

Pregnant woman gang-raped in Pakistan's Punjab, police on the hunt for culprits

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Five men allegedly barged into a pregnant woman's house, thrashed and tied up her husband before sexually assaulting her in Pakistan's Punjab province.

A pregnant woman was allegedly gang-raped by five men in Jhelum city of Pakistan's Punjab province, media reports stated.

According to police, the five accused barged into the woman's house. They first attacked and tied up her husband, before sexually assaulting the victim, who was reportedly expecting a baby.

Following the assault, the woman went to the hospital herself. Hospital staff reported the incident to the police after the victim recounted her ordeal to them.

The victim underwent medical examination and her blood samples were sent to Lahore for forensic examination, police said.

Punjab Police has constituted special teams to probe the case and launched a manhunt to nab the culprits. IGP Punjab has sought a report from the authorities concerned.

The incident is the latest in a series of crimes against women that have shocked Pakistan and caused widespread outrage. Last month, a 25-year-old woman was gang-raped on a moving train in Karachi.

Data provided by the Punjab Information Commission in February shows that a total of 2,439 women were raped and 90 killed in the name of "family honour" during the last six months in the province.

A recent report by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) said that at least 11 rape cases are reported daily in the country, with over 22,000 such incidents reported to police in the last six years (2015-21).

According to the last year's "Global Gender Gap Report 2021", Pakistan ranked 153 out of 156 countries on the gender parity index, that is, among the last four, an indicator of its poor record with women's rights.

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