

Courtroom Victory for Mining-Affected Pakistan Communities - In Conversation with Plaintiff Lawyer Hashim Jadoon



Organized by Toronto Metropolitan University's Institute for the Study of Corporate Social Responsibility, co-sponsored by the TMU CSR Student Society, and the TMU Law and Business Student Association

Session starts at 12:02 pm

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Toronto Metropolitan University,

Toronto, Canada

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Toronto Metropolitan University*

Land Acknowledgement

"Toronto is in the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory'. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect."

** Toronto Metropolitan University was formerly known as Ryerson University.*

ISO 26000 Social Responsibility definition

Social Responsibility: *the responsibility of an organization for the impacts of its decisions and activities on society and the environment, through transparent and ethical behaviour that:*

- *Contributes to sustainable development, health and the welfare of society;*
- *Takes into account the expectations of stakeholders;*
- *Is in compliance with applicable law and consistent with international norms of behaviour; and*
- *Is integrated throughout the organization and practiced in its relationships*

The need for “sustainable governance”

Sustainable governance starts from the proposition that the best likelihood of addressing the complex, fast evolving, multi-jurisdictional environmental, social and economic challenges we face in the 21st century will involve ***harnessing the unique energies and capabilities of all three of government, the private sector and civil society***, using a combination of rule instruments, processes, institutions and actors, sometimes operating collaboratively, and sometimes operating in more of a “check and balance”/rivalrous manner.

Webb (2005), “*Sustainable Governance in the Twenty-First Century - Moving beyond Instrument Choice*”

Sustainable governance taxonomy

- **Institutions** – specialized entities performing public-interest oriented functions or processes (public, private, civil society): for example, legislatures are a public sector institution, ISO is an example of a non-state rule-making institution)
- **Rule instruments** – articulations of normatively acceptable and unacceptable conduct, typically consisting of criteria for objectively assessing conformity or non-conformity: for example, laws are public sector rule instruments, and ISO standards are an example of non-state rule instruments
- **Processes** – inter-active activities associated with rule making, rule application, rule implementation and penalty/reward decisions. For example, environmental agencies carry out government rule implementation processes and certification agencies carry out non-state conformity assessment processes
- **Actors** – interacting individuals and entities that play some role in the broader governance ecosystem: e.g., inspectors, judges, auditors, are all individual actors

Did you know?

- **New talks coming up!**
 - search: TMU “CSR Institute” and “events”→
 - January 16 (Integrity@Atkins-Realis with Hentie Dirker),
 - January 23 (Nigerian Impact Benefit Agreements-Lotana Nwodo)
 - suggestions for upcoming TMU CSR Institute “in conversation” guests and topics welcome (email kernaghan.webb@torontomu.ca)
 - Ongoing project exploring the need and feasibility of a global coalition in support of the rule of law
- **All TMU University CSR Institute talks are available at no cost, and accessible after the fact as videos with related material on the TMU CSR Institute webpage**
 - search: TMU “CSR Institute” and “events”
- **Toronto Metropolitan University’s Bachelor of Commerce and MBA programs have been ranked among the best in the world by Corporate Knights**
 - search: TMU CSR Institute webpage and “news”
- **Toronto Metropolitan University CSR Institute News**
 - search: TMU “CSR Institute” and “news”
- **To receive an email re: upcoming TMU CSR Institute talks**
 - Email: kernaghan.webb@torontomu.ca

About Hashim Jadoon

- Hashim Jadoon grew up in Canada, obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce (Law Major) in 2016 from the Toronto Metropolitan University's Ted Rogers School of Management.
- Jadoon then earned a law degree from the University of London (affiliate campus) in 2018.
- Returning to Pakistan, Jadoon has become an expert in the country's environmental and mining laws.
- In a November 28, 2025 [article](#), Jadoon indicated "***I want to study IBAs [Impact and Benefit Agreements] in detail and bring a solution through legislative change. The current dilemma is that although the law exists, its implementation is weak. The only deterrent against these miners is me -- and that is a problem. The deterrent shouldn't be one individual, it should be the law.***"

About this session (1)

- Lawyer Hashim Jadoon lives in the Pakistan village of Ghumawan with his extended family, who, as has been recently [reported](#) are "...mostly underprivileged and unaware of their constitutional rights....and... unaware of the royalties that mine operators owe them for running quarries on communal lands." Jadoon was concerned about the toxic dust emanating from the limestone quarries and associated crushing process. "They're developing health problems while the leaseholders, or miners derive all the financial benefits," Jadoon is reported as saying.
- In 2022 Jadoon began his legal actions on behalf of the community, starting with Environmental Protection Tribunal proceedings leading to an injunction against the leaseholder, who was operating about a dozen crushers. The leaseholder appealed to the High Court, who in a ruling released this year ordered the closure of close to 900 "crush plants" across the entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The court also summoned the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency to appear before it in person.

About this session (2)

- While undoubtedly a precedent-setting victory for the health and the environment of countless communities in Pakistan, the High Court decision also had the effect of marking Jadoon as an environmental and human rights defender. Being a defender is recognized by many as a badge of honour and courage, but it is unfortunately also associated with vulnerability to reprisals. According to [Global Witness](#), there were 146 documented cases of defenders killed or "disappeared" in 2024. In Jadoon's case, the High Court itself is reported as expressing concern for his welfare: "You should take care of yourself. It seems like you're taking on this entire mining mafia".
- Although the setting in this particular situation is Pakistan, variations on this "community-company" interaction play out regularly around the world, with varying outcomes. Are there solutions, such as Impact and Benefit Agreements (IBAs), that could decrease the likelihood of escalation taking place, or prevent opposition entirely? Or are IBAs themselves problematic? What about legislated IBAs? Can courts, government agencies and laws be relied on? What happens if there is corruption, and the rule of law is weak? How can environmental and human rights defenders be protected? Questions such as these will be explored in this zoom session.

Notice

***If you have a question or comment, please email:
kernaghan.webb@torontomu.ca***

*I will do my best to fold in your questions/comments into
the conversation.*