

Human Rights Council: Submitting an NGO written statement

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (General, Special or Roster status) may submit written statements to the Human Rights Council (HRC).

The written statement is formatted and issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting NGO. English, Spanish and French versions can be published at this time.

In order for your statement to be published before the session, the deadline for submission is exactly two weeks prior to the start of a session. See the deadline on the web site. All submissions are final.

Please fill out **this** FORM and CHECKLIST to submit your statement and send it to the address indicated below. Your information goes after each arrow.

1. Please indicate the contact information for the representative submitting this statement (i.e. name, mobile, email) here: ➡ **Ulrich Delius, 0049-16095671403, asien@gfbv.de**
2. Indicate the Agenda item number (1-10) of statement, including the segment *: (Interactive Dialogue, ID; General Debate, GD; or Panel): ➡ Item # 3 Segment: SR on freedom of religion or belief
- 3.a) If this is an individual statement, indicate your organization's name as in the ECOSOC NGO database and indicate its consultative status in brackets (i.e. General, Special, or Roster). ➡ Society for Threatened Peoples (Special Consultative Status)
- or,
- 3.b) If this is a joint statement, list the main sponsor first, and then the co-sponsoring ECOSOC NGOs as they appear in the ECOSOC database and status (in brackets): Group all General NGOs first, group the Special second and group the Roster third. ➡
4. Indicate here any non-ECOSOC NGO(s) supporting this statement (they will appear as a footnote to the statement title): ➡
5. Indicate the exact TITLE for this statement here: ➡ **Violence against the Hazara Shia Community in Pakistan**

Please make sure that:

- This statement is in MS WORD document format (Font Times New Roman 10; no bold; no underline; no italics).
- Check word count: (Go to Tools, Word count, # of words) Indicate the length of text (excluding footnotes/endnotes) here: ➡ 615
 - NGOs in general consultative status are allowed 2,000 words
 - NGOs in special consultative status and on the roster are allowed 1,500 words
- Please use the Spell/grammar check on your text. (Go to Tools, Spelling & Grammar)
- If in doubt about Member States' names and correct UN terminology when referring to certain territories, use UNTERM database: <http://unterm.un.org/>
- Different language versions of one statement should be sent in the same email, but using **a separate form** for each.
- Email this document to: hrcngo@ohchr.org

* See the HRC Practical Guide for participants, page 9, which refers to segments in the session

PLEASE PASTE THE FINAL TEXT BELOW:



Society for Threatened Peoples is deeply concerned about the escalation of violence targeting the Hazara Shia community in Pakistan. For at least 15 months now, Sunni extremist gunmen have been methodically attacking members of the ethnic Hazara community, a Shiite minority that immigrated to Pakistan from Afghanistan more than a century ago to escape persecution. On the 10th of January 2013, at least four bomb attacks in Quetta killed 92 Hazara Shias, injuring over 150 people.

Similar attacks targeting the Shia population have taken place repeatedly over the year 2012 in the province of Balochistan where the vast majority of the 800.000 Hazara in Pakistan are based. In 2012, well over 400 Shiites were killed in targeted attacks. In the year 2011 at least 18 sectarian attacks on Shia have been recorded. The death of 400 Shiites in 2012 has been the worst toll since the 1990s. On August 16, 2012, 22 Shia passengers of an overland bus have been executed by Sunni extremists. The attackers all passengers to disembark the bus and after checking their national identity cards and summarily executed all Shiites.

Sunni militant groups such as the banned Lashkar-e Jhangvi have operated with widespread immunity across Pakistan while law enforcement officials have effectively turned a blind eye on attacks against the Shia community. Despite being officially banned, the leader of Lashkar-e Jangvi, Malik Ishaq, was released in 2011. Despite being accused in some 44 cases of being responsible for the murder of at least 70 Shiites, Malik Ishaq has been acquitted by Pakistani courts in 34 cases and granted bail in 10 other incidents. Now Malik Ishaq lives in southern Punjab Province, protected by armed militiamen and publicly spreading hate statements. He publicly declared in November 2012, that Shiites are “the greatest infidels on earth”.

Some Sunni extremist groups are known to be allies of the Pakistan military, its intelligence agencies and affiliated paramilitaries, such as the Frontier Corps. While the Pakistan government claims that dozens of suspected perpetrators of massive human rights violations against Hazara have been arrested in the last four years, none of these suspects successfully has been put on trial. Despite the fact that most observers are convinced that the Sunni extremists, responsible for the bloodiest attacks on Hazara in 2012/13 are based in Mastung, a village 18 miles south of Quetta, no efforts have been made by state security officials to arrested the suspected perpetrators of these atrocious attacks.

The bloodshed is part of a wider surge in sectarian violence across Pakistan Waves of attacks on minority communities have raised questions about the nature of these crimes. Some human rights defenders label them as a wave of sectarian violence between Sunnis and Shiites, but others warn of a systematic targeting of the ethnic Hazara. The Government of Pakistan has clearly not taken enough steps to protect the ethnic and religious minority as the attacks are increasing. The authorities have failed to address the collapse of law and order in the province of Balochistan. Furthermore the criminal justice system and the law enforcement agents have failed to stop impunity by ensuring that the perpetrators of massive human rights violations have been put on trial and imprisoned.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council to urge the Government of Pakistan to:

- Increase the number of security personnel in Shia areas and to ensure a better protection of the ethnic and religious community,
- Make all efforts to stop sectarian violence,
- End impunity and to ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations will be put on trial and imprisoned,
- Investigate the relationship between Sunni extremists and state security officials, military intelligence and paramilitary forces.