

## Monthly Updates - November 2014

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Persecution and discrimination against Hindus in Pakistan has been increasing gradually in Pakistan. After the series of attacks on more than dozens of Hindu temple in Sindh in last six months from January to June 2014, now the Islamist has started to convert minor Hindu Dalit girls into Islam. Extremism has penetrated in Sindh extensively though still many people claim that Sindh is the land of peace, harmony, pluralism and Sufism. The alleged forced conversion of a Hindu girls and their subsequent marriage with a Muslim man has triggered protests from Hindu community and civil society organizations in Sindh, Pakistan. In the reporting month of November around dozens of forced conversion of Hindu girls' incidences has been reported by Media. However the unreported number would be more.

### The brief of the cases is following.

**Neelan Kolhi:** 11 years old girl Ms Neelan Kolhi daughter of Nemoon from Hindu Dalit Kolhi community residence of Bheel Colony Kot Ghulam Muhammad, Sindh was kidnapped in September 2014 from nearby her residence by Mr. Akbar Khokhar with the help of two other people Mr. Javed Kokhar and Mr. Dalho Kolhi. After kidnaping they brought her at Madina Mosque/ Madrasa at Mirpurkhas and converted into Islam and got marriage with her.



After the interventions of police she was rescued through court on October 02 despite the more pressure from Molvis and religious clerks. The girl was handed over to her parents but there was no any action being taken against abductors particularly Mr. Akbar Khokhar and his allies who claimed that she is married with four weeks pregnancy in the court.

**Anjali Menghwar:** On October 30, 2014 Ms Anjali from Hindu Dalit caste Menghwar community age 12 years daughter of Kundan Menghwar has been kidnapped, forcibly converted into Islam, and falsely married away with his kidnapper under the patronage of Bhurchunddi Sharif in Sindh. Few days back on October 24 another young girl Kajal Bheel, daughter of Mohan Laal Bheel was abducted from her home at Udero Laal town in the district of Halla in Sindh, Pakistan. Anjali bai belonged to same city Deharki where 17 years Rinkle kumari was abducted and converted just couple of years back. The irony is how 12 years old girls can decide to get marriage and change her religion. The constitution and laws in Pakistan doesn't allow child marriage before the age of 18. Anjali's school leaving and birth certificates confirms that she was born in 2002 therefore her marriage is illegal hence the criminal case should be lodged against religious clerks who performed Nikah/marriage of Anjali. But the civil judge of Daharki Civil Court sent her to Karachi at shelter home instead to send her parents' home. Later she was produced before the court where Anjali claimed that she has converted herself willingly. The question is how she can refuse her marriage and conversion though she was brain washed at shelter home. Her parents were not allowed to meet with Anjali at shelter home despite the order from court and resolution passed from Sindh assembly. Criminal/ abductor Mr. Riaz arrested from Karachi on November 12, 2014. However the case is still in the court.



**Kiran kumari:** Ms. Kiran was kidnaped from home. In the court she claimed that she had willingly married with Mr. Babar Samon Muslim.



Girl's family was requesting that she had been abducted and let her separate from kidnappers after that her statement but court did not pay any attention to her family's pleading. The report says she is 14 years old therefore how could court ignore her age?

**Parsa Kolhi:** Student of eight class Pars from Taluka Kunri Umerkot recovered on November 16, 2014 after one week of his missing from school. She was recovered from one village of Kapri away 6/7 Km from Taluka Kunri, Umerkot. She was not converted but sexually exploited. She was abducted on November 12.

**Wali Kolhi:** Another other girl name wali Kolhi appeared in high court along with Ms. Zahid Ali Banglani who took her to give statement in the court that she wants to marry with Mr. Zahid. Ms. Wali when she saw lawyers and Judges in the court she cried loudly and requested to save her form Mr. Zahid who was forcing her to marry with him and convert into Islam. The many people gathered on the spot however Mr. Zahid succeeded to flee from the court. Police called to her parents where she was handed over to her father and mother.



#### **Other incidents of forced conversions reported in November 2014**

Parvati Kolhi age 13 was abducted from her home in Taluka Samaro Umerkot.

On 19th November 2014 two Hindu girls name Warjoo age 12 daughter of Roopo Kolhi in Samaro and Hindwani age 15 from Bagri Hindu caste abducted. Hindawani age 15 from Bagri Hindu caste abducted on November 19, 2014.

On November 27, 2014 Two more girls Mavi and Bhadi are being Kindnaped at Distract Badin, Tehsil Matli in village rehmatullah Arain, Sindh. Mavi daughter of Venjho Kolhi (Age 12/13 years) and Bhadi daughter of Shambo kolhi (Age 13/14 year) abducted by Mr, khameeso Arain and Meero Dal and married with them. The culprits entered with full of used into their poor Hindu home and abducted two girls on gun point. The F.I.R is registered at police station Gulab Laghari. Information has received that these Hindu girls are at residency of place Peer ayoob Jan Sarhandhi Samaro, who often convert Hindus into Islam. Their case is in court for decision.



**Court decisions:** On November 17, Three Hindu Minority scheduled caste girls were presented in the courts including Parsha Kolhi from Kunri, Wali from Samaro and Kajal Bheel from Hyderabad. Parsa was handed over to her parents however what happened with her during her abduction no any investigation of the case. Wali from Samaro brought by Zahid Ali Banglani in Hyderabad court for force conversion marriage was also handed over to parents. Kajal Bheel presented in high court Hyderabad, Sindh where Judge ordered for her medical checkup and then to reappear in the court. Fourth girl Kiran Kumari abducted from Nawabshah was presented in the court where police without arresting any person involved in Kiran abduction said in court that Kiran has converted and got marriage on her will therefore judge dismissed the case. Mother got heart attacked and admitted in the hospital.

#### **Sindh Assembly Passed resolution on the forced conversion of Hindu girls in Sindh**

Sindh Assembly has passed resolution against forced religious conversion and forced marriages of Sindhi Hindu Girls on November 18, 2014. It is an appreciated action.

### **Media and Civil society organization**

Many demonstrations and protests were arranged in various cities of Sindh against forced conversion of Hindu girls. Local Sindhi electronic and print media highlighted the cases of forced conversion of Hindu girls.

### **Other news of the month**

On November 11, 2014 Federal Government celebrated Diwali in Islamabad at arts council where Hindu community from Islamabad and Rawal pindi were invited to participate.

**Drought in Tharparkar:** Children are dying due to malnutrition and hunger in drought-hit Tharparkar district. The number has reached to 155. Government official said that around 540 children have lost their lives across the famine-affected region over the past 11 months, with more than 300 under treatment in various government-run hospitals in Tharparkar. Majority of children belongs to Hindu Scheduled caste.

**Hindu Zakar in Tharparkar:** Hindu Zakar name Mr. Ravi Shankar who was active in Ashura in the month of Muharram with Muslim Shia community and following their rituals was beaten by Rangers. In Sindh many Hindus participate in Ashura every year to show solidarity with Shia where they serve food and drinks to their rallies in different cities.

**Suicides in Tharparkar:** Incidents of suicides are steadfastly increasing in Tharparkar, Sindh due to hunger and other reasons. 24 people committed suicide in 2012 and 41 in this year in ten last months. 90% among those who commit suicides are Hindu. Report by BBC.

**Hindu passed exam of Civil Judge:** Hindu young man Mr. Om Parkash passed the exam of Civil Judge and Judicial magistrate and got first position in Pakistan. He is originally from Umerkot Sindh.

**Attacks on Hindu Temples:** Yet another incident of setting Hindu temple on fire in Tando Muhammad Khan reported in the 3rd week of November 2014.

**Anti-Blasphemy:** In the first week of November 2014, violent mobs attacked Shahzad Masih and his five months pregnant wife Shama after a Muslim co-worker at the brick kiln accused them of defiling the Holy Quran. Prime Minister ordered to Punjab CM to show no mercy to killers as police arrested hundreds of accused.

**Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Leader gunned down in Sindh:** On November 29, 2014, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Leader and Secretary General Sindh Dr Khalid Mahmood Soomro have been gunned down in Sukkur, Sindh.