

Investigation into extra-judicial killings in Mari Jalbani village near Sakrand, Sindh

An HRCP fact-finding report



Human Rights Commission of Pakistan



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An HRCP fact-finding report (October 2023)

Introduction

On 28 September at around 3 PM, several contingents from the Rangers and other law enforcement agencies conducted a security operation in Mari Jalbani, a riverine village in Sindh's Shaheed Benazirabad district (formerly known as Nawabshah district) with a population of approximately 25,000 people predominantly from the Jalbani clan, a Baloch tribe. The purpose of the operation was to, reportedly, apprehend members from a banned militant organisation Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) in possession of dangerous explosives. However, news broke out that at least four innocent villagers died as a result of this operation and many sustained injuries. The news reports also mentioned four security officials injured in the incident.¹ Calls for an independent investigation ensued when the villagers of Mari Jalbani carried out a protest demonstration on a section of the National Highway, carrying coffins of the four persons killed in the operation, on 29 September. The caretaker Sindh chief minister promptly responded by setting up an enquiry committee to investigate the incident (see Appendix C). Meanwhile, on 6 October, a petition was filed in the Sindh High Court seeking the establishment of a judicial commission to probe the incident.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) remained concerned about the security lapses and extra-judicial killings that took place in Mari Jalbani. HRCP also received reports of a 24-year-old student of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Liaquat Jalbani, who was brought to the village under the custody of law enforcement personnel when this incident took place and whose whereabouts were initially not known.²

HRCP decided to conduct a fact-finding mission to ascertain the facts of the situation on the ground, by meeting with all the concerned parties, on 2 October. The mission comprised HRCP co-chair Asad Iqbal Butt, Sindh vice-chair Qazi Khizar Habib, council members Saeed Baloch and Saleem Jarwar, program advisor Imdad Chandio, prominent poet and human rights activist Taj Jjoyo, and staff members Ghufrana Arain and Ali Ousat.

Fact-finding exercise

Meetings with local residents of Mari Jalbani village

The mission first met with the residents of the village who had witnessed the operation taking place. Mithal Jalbani, a 40-year-old local resident, told the mission that about 60-70 law enforcement personnel, some wearing plain clothes at the front and others wearing police and Rangers uniforms at the back, entered the compound, a small public area where the villagers had set up makeshift homes on 28 September. They told the locals at first that they were looking for people who had committed electricity theft. Then, without warning, they conducted a search at the residence of Allah Dad Jalbani. During this search, Allah Dad's neighbour, 35-year-old Sajawal Jalbani, accosted them, and after verbal altercations in which Sajawal challenged the security personnel, the personnel fired multiple shots at Sajawal. Meanwhile, a crowd gathered outside Allah Dad's house.

As Sajawal was being shot at, another villager, 30-year-old Nizam Din (also known as Kharan) rushed forward in an attempt to save him. Unfortunately, he too was shot dead by the personnel along with Sajawal. In the ensuing chaos and gunfire (it was difficult to ascertain who started the fight), the security personnel retreated under the cover of heavy firing, and six other villagers sustained bullet injuries. Two of these villagers, 24-year-old Imam Bux (brother of Nizam Din) and Maahar, succumbed to their wounds during treatment, while four others—30-year-old Sarang, 55-year-old Allah Dad Jalbani, 32-year-old Imam Din, and Ali Nawaz—were admitted in the

¹ M. Hussain Khan. (2023, September 29). Four villagers killed as law enforcers' raid turns deadly in Sakrand. *Dawn*. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1778409>

² Ibid.



hospital, according to Mithal Jalbani. He informed the mission that Sarang and Ali Nawaz were later discharged from the hospital.

The mission then met with Jannat Jalbani, wife of Allah Dad Jalbani and mother of Nizam Din, Imam Din and Imam Bux. She said that panic ensued when the officers had stormed into their residence. In the midst of the turmoil, her sons Imam Din and Imam Bakhsh (also known as Akan) were taken into custody without giving any reason. The family members desperately begged for their release, but in vain. However, once gunfire broke out, which killed her other son Nizam Din, her sons were released and the family took them to the hospital.

Jannat Jalbani said that her husband Allah Dad's condition worsened and he had to be transferred to Karachi for further treatment. She said that there were no complaints or cases registered against her sons and husband, and that her sons were illiterate, having never received a formal education. Moreover, her family were landless farmers. They had rented two acres, on which her sons had cultivated cotton. They had in fact been busy preparing for Nizam Din's wedding, then scheduled to take place on 12 October.

The villagers interviewed also confirmed that the student Liaquat Jalbani, son of Shahmeer Jalbani, another villager who was present on 28 September, was with the contingent of law enforcement personnel, his face hidden by a cloth. He was let go by the personnel during the altercation and was now in the village, but could not talk to the mission since he was in a state of trauma.

Meeting with SSP Shaheed Benazirabad

The mission then met with the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Shaheed Benazirabad who informed the mission that security agencies and the Rangers had contacted him prior to the operation for police availability. They had not informed the SSP about the objectives of the operation or their intended targets; instead, they had only said that they had credible information suggesting certain miscreants were in the area and planning to disrupt provincial peace during the Jashan-e-Eid Milad-u-Nabi or Rabi-ul-Awal celebrations. Acting on this intel, Liaquat Jalbani had been taken into custody from the gate of his university as he was a resident of the village and they required a local to navigate the area for them. The SSP confirmed that there was no case registered against the student, nor did he have a criminal history.

When asked about the history of the village, the SSP said that the village had remained largely peaceful, with only 37 FIRs registered at the Mari Jalbani police station that year prior to the incident under investigation, that too for petty crimes only. The SSP then informed the mission that there is no substantial evidence linking the villagers or any of the deceased and injured to unlawful activities against the state. They were not known to affiliate with any nationalist, separatist, or jihadist groups, and according to the information he later received, the law enforcement personnel had been in search of Noor Chandio, Haji Rajab Jalbani and the daughters of Haji Rajab who were in contact with SRA's Mashooq Qambrani who lives outside the country.

On the day of the security operation, the SSP devised a strategy with law enforcement personnel to provide them with a police team to conduct the raid and police vehicles. He said that over 65 to 70 law enforcement personnel went to the village. Though he himself did not accompany them, he received details about the operation later from fellow police officers. The Mari Jalbani police were not involved or informed due to the secrecy of the operation. The SSP also confirmed that four villagers had died, two from direct gunfire during the altercation and two more from injuries sustained, and four additional villagers had sustained injuries. Moreover, at least four Rangers personnel had been injured by the villagers. After this incident, two FIRs were filed: one by the state and another by villager Rahib Ali Jalbani on behalf of the villagers (see Appendices A and B).³

The mission did attempt to meet with the spokesperson for the Sindh Rangers Major Khawar Abbasi and caretaker Home Minister Sindh Brigadier (retired) Haris Nawaz for their perspectives. However, despite repeated requests, the mission received no response. Later, on 28 September night, a press statement from the Rangers was circulated on WhatsApp claiming that high-profile militants had been killed during the operation. Minister Haris Nawaz has also since termed the incident an attack on the Rangers, stating that the operation was conducted to apprehend a suicide bomber, and that suspects had attacked the team, injuring Rangers personnel.⁴

³ M. Hussain Khan. (2023, October 1). Calls for judicial probe into Sakrand killings grow as Baqar forms committee. *Dawn*. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1778598>

⁴ I. Hussain & I. Soomro. (2023, September 29). Four killed during raid on 'SRA terrorist's hideout'. *The News*. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/amp/1114428-four-killed-during-raid-on-sra-terrorist-s-hideout>



Conclusion and recommendations

The mission notes with concern that this security operation, hastily executed and lacking a comprehensive strategy, resulted in chaos and the deaths of four villagers. There are incongruities between the statements of the district police, Rangers, state officials and the residents. While the exact nature of the threat prompting this operation remains unclear, the state and law enforcement officials must take responsibility for the deaths of four civilians and the injuries sustained by others. With no history of such an incident taking place in the village before, and a lack of criminal history against the civilians caught in the crossfire, the actions of the law enforcement personnel involved must be gravely called into question.

The mission also points out that this incident has left a lasting impact on the residents of Mari Jalbani village. The residents had blocked the National Highway Bypass Sakrand with the bodies of their deceased family members to express their grievances, along with nationalist political parties like Sindh United Party (SUP), Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party, Jeay Sindh Mahaz-Riaz, and Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM). JSQM's Sanan Qureshi and SUP's Zain Shah had met with the protestors to lend their support, and while the protestors were persuaded to end their demonstration, it must be emphasised that the affected families and the local community deserve justice.

The mission would like to make the following recommendations:

1. The investigation into this incident by the provincial government's enquiry committee must be conducted fairly, comprehensively and with complete transparency. Those found guilty of extra-judicial killing must be held accountable to the full extent of the law. Additionally, those involved in the illegal capture of Liaquat Jalbani, an innocent local used by the law enforcement authorities to navigate the village, must also be prosecuted.
2. The government must provide support and compensation to the affected families and student Liaquat Jalbani. Their trauma has been compounded with the loss of their families' breadwinners, and they must be provided adequate compensation.
3. Security operations must be based on concrete intelligence and conducted in a safe, orderly fashion to prevent civilian casualties. Law enforcement personnel must be trained on the use of firearms or force. If their use is unavoidable, then their use must conform to the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. The unwarranted use of force and firearms is not justifiable under any circumstances.



Appendix A: FIR registered by law enforcement personnel

پوليس فارم نمبر 24 (1) 2023 بگ نمبر
عدالت پر جناب ATC جج صاحب SBA جي عرض
ابتدائي اطلاع رپورٽ نسبت جرم قابل دست اندازي پوليس رپورٽ شدہ زیر دلع 154. مجموع ضابطہ فرجدايي.
گناه نمبر 38/2023 ٿالو مازي جليائي ضلع SBA تاريخ 28.09.2023 وقت 1530 بجہ کان 1610 بجہ

1	تاريخ و وقت رپورٽ	28.09.2023 وقت 1600 . بچہ
2	نادر و سکونت اطلاع دهنده مستفيث	سرڪار پاران INSP مقصود رضا مگنهار انچارج SBA CIA
3	مختصر ڪيفيت جرم ببع دلع و سال اگر ڪجهه ڪهريا ڪيا هي	6/7ATA 324,353,147,148,149,337AI,337FI PPC
4	جاء و قوه ٿالو کان مفاصلو و طرف	ڳوٺ مازي جليائي عمار گهٽي لڳ گهر جو اڀار لياقت علي جليان ٿالو اولهه طرف مفاصلو اتڪل 11 ڪلر ميٽر ڊيهه 13 مازي تعلق سڪرنڊ ضلع SBA
5	ڪارروائي متعلق تفصيل اگر اطلاع درج ڪر 5 ۽ ڪجهه دير ٿي آهي توجہ	ٿالو تي اڄ فريادي ٿي داخل ڪرائجي ٿي.
6	ٿالو کان روانگي جي تاريخ وقت	بر وقت

داخل ڪندو SIP/SHO آفتاب احمد شر . عد .SIP/SHO . PS MARI JALBANI ابتدائي اطلاع هيٺ درج ڪريو .
نوٽ اطلاع ڏيندو کان هيٺ اطلاع جي صحيح يا اڳوڻي جو نشان وٺو ۽ داخل ڪندو آفيسر جي صحيح پتو تصديق هجڻ جي .
سرڪار پاران فريادي آهي ت مورخ 27.09.2023 تي اسان پنهنجي آفيس CIA سينئر نوآباديه و موجود هٿساون ت اسان کي
جناب SSP صاحب SBA جن جي طرفان حڪم مليو ت الف و ن اروان سان رابطو ڪندو جو ان بعد الف و ن سان رابطو ڪيو ت
اسان کي سڀاڻي 05 سرڪاري موبائيلون پوليس نري سميت مدد لاءِ گهريون آهن جنهن فون بعد اسان جناب SSP صاحب SBA جن
کي وائف ڪيسون جن اسان کي سندن جي مدد ۽ وڃڻ جي پرميشن ڏني ۽ حڪم ڪيو ت سندن جي جائز مدد ڪندا جو مورخ
28.09.2023 تي اسان وٽ CIA سينئر SBA تي الف و ن الف و ن اسٽاف سميت 03 عدد رينجرس جرن موبائيلون اسٽاف سميت
۽ رينجرس اسٽاف جي اڳواڻي DSR ضيا ۽ انسپيڪٽر آصف ڪري رهيا هئا آيا ۽ ظاهر ڪيون ت ڳوٺ مازي جليائي و لياقت ولد
شهيد جليائي پاڻ وٽ ڏماڪيدار مادو رکيو ويٺو آهي ۽ پاڻ وٽ پابندي موهيل تنظيم جا ماڻهون رهاڻي ويٺو آهي جيڪي ڪو
دهشتگردي جو منصوبو جوڙي رهيا آهن جن تي ڪارروائي ڪرڻ آهي جو بروقت آيل آفيسران کي اسٽاف سميت سرڪاري گاڏين
پر ۽ اسان به اسٽاف هر هڪ PC2125 اعجاز علي ، PC2092 ناصر حسين لئين سان PC2777 اسجد علي ، PC32816 حيدر علي
سرڪاري اسلحه ايمونيشن سميت پارودي ساڻ ڪري سرڪاري گاڏي نمبر SPN415 ۽ درٿيور PC1801 عطا محمد سميت الف و ن
۽ الف و ن ۽ رينجرس جي گاڏين کي ساڻ ڪري CIA سينئر نوآباديه جي روزنامي عمار جي اٿري نمبر 08 تاريخ 28.09.2023 وقت
1300 بجہ موجب ڳوٺ مازي جليائي لاءِ روانا ٿياسون ۽ بلوچ ڪنٽرول SBA SHHO بي سيڪشن نوآباديه SHO اٿريورٽ
نوآباديه SHO وومين ۽ چلڊرين SHO ڪلهر ، SHO بالوچا ٿيا کي بالافيسران جي حڪم کان وائف ڪري ڳوٺ مازي جليائي
پهچڻ لاءِ چيو سون جڏهن وقت 1530 بجہ موجب اسان به اسٽاف ۽ مٿين آفيسرن سميت پهتاسون ت ايتري و SHO طفيل احمد پٽو
ٿالو بي سيڪشن SHO جمشيد راجپوت ٿالو ايتري پورٽ نوآباديه SHO محيب الرحمان ناريجو ٿالو ڪلهر انچارج HQR2 عصمت
جاويد ٿالو بالوچا ٿيا به اسٽاف جي پنهنجن پنهنجن سرڪاري گاڏين پر جن جي اسٽاف مان هڪ هڪ جوان وٽ سرڪاري
هٿيار پاتي جوانن وٽ لئين و SHO وومين ۽ چلڊرين مريز پرت به اسٽاف سرڪاري گاڏي سميت ڳوٺ مازي جليائي وٽ پهتا
جتي اسان الف و ن الف و ن جي نشاندهي ٿي جو اڀار لياقت ولد شهيد خان جليائي جي گهر جي ٿالو شروع ڪئي سون
ايتري و ڳوٺ جا ماڻهون اتڪل 200/250 ماڻهون جن جي اڳواڻي رجب ولد محمد خان جليائي 02 عرف ڀولي ولد جمع خان
جليائي جن جي هٿن پر ڪلاشن ڪوفون ۽ ڳوٺ جي ماڻهن جي هٿن پر ڪلاشن ڪوفون لوهي سريا ، لٿيون هئا جن هٿساون
ڪري اسان کي گهڙيو ڪري ورتو اسان جي جائز سرڪاري ڊيوٽي و انتڪاء ڪيو جو اسان پنهنجي سپاه جي مدد سان لائي چارج
ڪري ٻاهر نڪتاسون ت پويان بيٺل رينجرس الف و ن ۽ الف و ن گاڏين مان اٿي بيٺل ڳوٺ جي ماڻهن هڪ هڪ جوان لاهي پڪڙي
ورتا جو رينجرس جي ٻين جوانن پنهنجي لاکل جوانن کي چٿرائڻ جي ڪئي جنهن دوران سامهون ڇت تي بيٺل جو اڀارن هر
هڪ اڳواڻ رسول ولد رجب 2 موريو ولد متاڙيو ڏمير ولد سديڙ ذات جا سڀ جليائي ۽ 02 انسپيڪٽر مونس جن جي هٿن پر
ڪلاشن ڪوفون هيون جن رينجرس جي مٿان دهشت ۽ ڏهڪاء ڦهلائڻ خاطر خون ڪرڻ جي ارادي سان سڌا برست هليا جيڪي
سندن جي ٿي هيٺ گهٽي و بيٺل ماڻهن جن مان هڪ کي اڀي گنجي ۽ ناسي شلوار پاتل پئي کي هلڪا ناسي ڪپڙا پاتل ۽
ڪپڙي ڪپڙي ناسي ڪپڙا پاتل ۽ چوٽين کي ساڻي رنگ جا ڪپڙا پاتل ۽ ٻين کي لڳا جيڪي ڏانهن ڪري هيٺ زمين تي
ڪري پيا جو اٿي بيٺل ماڻهن رينجرس جي جوانن کي ڏک هڻي ڙهي ڪيو ۽ رينجرس جي جوانن ماڻهن کي منتشر ڪرڻ جي
لاءِ ڦاٽرنگ ڪئي جو هڪ گولي اٿي بيٺل مونس کي ٽنگ ۽ لڳي جو رينجرس اهلڪارن ڳوٺاڻن پاران وٽ اهلڪارن کي چٿاڻي
پوء اسان ٿالو مازي جليائي تي آياسون جتي رينجرس جي ڙهي جوانن هر هڪ ڏکي انسپيڪٽر محمد آصف حوالدار
عبدالرشيد سپاهي محمد اويس اسفر سپاهي محمد نعيم سپاهي محمد اويس وارن کي علاج لاءِ ٿالو جليائي تان ترت علاج لاءِ
ليٽر ڌاري FMCH اسپتال نوآباديه روانو ڪيو جيئن ت جو اڀارن غلام رسول جليائي موريو جليائي منير جليائي ۽ انسپيڪٽر
مونس اسان پوليس ۽ رينجرس جي سرڪاري ڊيوٽي و انتڪاء ڪري دهشت ڦهلائڻ پنهنجي ڪلاشن ڪوفون مان رينجرس جي
جوانن تي طعن ڪرڻ جي ارادي سان سڌا ڦاٽر هڻيا جيڪي سندن جي ٿي ماڻهن کي ٿي لڳا آهن ۽ انسپيڪٽر مونس رينجرس جي



OPPO Reno3 Pro 4G

اهلڪارن کي ڏک هڻي ڙهي ڪيو آهي انسپيڪٽر مونس کي اسان ۽ اسٽاف چڱي طرح ڏٺو آهي ۽ ٻيهر ڏسي سگهجي
سگهنداسون تنهن ڪري سندن خلاف سرڪار پاران فريادي ٿي ڪيس داخل ڪرائجي ٿو.

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SIP/SHO . PS MARI JALBANI
هٿ اکر صحيح فريادي
SD

پوليس ڪارروائي
جناب اعليٰ ڳاڙش آهي ت فريادي جو فرياد هن ڪتاب و داخل ڪري ڦر . 157 ڪيڪ جي بچا آوري جوڳي ڪورٽ سان
ڪئي وئي تعان رڪنڊو رجسٽرن ۽ داخلا ٿيون رڪارڊيون ويون FIR جون ڪاپيون بالا آفيسران صاحبان ۽ ڪورٽ سگوري ڏانهن موڪلڻ جو
بندوبست ڪيو سون هن ڪيس جي ڪاپي وڌيڪ جانچ لاءِ انچارج SBA ATMC حوالو ڪئي ويندي

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SIP/SHO PS MARI JALBANI



Certified to be true copy

Handwritten signature and stamp
READER
Anti-Terrorism Court
Shaheed Benazirabad

Prepared By
Compared By



Appendix C: Enquiry Committee set up by the Sindh Home Department



GOVERNMENT OF SINDH HOME DEPARTMENT

ORDER

No. SO(IS-I)HD/Enquiry/1/2023: On the order of Honourable Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh, an "Enquiry Committee" comprising of the following officers is hereby constituted to enquire into the incident that took place on 28-09-2023 in Taluka Sakrand, District and Division Shaheed Benazirabad resulting in the loss of precious human lives and injuries.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Commissioner Hyderabad Division, Hyderabad | Chairman |
| 2. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Shaheed Benazirabad Range | Member |
| 3. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Special Branch, Karachi | Member |

02. The constituted committee will enquire into the subject matter to determine the reasons of this clash resulting in loss of precious lives and injuries to law enforcement personnel.

03. The Committee will furnish its detailed report to Honourable Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh through Home Department Sindh within four (04) days.

(MUHAMMAD IQBAL MEMON)
Additional Chief Secretary

No. SO(IS-I)HD/Enquiry/1/2023:

Dated

29-09-2023

Copy for information

1. The Inspector General of Police Sindh, Karachi
2. The Director General, Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Karachi
3. The Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division
4. The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Shaheed Benazirabad Range
5. The Deputy Commissioner, District Shaheed Benazirabad
6. The Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, Shaheed Benazirabad
7. The PSO to Minister for Home & Prisons, Sindh, Karachi
8. PS to Additional Chief Secretary Home Department, Karachi
9. Master File - 2023

M. Iqbal Memon
29/9/2023
SECTION OFFICER (IS-1)
for Home Department

Appendix D: Meetings with the residents of Mari Jalbani village and affected families

