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Rawalpindi Honour Killing Case Takes New Turn as Second Husband Surrenders

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– Categories: Crime



A suspected honour killing in Rawalpindi's Pirwadhai area has taken a dramatic twist as Usman, the second husband of the 19-year-old victim, surrendered to police on July 26, 2025. The young woman, allegedly murdered following a tribal council (jirga) verdict, was buried secretly, exposing deep-rooted societal and legal failures. This article explores the case, its shocking developments, and the urgent need for justice reform in Pakistan.

The victim, married to Zia-ur-Rehman since January 2025, reportedly fled her home on July 11, taking gold jewellery and Rs150,000, per the First Information Report (FIR) filed by Zia on July 21. She married Usman in Muzaffarabad on July 12, as per the Nikahnama (marriage form), after claiming her first husband had divorced her, according to police sources cited by The News. Tragically, she was allegedly killed on July 16 and buried the

next day in a local graveyard. Usman's surrender, driven by fears of false implication, followed threats to his family, as stated by his father, Muhammad Ilyas, in a video to Geo.tv: "I arranged Rs30,000 to 40,000 to help her secure court protection." Police have detained eight suspects, including family members and the gravedigger, awaiting a postmortem after exhumation, per Dawn.

This case lays bare the persistent scourge of honour killings, with over 400 reported annually, according to a 2024 Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) report. Jirgas, operating outside legal frameworks, often sanction such violence, undermining the rule of law. Human rights activist Tahira Abdullah told Geo.tv, "Despite legislation in 2010 and 2016, the negligible conviction rate demands urgent state action." The government's reliance on tribal customs over judicial processes fuels impunity, leaving women vulnerable.

The surrender of Usman highlights a broken system where fear and mistrust prevail. Pakistan must dismantle parallel justice mechanisms like jirgas and enforce strict legal accountability. Without sweeping reforms, these tragedies will continue, eroding public faith in governance and perpetuating a cycle of violence against the vulnerable.