

Baloch Journalist Abdul Latif Killed in Pakistan, PEC Calls for Independent Investigation



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In a shocking incident that underscores the ongoing threats to press freedom in Pakistan, senior Baloch journalist Abdul Latif Baloch was shot dead early Saturday morning in front of his wife and children in Mashkay, Awaran district of Balochistan. The 55-year-old journalist was associated with *Daily Intekhab* and *Aaj News*.

The Geneva-based media rights organization, Press Emblem Campaign (PEC), has strongly condemned the killing and demanded a transparent and credible investigation to ensure justice. PEC President Blaise Lempen expressed deep concern, stating, “We condole the untimely demise of Abdul Latif Baloch and urge the concerned authorities to launch an authentic probe to nab the perpetrators for necessary punishments under the law. He becomes the 65th journalist killed globally since 1 January this year.”

According to the victim's family and colleagues, Abdul Latif was a courageous and committed journalist who had long reported on the human rights situation in Balochistan. They allege that he was targeted by a Pakistan state-sponsored militia due to his bold journalism.

PEC’s South and Southeast Asia representative Nava Thakuria added that Abdul Latif’s family had been under threat for weeks. “A few weeks ago, four members of his family were abducted and later killed by security forces. The Pakistani authorities have yet to acknowledge these deaths or initiate any investigation,” he said.

Balochistan has remained a volatile region, with growing unrest as Baloch nationalists demand independence from Pakistan. The federal government has responded with intensified military operations, often accompanied by reports of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

This incident follows the killing of Sindhi journalist Allah Dino Shar on 11 April 2025 in Khairpur. In 2024 alone, 12 journalists were murdered across Pakistan, reflecting the deteriorating safety conditions for media professionals in the country.

PEC has reiterated its call to Pakistani authorities to uphold the freedom of the press and ensure that journalists can work without fear of violence or retribution.

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