

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST DETAINED ON TRUMPED-UP CHARGES

On 16 March, Ali Wazir, human rights defender and former opposition member of Pakistan's National Assembly, was arrested and detained under anti-terrorism charges in Hyderabad, Pakistan. This followed his release from detention earlier that day, having been granted bail by a bench of the Sindh High Court for another case. Since then, two additional cases have been filed against him. Since 2020, Ali Wazir has faced multiple arrests and has been charged in dozens of trumped-up cases intended to keep him in detention and silence him and his activism related to issues of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, and discrimination and violence against the ethnic Pashtun minority. Ali Wazir's 20-month detention and multiple cases filed against him speak to the unlawful and arbitrary tactics being deployed to silence him. Amnesty International urges the Pakistani authorities to immediately release Ali Wazir.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah
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Sindh, Pakistan
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Hon. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah,

*I writing to express my concern regarding the continuous and arbitrary detention of activist, human rights defender and former member of the National Assembly, **Ali Wazir**, under various cases in your province. Ali Wazir was released after being granted bail by the high court in Hyderabad on 16 March, but was immediately re-arrested on charges under the Anti-Terrorism Act. Since then, he has been detained in District Jail Dadu and implicated in two other cases for allegedly inciting "hatred" and "insurrection" against state institutions.*

Since August 2024, Ali Wazir has been held in custody in more than a dozen cases in Islamabad, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh provinces, seemingly intended to silence him and his activism related to issues of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, and discrimination and violence against the ethnic Pashtun minority. His lawyers have stated that the authorities have repeatedly denied him access to legal counsel and that they have experienced significant difficulty in meeting him to sign basic documents such as power of attorney. This, together with the pattern of filing multiple baseless cases and prolonging his arbitrary detention, violates Ali Wazir's right to liberty and right to a fair trial.

I am also concerned about Ali Wazir's health as he is diabetic and faces heart and blood pressure issues which have worsened during his time in prison. His eyesight has significantly deteriorated due to his diabetic condition and denial of medical care. His lawyers have expressed concern that his eyesight could deteriorate further unless adequate healthcare is promptly provided.

I urge you, in accordance with Pakistan's international human rights obligations, to:

- ***Ensure that Ali Wazir is immediately released and that all the charges against him are dropped, and refrain from registering further cases in retaliation for his activism.***
- ***Guarantee that, pending his release, he has immediate access to adequate healthcare and regular, unhindered access to his family, and that his fair trial rights are fully guaranteed, including by ensuring he has access to legal counsel of his choosing.***

I trust your commitment to justice and human rights will guide your actions to urgently address these grave concerns.

Yours sincerely

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ali Wazir is a 49-year-old human rights defender who has previously served as a member of the National Assembly from 2018 to 2023. He was arrested in Peshawar on 16 December 2020 on charges of sedition and allegations of delivering speeches against state institutions in Karachi. He remained in detention for more than two years and was released on 14 February 2023 after acquittal in one case and granted bail in three similar cases. He was arrested again in August 2023 along with Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) members and human rights lawyer [Imaan Mazari-Hazir](#). He was released months later. Ali has been vocal against the Taliban forces in Pakistan and his family has faced targeted violence by militants which has resulted in the death of his father, two brothers, two uncles, and three cousins. There was an attempted killing in June 2018 believed to be against Ali Wazir in Wana, South Waziristan in the lead up to Pakistan's general election. Two PTM members were killed in the attack.

Ali Wazir is a prominent leader of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), a grassroots civil rights movement from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province highlighting issues of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, and discrimination and violence against the ethnic Pashtun minority. The government's Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances stated that as of November 2025, the Commission had investigated 10,718 cases nationwide, and largest share of these cases, 3,674, originated from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Civil society organization, Defence of Human Rights, recorded 60 cases of enforced disappearances in 2025. Since its inception, the PTM has faced an intense crackdown from Pakistani authorities, as many members have been unlawfully detained and subject to enforced disappearances. In October 2024, the Pakistani authorities placed a [ban](#) on PTM by placing it under the First Schedule for 'List of Proscribed Organizations' of the Anti-Terrorism Act. In March 2026 the Peshawar High Court dismissed a petition challenging the ban on PTM, urging the group to approach federal government's review committee for de-proscription. An application for de-proscription is currently under review, and no final decision had been issued at the time of publication of this urgent action.

Ali Wazir was arrested on 4 August 2024 in relation to a car accident in the capital city, Islamabad. Immediately after his arrest, three separate cases were registered against him for charges pertaining to the accident; "manhandling" police officials, and possession of drugs. He obtained bail in all three case a month later. However, he was not released and was instead transferred to prison in Rawalpindi, Punjab province under two consecutive preventive detention orders under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance that allows for detention for up to 90 days without charge or trial. Later he was transferred to Gujrat and Bhakkar in Punjab province under three separate MPO orders. He was then transferred to Sargodha city and kept under detention for a case related to an alleged dacoity.

In December 2024, he was transferred to Gadani, a town in Balochistan province and detained for a case registered against him in 2023. Ali was able to receive bail, however, was not released as he was detained under an anti-terrorism case in the same city. After obtaining bail in the second case, he was transferred to a prison in Chowki and held under two separate MPO orders.

In February 2025, he was transferred to a prison in Sindh province where he has remained detained ever since. Initially, he was detained under an anti-terrorism case in Sukkur. After obtaining bail in that case, local authorities issued an MPO detention order, preventing his release. He was later transferred to Naushero Feroze and subsequently to Nawabshah in connection with two separate cases concerning alleged speeches purportedly delivered via video link while he was already in detention.

On 10 March 2026, a bench of the Sindh High Court in Hyderabad granted Ali Wazir bail in the final pending case and ruled that there was no incriminating evidence against him and no lawful basis to continue depriving him of his liberty. Despite the court order, his release was delayed due to administrative reasons, and he was eventually released from Sukkur Central Prison on 16 March. Less than four hours after his release, Ali Wazir was re-arrested. His whereabouts remained unknown for nearly two days, raising concerns of enforced disappearance. He was produced before an Anti-Terrorism Court in Naushero Feroze on 18 March, following the filing of two separate applications by his legal team. During the hearing, authorities disclosed that a First Information Report (FIR) had been registered approximately one hour prior to his re-arrest on 16 March, alleging that Ali Wazir had made speeches inciting "hatred" and violence against state institutions. He was subsequently remanded to judicial custody. Following this, two additional FIRs were registered at police stations in Dadu and Jamshoro, containing substantially similar allegations.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Urdu.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 22 October 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Ali Wazir (he/him)