



6.1.10. Land dispute and blood feud related violence

In October 2025, the Punjab government approved a new Protection of Ownership Ordinance with aim of safeguarding the property rights of citizens and taking firm action against land grabbers.[1930](#) Moreover, the ordinance set the precedent for land dispute cases in Punjab to be resolved by the newly formed Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs).[1931](#) Set up at the district and *tehsil* levels, the DRCs are authorised to resolve land dispute cases within 90 days.[1932](#) In December 2025, the Lahore High Court (LHC) issued an interim order suspending the implementation of the newly enacted Punjab Protection of Ownership of Immovable Property Ordinance.[1933](#) The revocation of the Ordinance was demanded by the Pakistan Bar Council due to its 'unlawful nature', as reported by Dawn.[1934](#) Following the suspension of the Ordinance, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed concern stating that the decision would benefit 'land-grabbing mafias'.[1935](#) With a disagreement between the Punjab government and LHC on the Ordinance, local media reported on the need of a prompt mechanism resolving land dispute cases.[1936](#)

In October 2024, a Special Court (Overseas Pakistanis Property) Act was unanimously approved by Senate and National Assembly[1937](#) and entered into force in November 2024.[1938](#) In January 2026, the government issued a guarantee to Pakistanis living overseas that their illegally occupied properties in Islamabad will be fully protected. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stated that any reported illegal occupation will be resolved within seven days.[1939](#) Moreover, the Islamabad district administration established a special complaint mechanism as part of the measures to address complaints by overseas Pakistanis regarding the land grabbing.[1940](#)

However, according to Human Rights Watch, Pakistan's blasphemy laws perpetuate religious discrimination and are used to target the poor and minorities in unlawful evictions and land grabs.[1941](#) According to the same source, people often make blasphemy accusations for economic motivations, including forced evictions to acquire land that belongs to others.[1942](#)

Sources recorded cases of demolition of houses by the government and civilians. In October 2025, more than 1 200 houses of Afghan refugees were demolished in Karachi by the Pakistani government, in an operation targeting settlements described as 'illegal'.[1943](#) Demolitions were reportedly part of the government policy to remove illegal settlements from the state land.[1944](#) Sources recorded cases of private houses of economically disadvantaged residents being illegally demolished by groups of civilians in December 2025 in Punjab province.[1945](#)

Local media reported that property disputes, both within families and involving outsiders, led to killings, including family-related land conflicts in 2025. In July 2025, a man killed his parents and wife in Tehsil, Phalia.[1946](#) In December 2025, two men from the Brohi tribe were killed by the Jatoli tribe in the Shikarpur district over a land dispute. The attack was allegedly a revenge over the killing of two Jatoli men from the Nareja community by the Brohi tribe.[1947](#) Also in December 2025, Dawn reported on the killing of one man by his brothers in Pakpattan District in the Punjab province.[1948](#) Killings over property ownership between non-family members were recorded throughout 2025. On 8 April 2025, a suspect in a killing of a man in Kahuta (in Rawalpindi District) was arrested by police;[1949](#) in another case, four individuals were arrested for killing a pregnant woman in Millat (near Faisalabad) over a property dispute in May 2025.[1950](#) In the period between September 2025 and October 2025, local sources reported on a killing of a man in Chauntra over a land dispute,[1951](#) as well as on the killing of two people in Nangarpar area of Tharparkar, and the shooting of a person in Kandani in Tharo Shah area.[1952](#)

Killings over property dispute continued in the first quarter of 2026. In January 2026, a Hindu farmer was shot dead by a Pakistani landowner,[1953](#) while three individuals were killed and seven injured over a land dispute in Mirpur.[1954](#)

In 2025 and 2026, sources reported on cases of violent land disputes that resulted in arrests of the perpetrators.[1955](#)

There were also reported cases of resolved land disputes. In November 2025, the Supreme Court of Pakistan ordered re-examination of a land dispute case[1956](#) while in December 2025, seven land dispute cases were resolved by the DRC[1957](#) and in January 2026, a decades-old land dispute between two families was settled through a traditional *jirga* in the Mohmand district.[1958](#)

Despite the efforts to establish and implement a robust mechanism to promptly and fairly resolve land dispute cases, organised groups continue to engage in land grabbing[1959](#) as sources reported on absence of accountability of 'land mafias' in Pakistan in 2025.[1960](#)

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