female trainees, of underprivileged backgrounds, in fashion design. The project was part of the PSDF-Aghaaz training programmes developing entrepreneurial skills of young people, with minimum 40 percent of the training they fund focusing on the development of such skills of women and girls. It is expected to be extended across further districts within the province (News Desk, 2022).

In regional news, the female members of the provincial assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) warned they intended to protest against the regional KP government after having staged a sit-in in front of the KP cabinet room. The MPAs stated this would be a result of the undue delay of the formulation of the rules pertaining to the Prevention of Violence Against Women Bill, passed in 2020 (Staff Report, 2022c).

At the judiciary level, the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) reaffirmed the Punjab Women Protection Act after various petitions were filed against the Act for unprecedented protection to female victims and inadequate protection for men, claiming it was contrary to Islam. The FSC stated Islam did not justify any type of domestic violence against women and the legislation in question protected Islamic values in accordance with Islamic teachings (Staff Report, 2022d.)

During November, the United Nations (UN) commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. To this effect, the UN released a report on femicide noted that global emergencies and conflicts exacerbate risk factors associated with violence against women (Iqbal, 2022). The report further revealed the frequent murders at hand of a woman's intimate partner or family member, with more than half of women and girls murdered last year, in 2021, having faced this fate. This is a relevant issue in Pakistan as most of the married women who reported suffering spousal violence did not seek help with the matter. Alongside such an issue, largely caused by cultural norms creating shame and discouraging transparency on the matter, there is an issue with implementation of provincial legislation of domestic violence (Editorial, 2022). The abovementioned efforts show some willingness at governmental and societal level to address the gender violence issues, however it does not necessarily reflect the reality within Pakistan. The same month when these events were held and commitments were announced, Pakistani women and girls continued to be subject to violence. This included a woman and her three minor children having been brutally murdered by her husband, in Karachi after reported domestic disputes (Ali, 2022). There was also a Supreme Court ruling on the disappearance of three girls at the hands of their father, where the Court ordered the Interior Secretary and the Sindh Chief Secretary to ensure the safe recovery of the girls and submit a report to the court by the first week of January 2023 (Staff Report, 2022e).

Children's Rights

Child Marriage

Marriage Restraint Act 1929, constitutes the banning of the marriage of underage children. According to this act a "child" is identified as "a person who, if a male, is under eighteen years of age, and if a female, is under sixteen years of age" (Government of Pakistan, 1929). Furthermore, it demonstrates that whomever oversees or directs a "child marriage shall be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to [six months and fine of fifty thousand rupees], unless he proves that he had reason to believe that the marriage was not a child marriage" (Government of Pakistan, 1929). While this law may have been put into effect in Pakistan, underage marriages are nevertheless frequent. Recently, there has been much discussion regarding the protection of children, after a five-year-old girl in Balochistan was coerced into a marriage contract. According to reports, the father of the young girl stated to the Police Station Khuzdar that the forced marriage was due to "orders of a jirga to settle a murder dispute" (Junaidi, 2022). Throughout Pakistan, this heinous tradition is continued to be practised, "where girls are given in marriage or servitude to an aggrieved family as compensation to end disputes, often murder" said Chief Justice in a statement (Junaidi, 2022). Police officers were able to eventually detain the two individuals who were in charge of arranging this marriage when the girl's uncle turned over audio documentation of their interaction (Khan, 2022).

This event is just one of numerous child marriage-related incidents that have been documented. According to UNICEF, there are over 19 million child brides in Pakistan, with 4.6 getting married before they are 15 and 18.9 before they turn 18. This makes Pakistan a nation with the sixth-highest rate of child marriages before the age of 18 in the world. According to Soma Amir, various causes have been considered as to why child marriages continue to be prevalent in Pakistan. The majority of these causes are as follows: "permissive legislation; a failure to enforce existing laws; the treatment of children as slaves; a primitive feudal class fabric; lack of public awareness of the negative effects of child marriages; widespread poverty". Along with deeply ingrained traditions and customary norms such as the "concept of Vani (Another harmful tradition is the offering of girls, frequently minors, in marriage or enslavement to a family who has wronged them as payment to settle disputes)" (Amir, 2022). A goal must be made by the will of the Pakistani government to abolish the continuation of child marriages and have this abolishment be the priority for Pakistan's institutions.

Flood Crisis

The flood crisis that hit Pakistan in 2022 has demonstrated to be one of the worst the nation has ever experienced. While a slow process of restoration is being undertaken, special attention must be made towards hard hit districts. Regions of Sindh and Balochistan have been found to suffer from severe acute malnutrition, which poses a serious threat to children's lives, according to UNICEF. Presently, UNICEF is continuing to aid the prevention and treatment of malnutrition within the most affected districts by supplying multiple micronutrient powders (MNP) "for 81,397 children aged six to 59 months (39,453 boys and 41,944 girls) and 432,742 primary caregivers of children aged zero

to 23 months” (UNICEF, 2022). Furthermore, screening for malnutrition has been supplied to a total of 531,168 children with six percent demonstrating to exhibit a case of Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM).

Compounding the acute malnutrition, over 27,000 schools in the country have been destroyed leaving over two million children unable to access education. “Now, faced with the uncertainty of when they will be able to return to school, and having already endured some of the world’s longest school closures due to the pandemic, they are experiencing yet another threat to their future” stated UNICEF’s Global Director of Education Robert Jenkins (Jenkins, 2022). More than 500 temporary learning centres have been constructed by UNICEF in an effort to restart schooling. With further plans to educate teachers on psychosocial care intended to facilitate support of mental and physical health for impacted children (UNICEF, 2022).

Security Developments

It was on November 30th, 2022, that the banned Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) officially ended the unilateral ceasefire that was signed in May 2022 (Ahmed, 2022). The TTP directed its fighters across the nation to resume attacks with immediate effect.

The ceasefire process was intended to end hostilities indefinitely, and was brokered in Kabul by both Pakistani State and TTP officials. It has been outlined that the truce may have only been conceived due to the ideological and organisational ties that the TTP had with Afghanistan's Haqqani faction, which has since dwindled (Hussain, 2022). However, the process never moved beyond "confidence-building measures" as the demands set by the TTP for a final peace agreement were unfeasible to the Pakistani government (Hussain, 2022). The virtuality of the truce can be demonstrated in the 60 bomb and gun attacks in November alone, with at least eight Pakistani security personnel deaths (Hussain, 2022; Gul, 2022a). This leaves the ceasefire as more of a symbol of local power dynamics than an active peacekeeping measure.

The stated reasoning behind the cancellation of the agreement stemmed from the fact that the Pakistani military had recently ramped up operations against the group, both in the Northwestern tribal regions and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. As a result, the TTP accused the government of failing to uphold its side of the ceasefire, a claim that has been labelled by the government as "lame excuses" for the groups actions (Gul, 2022b).

Further analysis by Naveed Hussain (2022) has underlined some symbolic reasons for the lapse, rather than the stated practical explanation. The announced ending of the agreement coincided with the commencing of talks between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) and Pakistan's Minister of State, Hina Rabbani Khar. This act may show that the TTP are no longer subject to the instruction of IEA's dominant Haqqani faction, limiting the amount of influence that the IEA can promise Pakistan. The result of this explanation could be a potential nexus between the TTP and IS-K, which has been growing in influence in both nations, undermining both Pakistani State and IEA security efforts. If this is the case, the move was directed by the TTP to pressure Kabul away from collaborating with the Pakistani delegation.

The alternative explanation could involve General Syed Asim Munir replacing General Qamar Javed Bajwa as commander-in-chief of the Pakistani Army, which occurred alongside the truce ending. The new general and government have been underlined as more cordial towards the U.S. than Imran Khan's former regime, a point of contention for the Afghani Taliban. Hussain states that the move "may have been choreographed by the Kabul Regime" as a pressure move towards Islamabad. This may be substantiated by the harbouring of an estimated 7,000 TTP fighters within Afghanistan, although it is unclear as to what capacity the IEA has in preventing this (Gul, 2022b).

The TTP have been responsible for killing 96 soldiers and wounding at least 280 others, with confirmed 82 provincial police deaths. This makes up a 51 percent increase in the number of terrorist attacks in a single year since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan (Gul, 2022b). It has been claimed

that the takeover emboldened the TTP to step up their own operations, including these displays of armed violence, as well as TTP racketeering which has increased massively in Pakistan's borderlands (Times Of India, 2022). This has led to increased funding for the group, as well as substantiating its own capacity to exert violent force.

Chinese investment has already been targeted by the TTP, yet with the CPEC being imperative to the Pakistani economy, Pakistan will not back down on security issues (France 24, 2021). As a result, Islamabad is prepared to negotiate to repatriate fighters should they agree to surrender and disarm, in compliance with Pakistani laws, however, this seems to be the most that the Pakistani Administration can do on its own (Gul, 2022b). The IEA as a nascent regime has reason to cooperate with neighbouring states, as it remains officially unrecognised by the international community. Cooperation with local powers such as Pakistan could lead to future investment and solidify the new regime. This seems to be the motivation behind IEA assurances that "Afghanistan territory will not be used for terrorism against Pakistan or any other country" (Dawn, 2022). The IEA's primary spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, has also promised "[Talibs who attack foreign countries] are committing treason against Afghanistan first. They must be hunted, arrested and punished" (Gul, 2022b). We may thus conclude that there are two options regarding the IEA's potential action for the TTP:

1. The IEA is unable to control dissident terror groups, which could be seen in the persistent trouble caused by the IS-K group for Kabul's regime. The most recent example of this would be the attempted assassination of Pakistan's top diplomat in Kabul on December 2, demonstrating a clear lack of capacity to prevent high-profile terror (Gul, 2022c).
2. The IEA is capable of preventing future TTP actions in Pakistan, but they are untruthful about their will to commit to such action, as it could potentially lead to an IS-K and TTP coalition, leading to internal major stress for Kabul.

Regardless of the reasoning, the future seems bleak for both the IEA regime and Islamabad. The TTP has stated their intentions, and have already committed a suicide attack upon Pakistani State officials, killing three and wounding over thirty others in Quetta (Indian Express, 2022). It is now a question whether IS-K will join forces with the TTP, although likely that only time will tell what will happen.

Positive Developments

Climate Change

From July until November, all parts of Pakistan have been deeply affected by flood disasters, especially in poor and backward areas. Due to untimely rescue, lack of relief materials and medical resources, many secondary disasters are also affecting people's health and survival. In November, Pakistan and six other nations facing climate risks called 'pathfinder countries' will be the first recipients of 'Global Shield' funding, it was announced at the COP27 Summit in Egypt (Ahmed, 2022). The 'Global Shield' initiative for pre-arranged financial support has been designed to be quickly deployed in times of climate disasters. According to the joint press release of V20, G7 and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, the Global Shield will start its implementation immediately after COP27 (Ahmed, 2022).

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 309 people died and 369 were injured, 94,464 houses were affected by floods and 6,74318 were also displaced by heavy rains and floods (Buneri, 2022). After a long time of ineffective relief actions, the KP government has finally decided to impose a cut of more than Rs 82 billion on the annual Development Program which will be allocated to flood-affected districts of the province (Buneri, 2022). It is reported that the provincial Planning and Development (P&D) Department has started creating a revised Development Program of the province. The fund will be released only to those departments whose infrastructure was affected by the flood, including the Department of Irrigation, Communications and Works, Energy, Primary and Secondary Education, local government, Agriculture and Livestock, Water Resources, Health, Sports, Tourism and Culture, Higher Education, Multi-Sector Development and the Finance Department (Buneri, 2022).

Children's Rights

In November 2022, the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) sought a report from the provincial government while taking notice of the forced marriage of a six-year-old girl in Balochistan (Asad, 2022). The Court took up an application regarding the issue, which is a significant move that the Federal Court participates in preventing child marriage in Pakistan. When the law officer of Balochistan submitted a report regarding the incident, he was asked about the steps being taken by the provincial legislature to prevent child marriage as well as the forced marriage (Asad, 2022). He submitted a partial report of the Khuzdar police and social welfare department of Balochistan and expressed his ignorance of the current status of the draft law concerning child marriages (Asad, 2022). The court directed the law officer to submit a detailed report regarding such legislation and the draft for such legislation before the next date of hearing (Asad, 2022). Putting an end to child marriage requires more support from law enforcement and judicial departments. Courts at all levels should attach importance to child marriage cases and urge Law Enforcement Departments to learn and implement the latest legal norms.

Women's Rights

Many women's rights in Pakistan are deeply violated by Islamic law. Their rights to education, work and health are all affected by conflicts between Islamic teachings and laws. After the Punjab Women Protection Act was established in 2016, there have been continuous petitions on it. However, recently, the FSC has rejected all the petitions against the Act (Staff Report, 2022). The Court observed that the law enacted by the Punjab province to protect women from violence is in accordance with Islamic teachings. The FSC reserved its decision regarding the Punjab Women Protection Act 2016 on November 14 (staff report, 2022). The Court said that Islam does not justify any kind of domestic violence against a wife, sister, daughter, and mother. Islam prohibits all kinds of violence while ordering the protection and well-being of women (Staff Report, 2022). The Women's Protection Act 2016 gives legal protection to women from domestic, psychological, and sexual violence. It also calls for the creation of a toll-free abuse reporting hotline, women's shelters, and district-level panels to investigate reports of abuse and mandates the use of GPS bracelets to keep track of offenders (staff report, 2022).

International Community

The General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted four resolutions submitted by Pakistan, on behalf of G77 and China, including texts addressing racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, social development, the international year of the family as well as ageing (Staff Report, 2022). Three drafts introduced by Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, were approved by consensus in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters (Staff Report, 2022). In the context of the draft, the Assembly stated their regret to the destructive impact on millions as a result of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies. It would also call on States to dispense reparatory justice. In addition, Khan underpinned the group's concerns over the resurgence of racism and related phenomena in all walks of life, and called on countries to oppose antisemitism and Islamophobia (staff report, 2022).

Education

Pakistan and UNESCO have agreed to work out for the establishment of PAK-UNESCO Joint Centre of Excellence in Teachers Training and STEAM Learning at Islamabad (Staff Report, 2022). During the meeting, Rana Tanveer Hussain informed about Pakistan's resolute commitment to overcome the major challenges in education sector and mainly in the areas of Out of School Children, Girls Education, urgent actions required to mitigate learning losses, Quality of Education, introducing and embedding Skills learning in mainstream Education as well as use of technology to assist the conventional mode of education (Staff Report, 2022). He also emphasised on the damage caused by the recent unprecedented floods with recovery cost in the education sector around USD 918 million (Staff Report, 2022). Ms. Stefania Giannini informed that UNESCO has been doing its best to support Pakistan's education

sector along with its other partners in emergencies. She also assured of mobilising the global partners to provide all possible assistance to Pakistan's education sector. It was also agreed during the meeting that UNESCO will enhance its efforts for capacity building of the officials of Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU), whereas Pakistan's Education Ministry will ensure adequate workforce at PNCU (Staff Report, 2022). Both sides also agreed to engage in the possibility of holding an International Conference in Pakistan in a mutually agreed area in line with SDG-4 (Staff Report, 2022).

Besides international cooperation, the power supply of schools in mountainous areas has always been a difficult problem, which is related to the education of children in mountainous areas and the quality of life of people. But in November there was good news. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani noted that as the region had made a great stride towards the digitisation of educational institutions, the provision of an uninterrupted power supply was inevitable to achieve the objective (APP, 2022). While Pakistan has made some improvement towards digitisation of the educational institutions, it will be more reliable if there is a shortage of electricity to power the digital skeleton in these schools. The solarised schools would not only be provided with solar backup but also have an additional battery backup to cope with prolonged power outages (APP, 2022).

Looking Forward

The 19th Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG) meeting was held this month in Pakistan with the overall goal of understanding the data architecture and finalising data collection mechanisms for the National Gender Data Portal. The hope is that this meeting has brought and will continue to bring some clarity on the issue that is actually at hand: gender equality and the lack of women's empowerment, by continuing to enhance the dialogue on these issues. Several ministers have already said that their Ministry's are planning to bring about development projects to ensure gender responsiveness for the interests of women. The hope is that in the next month(s), more ministries take up such actions, collecting data and understanding the dialogue of the issues that are happening at the moment, aiming to empower women and recognise that they have a vital role in the development process too. Therefore, it will be just as important that in the future, women will be educated and will keep informed of these meetings, in order to bring something to the table as well, as the problem concerns women and the application of their rights.

The Federal Shariat Court has reaffirmed the application of the Punjab Women Protection Act after much resistance. The resistance mostly concerned the unprecedented protection granted by the Act to female victims and inadequate protection for men. While the Court struck down and argued against this resistance, we hope that the Act and its application thereof in Court and in everyday society will take off and it will be applied correctly in all possible situations. It will be only a matter of time once one of our reports will cover an application of this Act, in whatever form.

It seems that finally the Federal Shariat Court has sought action for the end of child marriage. The court sought a report from the provincial government after it took notice of the forced marriage of a six-year-old girl in Balochistan. It was about time that the Court took some noticeable action to solve this issue and prevent it from happening again in the future. Nevertheless, one must not be too quick in concluding that the issue will now be taken care of. It is unsure what the report will reveal and whether it will reveal the whole truth. If the report was not to reveal the whole truth, we can only hope that the Court knows better and will continue to investigate and not let this issue go any further than it has already gone.

A possible thought is that the prevention of child marriage could also go hand in hand and be combined with the recent developments in the field of education. Namely, Pakistan and UNESCO have agreed to work out an establishment, committing to overcome major challenges in the education sector, especially in relation to girls and young children. Education is obviously a great platform to teach children, the future generation, of how to handle and hopefully better the problems that are occurring today. Obviously, starting to make sure that access to education is for all children. Then, we can seriously think about educating children about recurring issues such as child marriage, but also forced and bonded labour, sex crimes, and other forms of violence. When we educate the children about risks that are apparent in their lives, they might be better prepared to fight against this. Let's hope that, first of all, the Court will take appropriate actions to end child marriage as soon as possible, and then, will find ways to educate children, once access to education is granted fully, about the dangers they must be wanting to prevent, in order to stop the crimes that are taking place today.

Conclusion

To conclude, November 2022 in Pakistan was a month when the Human Rights Week took place. We have seen some very hopeful positive developments in the areas of climate change, children's rights, women's rights, the international arena and education. Sadly, violations of women's rights are an almost monthly recurring problem. Children continue to be the victim of the heinous crime of child marriage, and the flood crisis, even though the peak of the crisis has already passed us, still takes a great toll on children, their wellbeing, and access to their rights. On top of that, the security threats that are continuously happening in Pakistan do not seem to be near to an end. The TTP has ended its ceasefire with immediate effect and is most likely to add more and more killings to their names. We can only hope that the improvements that have begun to evolve in November will be carried through into December.

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