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DCI Condemns Killing of Girls in Pakistan

Defence for Children International (DCI) expresses its shock and dismay over the killing of three teenage girls and two women in Quetta, Pakistan.

Reports say the five women were shot and then buried alive for attempting to make their own choice about marriage, a right legally available to every Pakistani adult, male or female.

DCI is appalled by this case and the Pakistani government's failure to take action. This inaction directly violates international law including Pakistan's binding obligations as a State Party to both the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Article 6 of the CRC states: "State Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life. State Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child"

In addition Article 37 (a) of the CRC states that, "No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment." Pakistan has an international duty to ensure that these rights, guaranteed to young people under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are respected and upheld.

As a signatory to the CEDAW, Pakistan has committed itself to undertake a series of procedures to incorporate equality in the legal system, ensure effective protection of women, and to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination. As such, the government of Pakistan has a binding international responsibility to investigate and prosecute all crimes against women and bring all perpetrators of violence to justice.

DCI calls on the government of Pakistan to commit to promoting and protecting the rights of the child and the rights of women and to respect its international obligations under the CEDAW and CRC by condemning all violence against women and children and ensuring that perpetrators of violence be brought to justice.

For further information, please contact:

DCI International Secretariat - communications@dci-is.org