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Broad Daylight Abduction Sparks Alarm Amid New Wave of Disappearances in Pakistan

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The latest reports of forced disappearances in Pakistan have ignited fresh outrage, as witnesses claim that a university student was taken in broad daylight by individuals believed to be connected to Pakistan's military intelligence. This incident, which unfolded in front of bystanders in the southern port city of Karachi, forms part of a wider pattern of disappearances across the country, allegedly involving Pakistan's Inter-

Services Intelligence (ISI) and Military Intelligence (MI). Human rights advocates are raising concerns that these abductions are not isolated events but part of an entrenched culture of state-backed suppression.

The student, whose identity has been confirmed by local rights groups but withheld publicly due to security concerns, was reportedly approached by plain-clothed men, forced into a vehicle, and driven away without explanation or warrant. Family members claim that officials have refused to acknowledge custody or provide any information about his whereabouts. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has  described the incident as another stark reminder of Pakistan's worsening record on civil liberties, especially the targeting of students, journalists, and activists who are seen as critical of the state.

Forced disappearances have long plagued Pakistan, particularly in provinces like Balochistan and Sindh, where ethnic and political tensions remain high. Observers argue that the practice has expanded beyond separatist suspects to include anyone whose views diverge from the government narrative. Despite repeated international condemnation, successive governments have failed to implement reforms or hold security agencies accountable. Courts have occasionally demanded explanations, but with limited enforcement powers, justice often remains out of reach for victims and their families.

The deepening culture of impunity surrounding these incidents reflects the broader erosion of democratic norms in Pakistan. With institutions like the judiciary and the press increasingly under pressure, victims of disappearances are left without recourse. While the military maintains its silence and denies involvement, growing domestic and international scrutiny may force the issue onto the national agenda. Until Pakistan's

civilian leadership musters the courage to confront its powerful intelligence apparatus, these abductions will likely continue unchecked. This case, yet another in a disturbing trend, underscores the urgent need for transparency, legal accountability, and protection of civil rights in Pakistan's fragile democracy.

