

## **Shot twice, stuffed in a sack and dumped in a canal... but Pakistani girl, 18, SURVIVES botched 'honor killing' carried out by her own family for marrying the man she loved**

- **Saba Maqsood, 18, was attacked by her father, uncle, brother and aunt**
- **She managed to struggle to the canal bank where she was helped**
- **It comes just a week after a broad daylight honour killing in Lahore**

By [Damien Gayle](#)

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A teenager survived being shot twice and thrown in a canal by her family for marrying the man she loved, police in Pakistan said.

Saba Maqsood was attacked by her father, uncle, brother and aunt before she was tossed into the canal, said Ali Akbar, a spokesman for police in Hafizabad, Punjab province.

It comes just a week-and-a-half after the broad daylight 'honour killing' of another woman in a city centre drew worldwide condemnation.



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**Survivor: Saba Maqsood, 18, lies on a hospital bed in Hafizabad in Punjab Province. She survived being shot twice, in the face and hand, then thrown in a canal by her family for marrying the man she loved, police said**

Mr Akbar told Reuters that the most recent case was also 'an honour-related incident'.

'The victim, Saba ... married her neighbour Muhammad Qaiser for love five days ago against the wishes of her family,' he said.

'They took her to Hafizabad, shot her twice and threw her in the canal after putting her in a sack, presuming that she was dead.'

Mr Akbar said Ms Maqsood was wounded in her cheek and her right hand. Her relatives fled the scene, he said, and after minutes in the water she regained consciousness and struggled to the bank, where passers-by helped her.



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Ms Maqsood was wounded in her cheek and her right hand, said a police spokesman. Her relatives fled the scene, he said, and after minutes in the water she regained consciousness and struggled to the bank



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**'I was tortured and shot by my father, brother, uncle and his wife': Police spokesman Ali Akbar said he had recorded a statement from Ms Maqsood in which she blamed her family for the attack**

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'She is a brave girl. She came out of the canal and approached a nearby fuel station from where a rescue team rushed her to hospital,' he said.

Many conservative Pakistani families believe it is dishonourable for a woman to fall in love and choose her own husband. Women from such families are expected to agree to arranged marriages. Refusal can lead to honour killings.

Last month a Pakistani woman called Farzana Iqbal was attacked and killed by suspected family members because she had married the man she loved.





**Death before dishonour: Police collect evidence near the body of Farzana Iqbal, who was stoned to death by her relatives in another suspected honour killing near the Lahore High Court building in Lahore on May 27**

The case drew intense global attention, including condemnation from the United Nations, in part because it the killing was so brazen. It happened in the centre of the city of Lahore, Pakistan's cultural capital.

But many other incidents remain unreported. In 2013, 869 such cases were reported in the media, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, but the true figure is believed to be higher.

Mr Akbar said he had recorded a statement from Ms Maqsood in which she blamed her family for the attack.

'I was tortured and shot by my father Maqsood Ahmad, brother Faisal Maqsood, uncle Ashfaq Ahmad and his wife Sajida Bibi,' he quoted her as saying.

Mr Akbar added: 'Her condition is out of danger and we have registered a case against her family on her complaint.'

Police had raided her father's home in the nearby city of Gujranwala but all the suspects had disappeared, he said.