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Fresh Wave of Abductions Rocks Pakistan: Student Among Five Missing

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Pakistan faces renewed concerns over enforced disappearances as five individuals, including a philosophy student, were abducted in separate incidents across Karachi, Noshki, and Kech. Eyewitnesses report the student was taken “in broad daylight” by unidentified armed men, highlighting the brazen nature of these operations that continue to plague the nation despite government assurances.

The disappearances follow a familiar pattern in Pakistan's restive regions. In Karachi, family members of the missing student staged protests outside the Karachi Press Club, demanding answers from authorities. "They came in vehicles without license plates and took him at gunpoint," one protester told local media. Similar reports emerged from Balochistan's Noshki district, where two ethnic Baloch men vanished after leaving their homes, and Kech, where a shopkeeper and teacher disappeared within hours of each other.

Human rights organizations have documented over 2,000 unresolved disappearance cases in Pakistan since 2021, with Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces accounting for 68% of incidents according to the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (COIED). The state's failure to curb these abductions undermines its international human rights commitments and fuels separatist sentiments in marginalized regions. "When citizens can't trust law enforcement to protect basic rights, it erodes the social contract," noted Amnesty International's South Asia researcher. 

While authorities attribute some cases to militant groups or tribal conflicts, the persistent lack of transparency fuels public distrust. The recent abductions coincide with heightened security operations in Balochistan, where the government faces an insurgency by groups demanding greater autonomy. Until Pakistan establishes credible mechanisms to investigate disappearances and hold perpetrators accountable regardless of affiliation this disturbing trend will continue to tarnish the nation's governance record and destabilize vulnerable communities.