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Madrasa Head Held After Student's Killing in Swat

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Authorities in Swat, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa have arrested at least 10 individuals, including the head of an unregistered Islamic religious school, in connection with the brutal death of a 12-year-old boy. Police continue to hunt for two key suspects.

A disturbing case in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province has resulted in the arrest of 10 individuals, including the head of an unregistered Islamic religious school, or madrassa, following the brutal killing of a young boy. Local police continue to search for two key suspects as investigations unfold in the Khwazakhela area of Swat.

According to Swat District Police Officer (DPO) Mohammad Omar Khan, authorities discovered the body of 12-year-old Farhan under troubling circumstances. Speaking during a press conference held at the DPO office in Saidu Sharif, Khan detailed the events that led to the arrests. He was joined by Superintendent of Police (SP) Investigation Bashir Hazrat Khan, who confirmed that the child's body showed signs of violence and abuse.

The madrassa where the incident occurred was operating without registration, raising serious questions about oversight, regulation, and the safety of minors enrolled in such institutions. Police acted swiftly after the discovery, detaining the madrassa head and others believed to be involved in the incident. The identities of those arrested have not yet been publicly disclosed, but authorities have vowed to ensure justice is served.

This case has sparked outrage across the region, renewing calls for stronger regulation of unregistered religious institutions. While Pakistan's constitution allows for religious education, the unchecked operation of madrassas remains a concern, particularly in rural and conservative areas. Critics argue that without proper registration, many such schools evade scrutiny and accountability.

Local authorities stressed the seriousness of the investigation. "No one will be spared. We are treating this as a top-priority case," DPO Khan said,

as reported by *Express News*. He confirmed that efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining suspects, believed to have fled the area shortly after the incident.

This tragedy highlights long-standing concerns regarding child protection in unregulated educational settings. It also adds pressure on regional governance to implement existing laws more stringently and ensure children's rights and safety are preserved in all learning environments, religious or otherwise.

As the investigation continues, public demand for transparency and reform is growing louder. While the focus rightly remains on securing justice for young Farhan, the broader implications for madrassa regulation in Pakistan are now under intense national scrutiny.