

**Government Response to
the Petition of Tree of Humanity for All
on
Advocate for intervention & support relief efforts in Parachinar,
KPK, Pakistan**

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 380

Government Response to the Petition of Tree of Humanity for All on Advocate for intervention & support relief efforts in Parachinar, KPK, Pakistan

Introduction

- 1 The Government has carefully considered the Petition Committee's referral of the petition entitled, "*Petition of Tree of Humanity for All on Advocate for intervention & support relief efforts in Parachinar, KPK, Pakistan*". The petition requests that the House of Representatives urge the Government to advocate for international intervention to end the blockade of Parachinar, Pakistan and support relief efforts.
- 2 The government welcomes the Committee's referral of this petition and thanks the petitioner for bringing this matter to the government's attention.
- 3 The government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 380.
- 4 The government has considered the petition as it pertains to New Zealand's existing foreign policy settings. The government is unable to respond positively to the 13 recommendations.

Recommendations and government response

- 5 Petition Recommendation: The petition urges the New Zealand Government to:

Advocate for international intervention to end the blockade of Parachinar, Pakistan & support relief efforts in Parachinar, Pakistan.

I. Implementation of Historical and Contemporary Treaties:

a. Recover and enforce the Colonial-Era Treaty signed during British rule, which was designed to mediate and resolve land disputes in the region. The disappearance and lack of enforcement of this treaty have fuelled ongoing conflicts and must be addressed immediately under international observation.

b. Implement the Murree Treaty of 2008, which was agreed upon by tribal leaders and government representatives to resolve land disputes, reopen roads, and ensure compensation for displaced families. This treaty has remained unimplemented for over a decade, undermining trust and perpetuating violence.

II. Immediate Humanitarian Intervention:

a. Open the Thall-Parachinar Road under international supervision to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of food, medicine, fuel, and other essential supplies.

b. Establish emergency humanitarian corridors to prevent further loss of life.

III. International Investigation and Accountability:

- a. Conduct an independent investigation into the targeted violence, including the Teri Mangal School Massacre and convoy ambushes.
- b. Hold perpetrators accountable under international laws, including prosecution for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

IV. Reinstatement of Local Security Forces:

- a. Reinstatement the Kurram Malatia, a locally composed security force, to ensure effective border security and peacekeeping within the region.
- b. Ensure the national army focuses on securing borders rather than occupying local territories.

V. Protection of Civilians:

- a. Deploy international peacekeeping forces to protect civilians and prevent further violence in Parachinar.
- b. Remove the forced convoy system, allowing for safe, independent travel across the region.

VI. Justice for Victims:

- a. Prosecute individuals and groups responsible for violence and genocide under domestic and international legal frameworks.
- b. Provide reparations and compensation to victims and their families.

VII. Support for Education and Healthcare:

- a. Rebuild and secure educational institutions, ensuring the safety of educators and students.
- b. Upgrade healthcare facilities in Parachinar and ensure access to critical medical aid for all residents.

VIII. Economic Rehabilitation:

- a. Provide financial support for rebuilding local businesses and infrastructure destroyed in attacks.
- b. Ensure trade routes are accessible and fair, particularly for local farmers.

IX. Promotion of Sectarian Unity:

- a. Launch initiatives to foster unity between Shia and Sunni communities.

- b. Strengthen laws against hate speech and sectarian propaganda.

X. Media Freedom and Awareness:

- a. Lift media restrictions to allow unbiased reporting on the Parachinar crisis.
- b. Encourage international media and human rights organizations to document and report on the humanitarian situation.

XI. State Accountability:

- a. Pressure the Pakistani government to fulfil its obligations to protect citizens and secure Parachinar's borders.
- b. Investigate allegations of state complicity and negligence in addressing the crisis.

XII. International Legal Action:

- a. Apply sanctions against individuals and entities complicit in the violence, using frameworks like the Global Magnitsky Act.
- b. Engage with international legal bodies, including the United Nations, to enforce peace and justice.

XIII. Recognition of Genocide:

- a. Formally recognize the systemic targeting of the Shia community in Parachinar as genocide under international law.
- b. Commit to preventing further genocidal acts through global cooperation.

Government response

- 6 Response: We respond below to each of the thirteen individual recommendations made by the petition.

I. Implementation of Historical and Contemporary Treaties

- 7 New Zealand recognises that land and local governance agreements are primarily domestic matters for Pakistan and its communities.

II. Immediate Humanitarian Intervention

- 8 The Government of New Zealand supports the principle of safe and unimpeded humanitarian access, but recognises that land and local governance agreements are domestic matters for Pakistan and its communities. We understand that as of 27 April 2026, the Parachinar Airport has re-opened and resumed operations, and will be providing support for humanitarian efforts.
- 9 New Zealand supports humanitarian efforts in Pakistan by funding partners in the region, such as providing the International Federation of Red Cross and

Red Crescent Societies with NZ\$1.5 million in 2022 in response to the Pakistan floods.

III. International Investigation and Accountability

- 10 The Government of New Zealand supports credible investigations and accountability for serious crimes, and we expect Pakistan to pursue lawful processes.
- 11 New Zealand is a long-standing supporter of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and international criminal justice, including cooperation and the provision of adequate resourcing for the ICC.

IV. Reinstatement of Local Security Forces

- 12 Decisions about Defence force structures are sovereign matters for Pakistan.

V. Protection of Civilians

- 13 New Zealand recognises the petition's call for stronger civilian protection measures.
- 14 New Zealand supports UN peacekeeping, but notes UN peace operations are guided by core principles including consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of mandate. New Zealand cannot deploy "international peacekeeping forces" independently; such decisions sit with the UN Security Council and the UN system.

VI. Justice for Victims

- 15 New Zealand recognises the suffering faced by many individuals in Parachinar, however, is unable to consider reparations or prosecutions for individuals under Pakistan's domestic legal framework, as the responsibility for domestic legal action lies with Pakistan.
- 16 New Zealand is a long-standing supporter of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and international criminal justice, including cooperation and the provision of adequate resourcing for the ICC.

VII. Support for Education and Healthcare

- 17 We acknowledge the depth of the adversity faced by adults, children, and infants due to a lack of medical access in the region. Deaths in Parachinar are deeply saddening.
- 18 New Zealand is committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which expounds safe access to healthcare and education as universal Human Rights, under articles 25 and 26 respectively. We encourage other States, including Pakistan, to also commit to the provision of safe access to education and healthcare.

VIII. Economic Rehabilitation

- 19 New Zealand's direct development programming is primarily focused in the Pacific, but New Zealand does contribute to wider humanitarian and recovery efforts through multilateral partners where needs are severe and access allows effective delivery. When allocating humanitarian funding to emergencies outside the Pacific and Southeast Asia regions, New Zealand considers the scale and severity of humanitarian needs, protection threats, and the national and international regional capacity to meet needs. For example, New Zealand provided a total of NZ\$3.5 million in support of the responses of international humanitarian agencies following severe flooding in Pakistan in 2022 and 2023.

IX. Promotion of Sectarian Unity

- 20 New Zealand condemns violence motivated by sectarian intolerance, and supports processes that promote dialogue and the rights and safety of all communities.
- 21 We note that initiatives to weaken racial discrimination and foster inclusion and unity are productive means to build long term stability, however, the implementation of any such initiatives or laws are outside the jurisdiction of the Government of New Zealand.

X. Media Freedom and Awareness:

- 22 New Zealand supports media freedom and encourages the involvement of Human Rights organisations in humanitarian situations.
- 23 While freedom of the press is important for the Government of New Zealand, our engagement on human rights issues is primarily pursued through diplomatic dialogue and multilateral fora. Matters relating to media regulation and access sit with the Government of Pakistan.

XI. State Accountability

- 24 While we note the concerns raised, New Zealand does not have jurisdiction to investigate events in Pakistan and will not take additional steps beyond encouraging lawful, transparent processes.

XII. International Legal Action

- 25 New Zealand is not considering the implementation of sanctions on Pakistan.
- 26 Engagement with international legal bodies, including the United Nations, is regular, and New Zealand implements UN Security Council sanctions as required.

XIII. Recognition of Genocide

- 27 Allegations of genocide and atrocity crimes are taken extremely seriously by the New Zealand Government. The term 'genocide' has a specific meaning in

international law, and New Zealand does not make such determinations through a petition process.

- 28 New Zealand supports the ICC and international criminal justice as part of the rules-based system.

Conclusion

- 29 The New Zealand Government has been monitoring the political situation in Pakistan. We expect Pakistan to abide by its international obligations, and we support the role of UN bodies in monitoring human rights in member states, including Pakistan. We are committed to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, including media freedom and access to healthcare and education, and support the efforts of humanitarian organisations in promoting human rights and addressing crises where these rights are restricted. New Zealand supports the International Criminal Court and is a strong proponent of lawful, transparent, democratic processes. We acknowledge the effect this situation has had on the authors of this petition and other members of the Pakistani diaspora in New Zealand, and offer our condolences to the family and friends of those who have been harmed or lost their lives.