



No. Sp/Proc/1/2025

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations based in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to communication JAL PAK 2/2025 dated 17 January 2025.

The Permanent Mission has the further honour to attach the response of the Government of Pakistan to the communication under reference.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations based in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Geneva, 19 January 2026

The Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human
Rights (OHCHR)
Geneva



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Government response to JAL PAK 2/2025 dated 17 January 2025

Pakistan attaches the highest importance to its international human rights obligations and reiterates its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention against Torture. Pakistan maintains a constructive and cooperative engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms, including the Special Procedures.

Pakistan is a constitutional democracy governed by rule of law and with oversight by an independent judiciary. Judicial proceedings, including criminal trials and appellate review, are conducted strictly in accordance with due process guarantees enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan, particularly Articles 4, 9, 10-A, and 25. The executive branch has no authority to interfere in judicial matters, including cases that remain *sub judice*.

Regarding the case of Mr. Junaid Hafeez, the Government clarifies that the matter is currently under appellate consideration before a competent court. The sentence awarded by the trial court was rendered following a judicial process under the law. The appeal process constitutes an integral safeguard within Pakistan's criminal justice system, and the outcome remains subject to judicial determination without influence by the Government.

Allegations concerning denial of fair trial, evidentiary weaknesses, or procedural irregularities are addressed by the appellate courts, which remain fully empowered to examine all questions of law, fact, and evidence, and to grant relief where warranted.

Regarding access to legal counsel, the Government underscores that the law guarantees the right to legal representation, including provision of state-appointed counsel where required. Mr. Hafeez has been represented by legal counsel during the course of proceedings. Any claims relating to intimidation or threats against legal professionals are prosecuted and law enforcement agencies investigate such incidents earnestly.

With respect to detention conditions, the Government takes measures to ensure that prisoners are held in accordance with the prison rules and applicable international norms. Any security-related measures, including separation arrangements, are applied on an individual basis, guided by security assessments and prison administration requirements, and are subject to periodic review. Medical care is available to all detainees, and allegations of ill-treatment or abuse are investigated through established oversight mechanisms and redressed.

In Pakistan, no execution can be carried out unless all legal remedies have been exhausted. Clemency powers vested in the President of Pakistan under Article 45 of the Constitution provide an additional humanitarian safeguard.

The Government continues to engage in national discussions on legal reform, guided by constitutional principles, public order considerations, its sovereign right to frame its legal and judicial system, and its international obligations.

The Government rejects any assertion that individuals are punished for the lawful exercise of freedom of expression or belief. However, certain restrictions prescribed by law are necessary, proportionate and aimed at preventing incitement to violence, safeguarding public

order, and protecting the rights of others, consistent with permissible limitations recognized under international human rights law.

Lastly, it is underscored that the courts and prosecution services in Pakistan function independently under constitutional protection.

The Government hopes that the information provided above would be adequate to clarify the allegations raised in the communication under reference.

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