



## 5.7. Detention, including conditions and use of torture

The main laws regulating Pakistan's prisons framework are the colonial-era Prisons Act, 1894, and Prisoners Act, 1900,<sup>[1152](#)</sup> alongside the PPC and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).<sup>[1153](#)</sup> To a certain extent, the Prisons Act and Prisoners Act have remained unaltered.<sup>[1154](#)</sup> The Pakistan Prison Rules (PPR) of 1978, created as a core prison manual to implement these laws, defines duties and restrictions for prison officials<sup>[1155](#)</sup> and procedures for prisoners' admission, release, transfer, sentence reductions, while also ensuring that prisoners are provided with basic necessities like food and clothes.<sup>[1156](#)</sup> At the same time, sources pointed to severe overcrowding in Pakistan's prison system,<sup>[1157](#)</sup> estimating the nationwide overcrowding rate in recent years at over 150 %.<sup>[1158](#)</sup> According to the Prison Data Report 2024, prison conditions were further characterised by lack of hygiene, insufficient access to healthcare, nutritious food and clean water, as well as exploitative prison labour practices, limited contact with families and legal counsels, and lack of effective complaint mechanisms.<sup>[1159](#)</sup> In Balochistan, courts have denied bail in a number of cases that involved allegations of terrorism, and Baloch activists were reported to have been kept in prison after the expiry of their pretrial detention.<sup>[1160](#)</sup>

Article 14(2) of the Constitution stipulates that 'no person shall be subjected to torture for the purpose of extracting evidence'.<sup>[1161](#)</sup> Meanwhile, the Global Torture Index 2025 of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), based on data gathered in 2023 and 2024, assessed that there was a 'high risk' of torture and ill-treatment in Pakistan linked to what it described as 'institutional reliance' on forced confessions.<sup>[1162](#)</sup> For information on reports of torture by members of the police, see section [3.1.7. Pakistani police](#).

- <sup>[1152](#)</sup>

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Afzal, Q., The State of Female Prisoners in Pakistan, RSIL, 25 October 2023, [url](#)

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- [1161](#)

Pakistan, Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (as amended up to 2025), 1973, [url](#), Art. 14

- [1162](#)

OMCT, Global Torture Index 2025: Pakistan Factsheet, June 2025, [url](#), p. 1