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## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Farmers Protest Leaders Arrested

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Several farmer representatives were arrested earlier this week in the Hashtnagar region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan, after their bail in earlier cases was revoked. The arrests have sparked concern among local communities involved in long-standing land rights disputes.

Those detained include Salar Amjad Ali, Momin Khan Shalmani, Waris Khan Amir, Muhammad Alam, Manzoor Khan, Sparlay Ghorzang, and Zeeshan. All are reportedly associated with a political group advocating for farmers' land rights in the region.

The group claims that its members were arrested due to their involvement in campaigns against alleged illegal land seizures by powerful landowners. In a statement issued on July 28, the organization described the arrests as an attempt to silence dissent over land ownership conflicts.

“For decades, farmers in Hashtnagar have been cultivating these lands. We believe these arrests are meant to protect influential elements trying to take that land away,” the group said in its statement.

The arrested individuals are accused of organizing protests and speaking out against what they describe as unlawful land grabs, allegedly carried out with the support of certain local authorities. The organization has demanded the immediate release of its members and the withdrawal of cases it claims are unfounded.

It also warned that if the arrests are not reversed and its demands are not met, further mobilization of supporters will follow.

Land disputes in parts of KP, including Hashtnagar, have historically involved tension between local farming communities and landowners. Rights groups have previously highlighted the need for clearer policies regarding land ownership and farmer protections.

As of now, provincial authorities have not issued a formal response to the group’s demands or the circumstances of the arrests.