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Karachi Child Abducted Three Months Prior Found Begging

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In a distressing incident in Karachi, a three-year-old boy who was abducted three months ago from Shah Latif Town was recently found begging on the streets, exposing a child trafficking operation. The child, Hussain, was reunited with his family after his uncle recognized him, leading to the arrest of an alleged trafficker.

On July 20, 2025, Hussain's uncle, Nasser, spotted the boy with a beggar after leaving a mosque in Shah Latif Town. "After prayers, I saw my missing nephew with a beggar," Nasser told police, as reported by *The Nation*. The child had disappeared while buying snacks, prompting a search by his family. The suspect, Shehryar, was arrested and admitted to earning 2,000–3,000 Pakistani Rupees (PKR) daily by exploiting Hussain. Shehryar alleged that his father-in-law, Sultan, provided the child, suggesting involvement of a larger network. Police investigations revealed a gang involved in abducting children to force them into begging, a known problem in Karachi.

This incident highlights the ongoing issue of child trafficking in Pakistan, especially in urban areas such as Karachi. According to *Pakistan Today*, similar cases have been reported in Hyderabad, where children have been rescued from forced begging rings. The Roshni Helpline, a non-governmental organization working on child protection, reported over 2,200 children missing in Karachi during 2024, with many exploited through forced begging or other forms of abuse. Weak law enforcement and limited resources often hinder efforts to combat these crimes, leaving vulnerable families without adequate support.

The recovery of Hussain is a positive outcome but also exposes systemic challenges. Pakistan's Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act 2020 mandates rapid response to missing children reports; however, enforcement remains inconsistent. Authorities are urged to strengthen efforts to dismantle trafficking networks and improve child protection mechanisms.