



No. 2(119)/2021-Chair NCHR
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
5th Floor Evacuee Trust Complex, F-5/1,
Agha Khan Road, Islamabad.



Islamabad, the 20th February, 2024

Subject: EXPLORING AVENUES FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, THAILAND (NHRCT) AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PAKISTAN

Dear *Excellency,*

The Commission is a federal statutory body, established in 2012 through the National Commission for Human Rights Act XVI to ensure Pakistan complies with its international obligations. It is an independent National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) developed under the Paris Principles. The Commission has a broad and overarching mandate for the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of human rights, as provided for in Pakistan's Constitution and international treaties.

2. We recognise the importance of fostering partnerships with other NHRIs in the region to promote human rights and exchange good practices. To that end, the Commission has and continues to liaise with the Malaysian National Human Rights Institute, SUHAKAM. In view thereof, we are eager to explore opportunities for collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand. By sharing our experiences, expertise, and resources, we can collectively contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in our respective countries and beyond.

A. PAKISTANI NATIONALS IMPRISONED IN THAILAND

According to data presented by Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Senate Standing Committee in September 2021, 34 Pakistani nationals are currently incarcerated in prisons across Thailand. Notably, Pakistan and Thailand have signed a prisoner transfer agreement, titled "Cooperation in the Transfer of Offenders and Enforcement of Penal Sentences" (attached as Annex A). The Agreement aims to give foreign nationals convicted of criminal offences and incarcerated in one state, the opportunity to serve the remainder of their sentences in their state of origin. Consequently, under the Agreement, both countries undertake



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to extend full cooperation in respect of the transfer of prisoners by their respective national laws and this Agreement.

B. REPATRIATION OF ELIGIBLE PAKISTANI PRISONERS

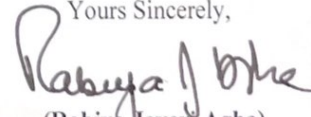
Thailand and Pakistan have enjoyed a highly productive collaborative history on the issue of repatriation of Pakistani nationals. In 2019, Thailand released 17 Pakistani prisoners under the Prisoner Transfer Agreement.⁶

Based on this positive relationship our countries have enjoyed in the past, we would like to request your continued support in making the case for the repatriation of Pakistanis.

In light of the above, I would greatly appreciate an opportunity for NCHR Secretary Kamran Rajar to meet with you on my behalf to discuss our shared commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and ensuring that the laws and regulations safeguarding human rights, including international human rights obligations, are implemented effectively. The Commission is considering the beginning of March time frame for this visit.

I thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to working with you.

Yours Sincerely,


(Rabiya Javeri Agha)
Chairperson (NCHR)

Ms. Pornprapai Ganjanarintr,
Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand,
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