

Afghanischer Kulturverein Lar & Bar e.V.

Thank you Madame Chair. I speak on behalf of Pashtun civil society to draw attention to the systematic discrimination, political oppression, and the developmental neglect faced by the Pashtun minority in Pakistan, particularly in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and [inaudible]. According to the World Bank, Pakistan's poverty rate, as of May 2020, in Pashtun majority districts, such as [inaudible], record poverty rates between 45-65%, among the highest in the country. In these areas, average monthly consumption remains below 5,000 Pakistani rupees. This is 15 euros. Climate disasters, chronic underinvestment, and military operations in the name of counterterrorism have repeatedly destroyed civil infrastructure. At the same time, Pashtun voices demanding accountability have been silenced. The peaceful Pashtun [inaudible], which advocates for justice for extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearances, and landmines, faces arbitrary arrest, media blackout. We therefore urge this Forum and the Special Rapporteur to recognize Pashtuns as a minority facing systematic discrimination across economic, social, and political dimensions; lift restrictions on peaceful Pashtun activism, including the [inaudible]. We urge the European Union to reconsider the GSP+ Agreement with Pakistan. Ensure more investment in education, health, and infrastructure for development of Pashtun. Thank you.