

Honourable Rana Sanaullah Khan  
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Dear Honourable Rana Sanaullah Khan,

I write to you out of extreme concern for Mahal Baloch, a 28-year-old Baloch woman has been arbitrarily detained by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the police in Quetta, Balochistan. Mahal has been detained for over one month without charge. This is a violation of Mahal's fair trial rights including the right to be free from arbitrary arrest and to be promptly informed of any charges against her. Mahal's prolonged detention is a violation of international fair trial standards and Pakistan's legal international human rights obligations including under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

On 17 February 2023, Mahal's home was unlawfully raided at 11pm. A total of six female family members, including Mahal, Mahal's two daughters (age 8 & 5), her niece (age 12), Mahal's sister-in-law and Mahal's mother were detained overnight at the CTD office. On 18 March, Mahal was brought before the Anti-Terrorism court where the court permitted her to be physically remanded for 7 days. Mahal's detention contravenes fair trial safeguards enshrined in international human rights law.

Mahal has been produced before courts four times, with the CTD requesting her remand custody be extended, without formally charging her. In light of the circumstances of Mahal's arrest, her detention is arbitrary and unlawful.

As such, I urge you to:

- Immediately release Mahal Baloch, unless there is sufficient, credible and admissible evidence that she has committed an internationally recognized offence;
- Pending her release or charge, authorities must ensure her fair trial rights are guaranteed, that she has the right to challenge the lawfulness of her detention and has access to bail hearings;

Yours sincerely,