

2025

# Pashtun Missing Persons: A Grave Human Rights Crisis in Pakistan



PTM Germany

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9/15/2025

# Analysis of Partial Data of Missing and Released Persons

“As the brother of Muhammad Bilal Orakzai, I want to thank PTM Germany for standing with us and raising Bilal’s case at the international level. Your voice means so much to our family at this time of injustice. The court has already signed final orders in Bilal’s case, yet they remain unimplemented — this shows how justice is being denied. Seeing Bilal’s picture and name in the Geneva protest will give us hope that his voice has not been silenced. We are deeply grateful to PTM leadership and all protestors for remembering Bilal and fighting for truth and justice. **Thank You!...**”

This report analyzes two datasets: one containing records of Pashtuns who are still missing and another of individuals who have been released. The main perpetrator of the enforced disappearances in question are the Pakistani armed forces at the direction of their generals. The analysis provides key insights into the scale of enforced disappearances, temporal and geographical trends, and the alleged perpetrators.

## 1. Overall Summary

- **Total Individuals Still Missing: 4,319**
- **Total Individuals Recorded as Released: 318**
- **Total Cases Documented: 4,637**

## Enforced Disappearances in Pakistan

A data-driven overview of a continuing human rights crisis, based on 4,637 documented cases.

**4,319**

Individuals Still  
Missing

**318**

Individuals Recorded  
as Released

**4,637**

Total Cases  
Documented

The data is separated into two distinct files, one for those still missing and one for those released. The 'Still Missing' sheet represents the current active cases of missing persons according to this dataset.

## 2. Trends in Disappearances Over Time

The data shows a significant number of disappearances occurring over several years. The frequency

of disappearances per year, based on the 'Still Missing' dataset, is as follows:

**Disappearances by Year (Still Missing):**

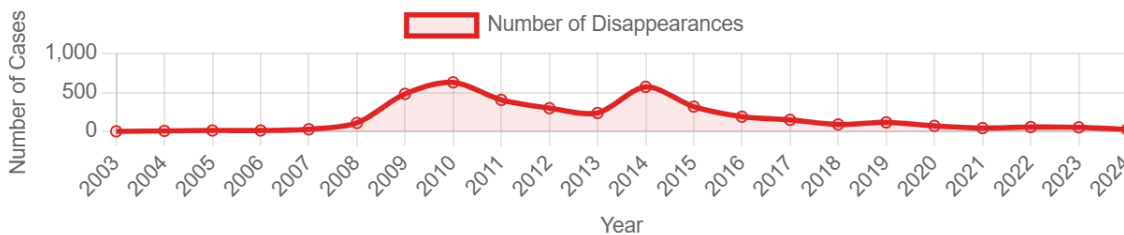
<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Missing Person</u>
2003	3
2004	9
2005	14
2006	14
2007	29
2008	111
2009	483
2010	631
2011	406
2012	300
2013	238
2014	573
2015	320
2016	191
2017	150
2018	91
2019	118
2020	73
2021	45
2022	58

<b>2023</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>1</b>

This table indicates the years with the highest reported numbers of individuals who are still missing. The numbers show a peak in the years leading up to and around 2010 and 2014, with a continued stream of cases in subsequent years.

## A Persistent Crisis Through Time

The number of enforced disappearances has fluctuated over the past two decades, with significant peaks in 2010 and 2014. While the numbers have decreased from their peak, the consistent occurrence of new cases demonstrates that this is an ongoing and unresolved issue.



## 3. Geographical Distribution of Cases

The disappearances are heavily concentrated in specific regions, districts, and provinces.

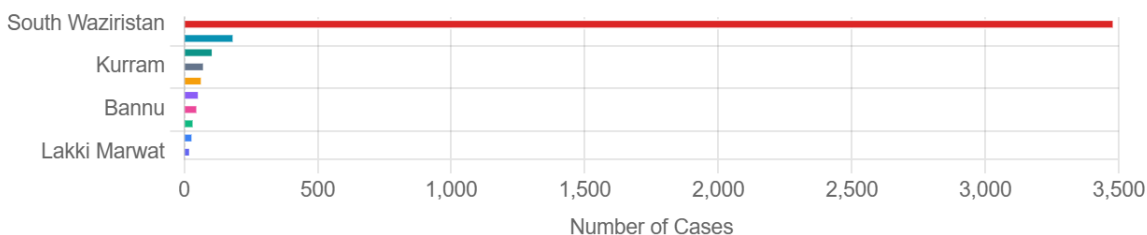
### Top 10 Districts with Missing Persons:

<u>District</u>	<u>Number of Missing Person</u>
<b>South Waziristan</b>	<b>3483</b>
<b>North Waziristan</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>Khyber</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Khurram</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Peshawar</b>	<b>69</b>

<b>Swat</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Bannu</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Bajaur</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Tank</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Lakki Marwat</b>	<b>25</b>

## Geographical Epicenter

The crisis is not uniform across Pakistan; it is intensely concentrated. The district of South Waziristan accounts for a staggering majority of the cases, making it the primary focal point of these human rights violations.



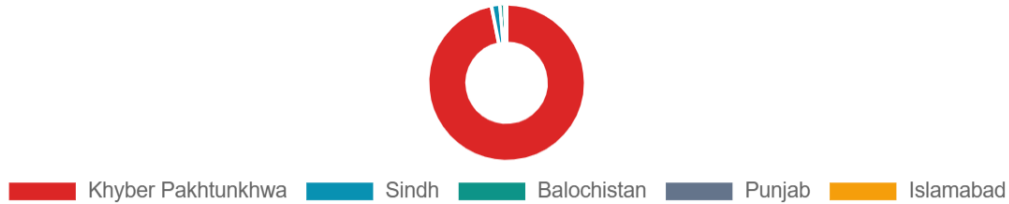
*South Waziristan is overwhelmingly the most affected district in this dataset, accounting for a vast majority of the documented cases of those still missing.*

### Missing Persons by Province:

<u>Province/City</u>	<u>Number of Missing Person</u>
<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</b>	<b>4165</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Balochistan</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Islamabad</b>	<b>2</b>

## Provincial Breakdown

At the provincial level, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is disproportionately affected, confirming that this is a targeted crisis impacting the Pashtun population more than any other.



*The vast majority of cases are reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting it as the epicenter of this crisis.*

## 4. Alleged Perpetrators

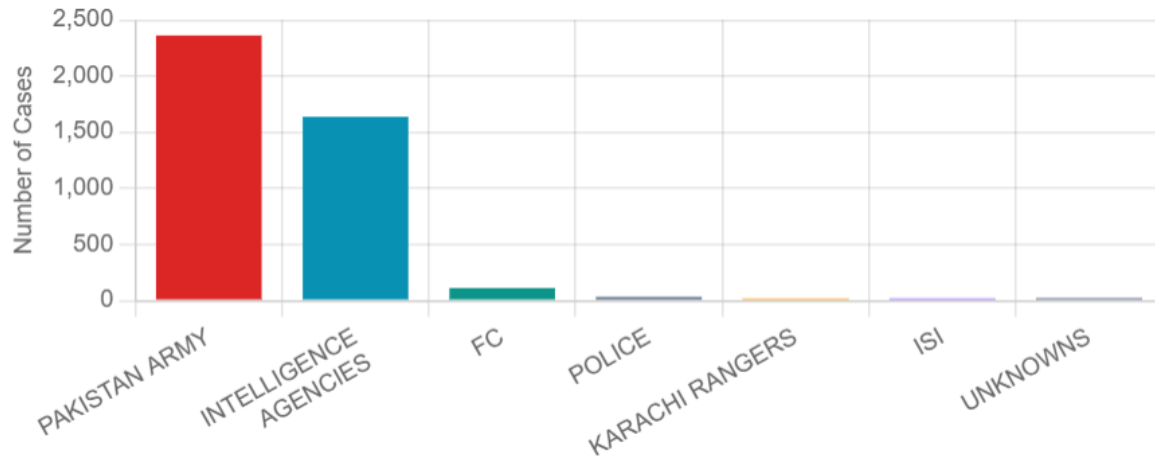
The data attributes the abductions to various state actors. The breakdown for the 'Still Missing' cases is as follows:

### Alleged Abductors (Still Missing Cases):

<u>Perpetrator</u>	<u>Number of Missing Person</u>
Pakistani Army	2362
Intelligence Agencies	1637
FC	111
Police	32
Karachi Rangers	18
ISI	18
Unknown	22
MI	8
Taliban	5

## Who is Responsible?

The data collected from victims' families consistently points towards state actors. The Pakistan Army and various intelligence agencies are alleged to be responsible for the vast majority of abductions.



State intelligence agencies and the Pakistan Army are cited as the primary alleged perpetrators in the cases of individuals who are still missing.

## 5. Occupations of the Missing

The data includes the occupations of individuals at the time of their disappearance, providing insight into the backgrounds of those affected.

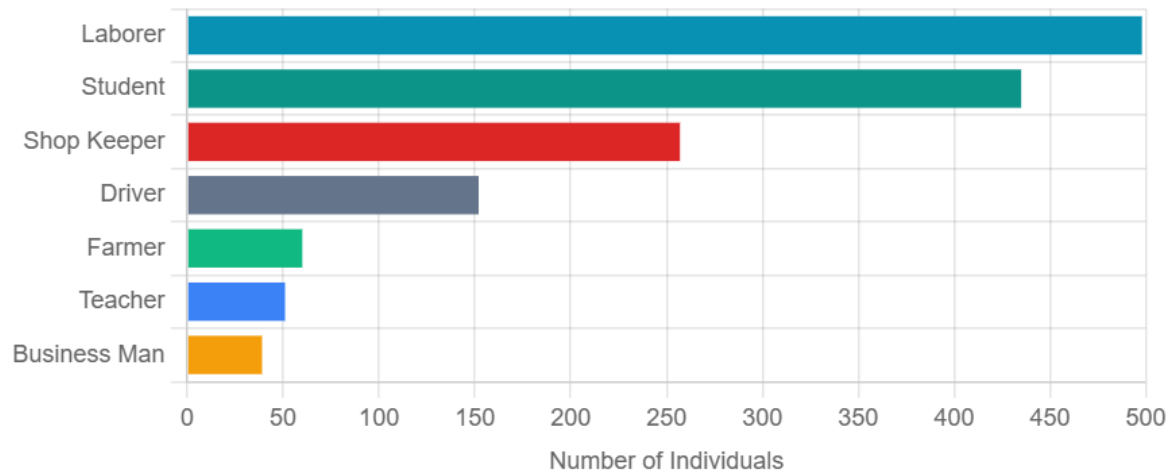
### Top 10 Occupations of Missing Persons:

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number of Missing Person</u>
Laborers	498
Students	435
Shopkeepers	257
Drivers	152
Businessmen	76

Farmers	60
Teachers	51
Tailors	26

## The Victims: Ordinary Civilians

Those who disappear are not from a single background. They are laborers, students, shopkeepers, and farmers—ordinary citizens from all walks of life, highlighting the indiscriminate nature of these actions against the civilian population.



*The data shows a wide range of affected occupations, with laborers, students, and shopkeepers being the most common, indicating that ordinary civilians from various walks of life are being targeted.*

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The analysis highlights a severe and ongoing issue of enforced disappearances, primarily targeting individuals from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, with South Waziristan being the most affected district. The alleged involvement of state intelligence and military forces is a prominent and recurring theme in the dataset.

For PTM Germany's advocacy, this data provides a strong, evidence-based foundation. Key recommendations for leveraging this analysis include:



- **Develop Targeted Briefings:** Create concise, data-driven fact sheets and briefing documents for German and EU policymakers, focusing on the scale of the crisis in specific districts like South Waziristan.
- **Highlight Key Statistics:** Use the numbers—total missing, disappearances per year, and the alleged perpetrators—to create compelling and easily understandable advocacy materials (infographics, social media content).
- **Focus on Human Stories:** While the data is powerful, supplement it with individual case stories from the dataset to humanize the issue and illustrate the impact on families and communities. The 'Occupation' data can be used to show that ordinary citizens are the primary victims.
- **Call for Accountability:** Frame advocacy asks around the need for Pakistan to hold its state institutions accountable, investigate these disappearances, and provide justice for the victims and their families. **No table of figures entries found.**

## A Call for Accountability

The data presents a clear and undeniable pattern of systematic enforced disappearances targeting a specific region and its people, with state institutions as the primary alleged perpetrators. This evidence underscores the urgent need for international bodies to press for specific, policy-oriented actions.



Pakistan must be urged to hold its state institutions accountable, conduct transparent investigations into every case, and deliver justice to the thousands of families still waiting for answers.

This quantitative analysis serves as a critical tool to substantiate PTM's claims and can be used to press for specific, policy-oriented actions from international bodies.