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Fourteen Suspects Detained in Balochistan Honour Killing Case

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On July 21, 2025, Balochistan police arrested 14 suspects, including a tribal chief, in connection with the brutal honour killing of a couple, Bano Bibi and Ehsan Ullah, in the Deghari area near Quetta. The release of a viral video exposing the murders sparked nationwide outrage and prompted swift police action.

The killings, believed to have occurred in May 2025, came to light after a graphic video circulated on social media, showing Bano Bibi and Ehsan Ullah being shot dead in a desert over an alleged illicit relationship. According to a police First Information Report (FIR), tribal elder Sardar Sherbaz Satakzai ordered the execution, with Bano's brother among the perpetrators. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti condemned the killings at a press conference in Quetta, stating, "No one has the right to kill in such a disgusting way," and vowed to ensure justice. The case is currently under investigation by the Serious Crimes Investigation Wing (SCIW). Initially, 11 suspects were arrested, with three more detained later.

The police verified the video, which shows Bano holding a Quran and saying, "Come, walk seven steps with me, after that you can shoot me," before being shot by her brother. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) reported 405 honour killings in 2024, while the Sustainable Social Development Organisation (SSDO) recorded 547 cases, noting that only one conviction occurred in Balochistan. Such crimes are deeply rooted in patriarchal tribal norms and often target women who defy family or tribal wishes, such as marrying by choice. Activists have condemned the killings, highlighting the urgent need for societal change.

The arrests represent a rare and prompt state response, driven by public outrage and the video's wide circulation. Chief Minister Bugti clarified that the couple were not newlyweds, as initially reported, but had children from previous marriages. With nine more suspects sought, the case will test Pakistan's commitment to dismantling harmful tribal practices and

enforcing the 2016 anti-honour killing law. There is a pressing need for society to reject such violence and uphold fundamental human rights.