RESEARCH PROJECT

Addressing the Issue of Missing Persons in Pakistan: Comparative Study of National and International Legal Mechanisms



Bahria University
Discovering Knowledge

Supervised by:

Barrister Arooj Bukhari

Researcher

Muhammad Haziq Qureshi

[01-177182-051]

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Department of Law

Bahria University

SUPERVISOR APPROVAL

I, **Barrister Arooj Bukhari**, permanent faculty of Bahria University, Islamabad, forward this work done by **Mr Muhammad Haziq Qureshi** to the research committee for final evaluation.

Name of Supervisor: Barrister Arooj Bukhari

Supervisor's Signature:_____

Date: 06/June/2023

Department of Law

Bahria University, Islamabad

ABSTRACT

In Pakistan, where people unexpectedly disappear without a trace, the problem of missing persons is quite severe and often causes suffering and sorrow for the victim's relatives. This research aims to examine and contrast the different legal frameworks used in Pakistan to deal with the issue of missing persons. This study aims to identify gaps, obstacles, and possible solutions to this critical issue by reviewing the current national laws, policies, and institutional structures and by studying the relevant international legal norms and processes. The research will take a comparative approach, looking at different legal systems worldwide to see how they stack up. Cases of missing persons will be examined, and the efficacy of the Constitution, criminal laws, and human rights legislation will be analyzed. The research will also look at international legal instruments and procedures that give recommendations for dealing with situations of missing persons, such as the United Nations, regional human rights organizations, and international agreements. It will evaluate Pakistan's progress in ratifying and implementing these instruments and examine the obstacles to using international procedures to solve the problem. Academic publications, reports by human rights groups, case studies, and legal documents will all be consulted as part of the research process to offer a complete picture of the issue and its possible solutions. It will also use qualitative research techniques like interviews and surveys to collect viewpoints from key players, including the families of missing persons, human rights advocates, lawyers, and government officials. This research will light on the problem of missing persons in Pakistan and the legislative frameworks to address this issue. The study aims to improve the national legal framework, institutional accountability, and international collaboration by comparing national and international methods and identifying shortcomings. This research was conducted to inform the creation of strategies and policies that would aid in the search for and recovery of missing persons, hence fostering justice, human rights, and peace in Pakistan.

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Thank you for your invaluable contributions and for being an essential part of our journey.

DEDICATION

"Dedicated To My Parents for their Love, Support, and Prayers Throughout My Life"

DECLARATION

I hereby certify that this thesis titled " Addressing the Issue of Missing Persons in Pakistan: Comparative Study of National and International Legal Mechanisms" is a record of bona fide research carried out by me under the supervision of **Barrister Arooj Bukhari** and that it has not been previously submitted for the award of any degree, diploma, or other similar titles of recognition. It has been appropriately acknowledged where the material has been used for other sources.

Researcher

Name: **Muhammad Haziq Qureshi**

Enrollment Number**: 01-177182-051**

Signature: _____

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACMP	Action Committee for Missing Persons
ATC	Anti-Terrorism Courts
BLF	Baluchistan Liberation Front
COIED	Commission of Inquiry for Enforced Disappearances
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICPPED	International Convention For The Protection Of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PPA	Pakistan Protection Act 2014
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly

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TITLE

Addressing the Issue of Missing Persons in Pakistan: Comparative Study of National and International Legal Mechanisms.

RESEARCH STATEMENT

The pervasive issue of missing persons in Pakistan, characterized by a significant violation of fundamental human rights, underscores the critical need for a comparative study of national and international legal mechanisms to address the gaps and deficiencies within the current framework, emphasizing the urgent requirement for comprehensive legislation and robust state accountability to safeguard the rights and well-being of individuals impacted by enforced disappearances.