

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 29 MAY 2025

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COI QUERY RESPONSE

PAKISTAN – PASHTUN TAHAFUZ MOVEMENT

A report issued in October 2024 by *Amnesty International* states that: “The PTM is a grassroots movement peacefully advocating for human rights of Pashtuns who have long been subjected to harassment and violence by the Pakistani authorities. On 6 October 2024, in a new government notification, the PTM was designated as a ‘proscribed organization’ by placing it under the First Schedule for ‘List of Proscribed Organizations’ of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.”¹

This document also states that: “Nearly 100 PTM activists have been arrested and detained since 1 October...”²

Voice of America in October 2024 notes that: “...PTM...emerged as a formidable grassroots movement in recent years. Its rallies routinely attract tens of thousands of people.”³

This document also states that: “Since the early days of the movement, the army has used a variety of tactics to try to shut it down, censoring media coverage of its activities, arresting and jailing PTM leaders, and launching a disinformation campaign to brand PTM activists as traitors and terrorists supported by India and Afghanistan.”⁴

A report issued by *Dawn* in October 2024 includes commenting on: “...a crackdown...against...PTM workers in Peshawar and other parts of the province.”⁵

¹ Amnesty International (8 October 2024) Pakistan: Authorities must immediately revoke ban on Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement

² *ibid*

³ Voice of America (10 October 2024) Pakistan's banned PTM: A movement for Pashtun rights, p.2

⁴ *ibid*, p.2

⁵ Dawn (11 October 2024) Federal govt 'agrees' to rescind ban on PTM

In December 2024 the *European Union Agency for Asylum* states that: “In October 2024, the Pakistani government banned the PTM, declaring that the movement poses a threat to national security...”⁶

This document also states that: “The Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) has been subject to continued repression from law enforcement bodies and the judiciary...”⁷

A report released in April 2025 by the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia* states that: “PTM is a Pashtun human rights movement that rose to prominence following mass youth jalsas (demonstrations) in Islamabad and KP during 2018. PTM is primarily active in KP and Pashtun-dominated areas of Balochistan.”⁸

This document also states that: “DFAT assesses PTM leaders face a high risk of official discrimination on the basis of their political views, as well as PTM being declared a terrorist organisation, in the form of harassment, arrest, imprisonment, and enforced disappearance. DFAT assesses known PTM members face a moderate risk of official discrimination, primarily as a result of the organisation being declared a terrorist organisation, in the form of harassment, arrest and imprisonment. DFAT assesses PTM supportive and affiliated businesses face a low risk of official discrimination in the form of harassment. PTM members generally face a low risk of societal violence throughout Pakistan. DFAT assesses PTM members face a similar, low level of social discrimination in Pakistan as other Pashtuns.”⁹

References

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⁶ European Union Agency for Asylum (December 2024) *Pakistan – Country Focus*, p.27

⁷ *ibid*, p.105

⁸ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (30 April 2025) *DFAT Country Information Report Pakistan*, p.56

⁹ *ibid*, p.56

Voice of America (10 October 2024) *Pakistan's banned PTM: A movement for Pashtun rights*
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