

Response from Bahria Town

20 February 2023

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Bahria Town to respond to an allegation that the CEO Malik Riaz made threats against newspaper editor Hamza Azhar Salam in December 2022. This was allegedly in response to a story implicating Bahria Town's CEO in a corruption scandal.

- [“RSF condemns threats to Hamza Azhar Salam by Bahria Town,”](#) The Pakistan Daily, 6 January 2023
- [“Pakistani newspaper editor threatened over story about high-level corruption,”](#) Reporters Without Borders

A summarised version of Bahria Town's response:

"Dear Christian Dobson & Michael Clements,

Assalam-o-Alaikum.

This is with reference to and in reply to your email dated 16th Feb 2023 which was sent to us pertaining to the allegations made against Mr. Malik Riaz by Mr. Hamza Akhtar Salam. Please note that the allegations leveled against Mr. Malik Riaz that he had threatened Mr. Salam have no nexus with reality. In fact, Legal proceedings have already been initiated against Mr. Hamza Salam and our Legal Notice has also been replied to by Mr. Salam and then the contentions made in the said reply were replied to vide a rejoinder which still remains unanswered... The allegation that Mr. Riaz has threatened Mr. Salam is false and frivolous to say the least...

Furthermore, Mr. Salam has failed to answer Mr. Riaz's Legal Counsel's query as to whether Mr. Salam is a journalist or not as he is only running a social media website without provision of any evidence of being registered with any journalist association or any certified newspaper. No such information is available online and has not even been provided by Mr. Salam as requested by Mr. Riaz's Legal Counsel...

Moreover, the tweets which were publicly posted by Mr. Salam are utterly and brazenly filled with a plethora of lies as Capt. Afridi and Waziri were not even a part of Bahria Town in 2019. Secondly, the manifest shared by him in his tweet which is the whole basis of the allegation against Mr. Riaz is also fake to say the least. All international GD and manifests have stamps and signatures from immigration department which are visibly missing from the said manifest...

That it is noteworthy to mention herein that Mr. Malik Riaz has achieved his legitimate goal to plan, design and develop his mega housing projects for the fellow countrymen at an affordable and realistic price which otherwise would not have been possible if the same was to be executed by the state or the incumbent governments...

Please do not hesitate to reach out if any other information is required.

Thank You & Best Regard

Please feel free to contact for any further information needed."