

Dated: 23 August 2016

PRESS CONFERENCE

**WHO WILL PROTECT MY DAUGHTERS? THEY ARE SO FAR AWAY AND ALONE. APPEALS
FATHER OF 12 YEARS OLD FAUZIA (NOOR BEGUM) AND 6 YEARS OLD ALISHBA**

**POLICE URGED IMMEDIATE RECOVERY OF TWO MINOR GIRLS TRAFFICKED
FROM KARACHI TO BALOCHISTAN, ZIA AHMED AWAN (ADV.)**

Karachi, 26 August 2016, Madadgaar National Helpline Head Office: Two minor girls Fauzia (Noor Begum) and Alishba were trafficked from Karachi to Dera Murad Jamali, Balochistan by a Shafi Muhammad S/O Noor Muhammad resident of Kachi Abadi, Lasi Goth, near Bismillah Masjid, New Karachi and Inayat S/O Mir Gul resident of Moosa Colony, Babar Road near MashaAllah Bakery while Police demonstrated typical administrative delays and failed to recover them, said Zia Ahmed Awan (Adv.), founder of Madadgaar National Helpline (1098), while speaking to major print and electronic media outlets in an emergency press conference organized by Madadgaar. Parents of the two trafficked minor girls were also present during the press conference who shared their case with media representatives.

Addressing the press conference, he said 12 years old Fauzia (Noor Begum) and 6 years old Alishba, daughters of Noor Nabi, went missing near their home in slum of Machar Colony, Kemari Town, Karachi during July 2015. They went out to buy some sweets and never returned. He said that the parents came to Madadgaar on 11 August 2015 and requested to help them in finding their daughters. Madadgaar supported them in contacting Eidhi Centers, the Police and other avenues of support in this matter. He said that for over a year, Police did nothing and no FIR was lodged but a mere missing children entry was lodged in register of Police Station Docks. He further discussed the plight of parents and how they tried to find their daughters all over the city with no resources and no one to guide them except Madadgaar.

At this point, Noor Nabi (father of trafficked girls), shared his views on how Madadgaar helped his family. He also pleaded to the Police to recover their daughters at the earliest.

Zia Ahmed Awan (Adv.) shared that Noor Nabi came to know about his daughters living in Eidhi Center at Sohrab Goth and went there on 9 August 2016. When he got there he found out that his daughters are not there. He called Madadgaar who reached out to Mr. Anwar Kazmi and informed him about this situation. He ensured Madadgaar that all the related information on this case will be provided urgently to Madadgaar by Eidhi. He said we found

that two persons took the sisters from there on 27 May 2016. One of them pretended to be Noor Nabi. At Eidhi Center only a photograph was taken as documentation of reunification and no other information or client history was taken before handing over the girls to that person. Zia Awan told the media that a letter was sent by Madadgaar to SHO Police Station Samanabad on 16 August 2016 with all documentation and file to lodge and FIR against the primary suspect. After much efforts and coordination with the DIG, DSP and SHO, the FIR was lodged on 22 August 2016. Zia Ahmed Awan (Advocate) shared that Police has apprehended a relative of Shafi named Farooq and other primary suspect Inayat, they are now in Police custody and they told that Shafi has taken the girls to Dera Murad Jamali, Balochistan.

He demanded that minor girls, Fauzia (Noor Begum) and Alishba, MUST be recovered safely as soon as possible by the Police and strict action taken against their traffickers. He said that we fear Police may release Inayat and Farooq and further demanded that proper investigation should be held of this case.

Zia Ahmed Awan (Advocate) said the incidents of trafficking and kidnapping of women and children were on the rise in Pakistan. He quoted Madadgaar National Helpline's statistics of registered trafficking cases. From 2010 to 2015, 364 cases were registered in total, 130 in Sindh, 200 in Punjab, 23 in Balochistan and 11 in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa. He shared that till July 2016, this year, a total of 17 cases were registered. Out of them 9 were in Sindh, 6 in Punjab, 2 in Balochistan and none in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa. He explained that statistics show a growth of trafficking by 46% since 2010 and these are just registered cases. Many of these cases go unregistered as Police do not bother taking it seriously.

He added that missing/kidnapped children, which are also in great numbers 6983 registered cases since 2010, are most vulnerable to inter-city or inter-province trafficking especially girls who might be trafficked to Afghanistan or Balochistan. Also, during Haj, Umrah time girls maybe trafficked with family to middle-east. The missing and kidnapped children and women may also be used for organ smuggling and as child brides. He said that once a child is trafficked, it becomes most difficult to track as there are no coordination mechanisms among provincial authorities that may inform prevention of inter-provincial trafficking of children. He highlighted not lodging the FIR is justice delayed hence Police is denying justice to children and their families. He warned that failure of Police will only give free hand to such mafia active across Pakistan and many more families will suffer the consequences.

Madadgaar National Helpline (1098) is working to eliminate violence against children and women at all levels Madadgaar services are available in Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta and its Head Offices at Karachi. It has a separate Missing Children Desk that is providing help to parents in finding their children.

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