

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

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### DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses re compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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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.”<sup>1</sup>

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

*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.”<sup>3</sup>

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.”<sup>4</sup>

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

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

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

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

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*, p.2

<sup>5</sup> 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...”<sup>6</sup>

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

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.”<sup>8</sup>

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.”<sup>9</sup>

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

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*, p.105

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

<sup>9</sup> *ibid*, p.56

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