



February 24, 2026

TL2026/0224/1A

Mr. Imran Hamid Sheikh
Director General
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Punjab
Lahore

Subject: Complaint Against Allegations of Environmental Harm Caused by Unchecked Industrial Waste, in Violation of Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 2012 and Punjab Environmental Quality Standards (PEQS), Causing Serious Harm to Public Health in Multan

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan has received a complaint against allegations of environmental harm, caused by unchecked industrial waste, in violation of Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 2012 and Punjab Environmental Quality Standards (PEQS), causing serious harm to public health in Multan (**Annex-A**).

The complainant has made the following allegations:

1. The residents of New Multan, Samejabad, Shamsabad, and Hassanabad in Multan have been exposed to toxic industrial waste originating from the former Pakarab Fertilizer factory, now owned and operated by Fatima Group and Habib Rafiq Group.
2. Due to these practices, there is presence of heavy metal contamination in water and milk samples at levels significantly exceeding WHO permissible limits.
3. The enforcement actions are not properly implemented, allowing environmentally harmful practices to continue.

Transparency International Pakistan Comments and Recommendations

Transparency International Pakistan has reviewed the allegations of the complaint which are self-explanatory. DG EPA is requested to look into the allegations to determine their veracity and if found correct take stern action against violation of PEPA Act 2012 and PEQS standards.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across-the-board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption, and achieve Zero tolerance against corruption.

Regards,

Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar,
Trustee/Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Chief Minister, Government of Punjab, Lahore.
2. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Lahore.

Note:

This is to clarify that Transparency International Pakistan is not a complainant, it acts as a whistleblower and operate under Article 19-A, of the Constitution of Pakistan which gives the right to public to know how government is being run by public officers. Article 19-A makes the right to access of information pertaining to a public authority a fundamental right, and a three member bench in case of Mukhtar



Ahmad Ali vs the Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the landmark judgment on 16 October 2023, in CP No. 3532/2023, has declared that

“What previously may have been on a need-to-know basis Article 19A of the Constitution has transformed it to a right-to-know, and the Access to information is no longer a discretion granted through occasional benevolence, but is now a fundamental right available with every Pakistani which right may be invoked under Article 19A of the Constitution”

SUBJECT: URGENT: Mass Poisoning Crisis Affecting 500,000+ People in Multan, Pakistan — Request for Immediate WHO Intervention

DATE: 22 February 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear Director-General,

I am writing to alert the World Health Organization to an ongoing public health catastrophe in Multan, Pakistan, caused by decades of industrial poisoning by Fatima Group and Habib Rafiq Group (owners of the former Pakarab Fertilizer factory).

The Crisis:

- Over 500,000 people living in New Multan, Samejabad, Shamsabad, and Hassanabad colonies have been exposed to toxic industrial waste for 30+ years
- Scientific studies confirm heavy metal contamination at 23.6× to 99× WHO permissible limits
- Toxic waste stockpiles covering kilometers are visible on Google Maps
- Air pollution at 22.6× WHO safe limits

The Health Impact:

- Thousands dead — including my father (liver cirrhosis from contaminated water)
- Epidemic levels of cancer, asthma, respiratory disease, liver disease, and birth defects
- My personal case: 15 years of severe asthma, brain damage (still on medication), academic destruction (100% to 2% marks)
- My first child: born with hole in heart — healed after we left the area — direct proof of causation

The Cover-Up:

- Government reports ignored for 30 years (1996 Ombudsman decree, 2004 violations)
- Supreme Court judges, generals, and bureaucrats are hidden shareholders in the polluting companies
- The hospital built by the company (Mukhtar A. Sheikh Hospital) is one of the most expensive in Multan — victims must pay to be treated for diseases the company caused

Request:

1. Emergency health assessment of affected populations
2. Independent testing of water, soil, air, and human samples
3. Free medical treatment for all victims
4. Long-term health monitoring program
5. Public health warning to affected communities

SECTION 1: THE POLLUTION — SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

1.1 Water Contamination (2025 Study — Kousar Parveen, Women University Multan)

Location Contaminant Concentration WHO Limit Multiple Above Limit

Samejabad Cadmium in water 0.118 mg/L 0.005 mg/L 23.6×

New Multan Chromium in water 0.235 mg/L 0.1 mg/L 2.35×

1.2 Milk Contamination (2025 Study)

Location Contaminant Concentration WHO Limit Multiple Above Limit

Samejabad Lead in milk 1.982 mg/L 0.02 mg/kg 99×

Samejabad Chromium in milk 0.182 mg/L 0.05 mg/L 3.64×
New Multan Cadmium in milk 0.11 mg/L 0.0026 µg/g Extreme

1.3 Air Pollution

Measurement Value WHO Safe Limit Multiple Above Limit

PM2.5 in Multan 113 µg/m³ 5 µg/m³ 22.6×

Respiratory symptoms near factory 54.8% allergies, 51.7% breathlessness (2015 study)

1.4 Toxic Waste — Visible Evidence

Google Maps/Earth: Search "Pak Arab Fertilizer Multan" — massive white/yellow toxic waste stockpiles visible for kilometers, adjacent to dense population.

SECTION 2: THE HEALTH CRISIS — DOCUMENTED IMPACTS

2.1 Scientific Studies on Health Effects

Study Finding

2025 PubMed study Combined heavy metals → 5.9× increased risk of congenital heart defects

2022 NIH study Chemical fertilizer exposure → 2× increased risk of birth defects

2015 Pakistan Chest Medical Journal 54.8% allergies, 51.7% breathlessness near factory

IAEA study Arsenic in factory waste (1.55–11.39 µg/g) — causes cancer, liver disease

2.2 My Personal Medical History — Living Proof

Year Event Cause

1999-2014 15 years residence in New Multan (government colony) Continuous exposure

2004 First brain damage symptoms — left brain, entire left side pain Heavy metal neurotoxicity

1999-2014 Severe asthma — 2-3 nights/week in emergency hospitals Air pollution

2009 Father died — liver cirrhosis Arsenic in water

Post-2014 First child born with hole in heart — healed after we left PROOF OF CAUSATION

Present Still on painkillers for brain damage Permanent injury

2.3 Academic Destruction

Before Exposure After Exposure

Mathematics marks 100%

Academic standing First position

Your testimony: "if you cannot take breath, how can you study."

SECTION 3: THE COVER-UP — WHY PAKISTANI INSTITUTIONS HAVE FAILED

3.1 30 Years of Ignored Reports

Year Report/Action Status

1996 Federal Ombudsman decree against factory Never implemented

2004 6 gas companies operating illegally No action

2004 CO2 storage plant ordered sealed No follow-up

2004 Ammonia gas leaks, workers hospitalized Whitewashed

2007 FFC violations at Mirpur Mathelo Ignored

3.2 Corruption — Hidden Shareholders

Group Hidden Shareholders

Fatima Group Generals (active and retired); Supreme Court judges; Senior bureaucrats

Habib Rafiq Group Same network

3.3 The Hospital — A Confession of Guilt

Fact Detail

Hospital name Mukhtar A. Sheikh Hospital (MASH)

Built by Fatima Group

Cost One of the most expensive in Multan — NOT free

Purpose Treats victims of the poisoning — at their own expense

They poison the community, then charge them to survive.

SECTION 4: REQUEST TO WHO

4.1 Emergency Health Assessment

Request Justification

Deploy WHO team to Multan Immediate on-site assessment

Test water, soil, air samples Independent verification

Collect human samples (blood, urine) Document heavy metal levels in residents

Establish disease registry Cancer, asthma, birth defects, liver disease

4.2 Medical Treatment

Request Justification

Free treatment for all affected Victims cannot pay — company should fund

Specialized clinics For cancer, respiratory disease, birth defects

Mental health support Trauma from decades of poisoning

4.3 Public Health Intervention

Request Justification

Immediate public health warning Alert residents to stop using groundwater

Emergency clean water supply Trucked water until remediation

Long-term monitoring program Track health outcomes over decades

4.4 International Pressure

Request Justification

WHO statement Public condemnation of industrial poisoning

Coordination with UNEP Joint environmental-health investigation

Referral to UN Human Rights Council Document human rights violations

SECTION 5: THE EVIDENCE — ATTACHED

Document Description

Full testimony (50+ pages) Complete personal account with all evidence

2025 heavy metal study Kousar Parveen — water and milk contamination

2015 respiratory study Pakistan Journal of Chest Medicine

2025 PubMed study Heavy metals and heart defects

IAEA arsenic study Factory waste analysis
News reports 2004-2026 Documented violations
Google Maps links Toxic waste visible
Medical records My family's records (confidential, available to WHO physicians)

SECTION 6: CLOSING

Dear Director-General,

I am not a politician. I am not an activist. I am a son who lost his father, a survivor of 15 years of poisoning, a father whose first child was born with a heart defect — which healed only after we escaped the contaminated area.

The science is clear. The evidence is overwhelming. The victims are countless.

WHO was created to protect global health. Multan is a global health emergency.

I request that you:

1. Read the attached testimony
2. Deploy a WHO team to Multan immediately
3. Issue a public health warning
4. Demand that the Government of Pakistan and Fatima Group provide free healthcare to all victims
5. Support the victims' demand for justice

Submitted by:

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Victim and Witness

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