

Human Rights Council: FORM for Submitting an NGO written statements

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 representative submitting written statement (i.e. name, mobile, email) here: ➡ **Ulrich Delius, 0049-16095671403, asien@gfbv.de**

2. Indicate the Standing Agenda item number (1-10) of statement here: ➡ **Item 4, Segment: General Debate**

3.a) If this is an individual statement, indicate here 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 here the co-sponsoring ECOSOC NGO 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: ➡ **General election and political violence against minorities 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 (including footnotes/endnotes) here: ➡ **648**

-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)

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**

PLEASE PASTE THE FINAL TEXT BELOW: ⬇️

In March 2013, a civilian government in Pakistan was able to formally conclude its term for the first time. The landmark May 11 general election will mark the first democratic transition of power in Pakistan's history. Despite this positive record, poll violence has increased sensibly since the elections in October 2002 and February 2008.

The elections in 2002 occurred in relative calmness although three Christian nurses have been murdered and a Christian church in Punjab was attacked. Six days after these elections, a bomb attack in Karachi has caused the death of six people. During the election campaign in the years 2007/2008 more than 300 people died due to politically motivated violence.

This year once again, at least 143 people have been killed between the April 2 and May 8 due to political violence. Some 75 people have been murdered during the electoral campaign. A suicide bomber blew up his car at a check point near a Shiite –Hazara dominated suburb in Baluchistan province's capital Quetta on April 23, killing a soldier and five people, injuring 37 Hazaras. Politicians, dedicated to the promotion of the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, have been suffering from intimidation and death threats. Ms. Ruquiya Saeed Hashimi, a leader of the "Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid" in Quetta and a member of the Hazara minority community, has complained about receiving death threats for being a female candidate for election and a Shia. The general secretary of the "Hazara Democratic Party", Abdul Khaliq Hazara, has been forced due to poor security to limit his election campaign to some Shi dominated suburbs in Quetta. He narrowly escaped a bomb attack that occurred minutes after he addressed a public meeting in Quetta.

The on-going violence documents the failure of the Government of Pakistan to guarantee a minimum of safety for Shia Hazaras. From 2008 to April 2013, almost 942 members of the Shia community were killed in 481 incidents. Members of the Hazara community remained the prime targets of these aggressions.

Intimidation by death squads and terrorists linked to the banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi movement also has been overshadowing the electoral campaign of Baloch politicians. Leaders of the Baloch minority have been complaining about a lack of protection and support by the authorities. Leading politicians of the "Balochistan National Party-Mengal" blamed death squads for systematically intimidating and targeting Baloch candidates in the electoral campaign. The Balochs had decided to participate in the general election. Some of their exiled party leaders even had ended years of self-exile in order to participate in the elections.

Representatives of the Christian minority were more doubtful regarding the elections. Eight leading Christian political parties have called for a boycott of the elections due to the discrimination of Christian voters. Christians are unable to vote for their own representatives. Military Dictator Pervez Musharraf imposed the so-called "Joint Electorate" for minorities in 2002, which bared religious minorities to elect their representatives in the National Parliament on reserved seats and empowered Muslim political parties to select minorities' leaders on these seats. Therefore some 272 Muslim parliamentarians will be elected by the voters. These parliamentarians later will select 60 representatives for reserved seats for women and 10 reserved seats for religious minorities. Christian politicians have urged the Muslim majority to allocate dual voting rights to Christians and other religious minorities to end their discrimination in politics. Furthermore they have been criticizing the lack of credible support by Muslim majority political parties to lift the controversial blasphemy laws which have caused arbitrary arrests, politically motivated murder and communal clashes.

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

- to introduce dual voting rights for member of religious minorities and women on the national level,
- to ensure more safety for candidates during electoral campaigns,
- to strengthen the security of Hazara and Shia communities,
- to lift the controversial blasphemy laws.