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Pakistan Minister Outlines Measures on Blasphemy Law Abuse

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Federal Minister for Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing the misuse of blasphemy laws through legal reforms and stronger institutional oversight.

During a meeting in Islamabad with Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins on Wednesday, the minister highlighted Pakistan's ongoing efforts to promote human rights and ensure that legal protections are not exploited. He discussed the steps being taken to implement the **National Action Plan on Human Rights**, which targets six key areas,

including judicial reform, access to justice, and adherence to international human rights treaties.

Tarar emphasized that while blasphemy laws remain part of Pakistan's legal framework, their misuse is a serious concern. "There is a clear need to prevent the exploitation of these laws for personal or political gain," he said, underscoring the importance of legal safeguards that protect citizens without compromising national values.

The minister detailed how the government is working to strengthen institutional accountability by supporting mechanisms that monitor human rights violations and promote transparency. The plan also includes targeted training for law enforcement and judicial officers to ensure fair and consistent application of the law.

High Commissioner Hawkins welcomed Pakistan's initiatives and expressed interest in continued bilateral cooperation on legal reforms and human rights. He noted that promoting mutual understanding of legal systems contributes to broader regional stability and international trust.

The Human Rights Ministry has prioritized education, capacity building, and policy development under the national plan, which aligns with Pakistan's international commitments. Tarar reiterated that human rights protection is a shared responsibility that must be upheld through both domestic and international collaboration.

This development comes amid growing national and international concern about the potential for blasphemy laws to be misapplied. Rights groups have repeatedly called for procedural changes to prevent false accusations, which can lead to mob violence or lengthy detentions without trial.

Officials say the reforms are designed to uphold constitutional protections and ensure Pakistan's legal system meets both domestic expectations and global standards.

The meeting between the federal minister and the high commissioner reflects ongoing diplomatic engagement on matters of legal governance and human rights policy.