The narrator had a long-standing relationship with Arshad Sharif Shaheed, beginning from their tenure in the National Assembly of Pakistan (2013-2018). The relationship eventually grew into one of trust, friendship, and brotherhood. Arshad was known for his keen observations and analytical skills, often accurately predicting national developments due to his thorough understanding of politics and history.

Coming from a family with military connections (his father was a Navy officer and his brother was a martyred army officer), Arshad had a deep bond with the Armed Forces of Pakistan. He was a patriot with unrivaled knowledge about the defense of Pakistan and frequently helped promote Pakistan's perspective while covering military operations.

An example of his work includes debunking Indian propaganda by visiting the site of the Balakot Attack in February 2019 and exposing the falsehoods in their narrative. Despite his close ties to the Armed Forces, Arshad had a falling out with the military establishment following an interview he conducted in December 2021 with Lt. General (Retd) Tariq Khan for his show "Power Play" on ARY News, a network he was affiliated with. This interview was reportedly poorly received by the military establishment.

From then until March 2022, Arshad's television programs and social media posts largely focused on themes of accountability, corruption scandals, political maneuverings, and the relationships between lawmakers and American diplomats. These discussions hinted at the happenings within Pakistan's power corridors.

Arshad Sharif Shaheed, in conversation with Qamar Javed Bajwa and Lt. Gen Babar Iftikhar, was informed about plans to remove Imran Khan's government. Iftikhar, after coming from a Core group meeting, asked for Arshad's support in creating a favorable narrative for the No-Confidence Motion. Arshad, however, refused to aid such a plan, evident from his public posts and broadcasts until his assassination on October 23.

On April 9, 2022, Arshad attended a briefing at the Prime Minister House on the Cipher issue. Several journalists present that day were later persecuted or harassed following a regime change. An officer from the Inter-Services Intelligence Agency, later identified as Colonel Rizwan, was also present. Colonel Rizwan was also present at a meeting at the Kohsar Complex, where Arshad was summoned by Sector Commander, Brigadier Faheem. The meeting was to express displeasure and warn Arshad about the topics of his TV programs, especially after the successful No-Confidence Motion and Imran Khan's removal. However, Arshad again refused to abandon his cause for Pakistan's sovereignty.

Arshad later discovered plans to arrest him via the Federal Investigative Agency (FIA), which led him to file a Harassment Petition in the Islamabad High Court against the FIA. When concerns arose about his security and potential arrest, the narrator arranged for Arshad's stay at a safe location.

Arshad Sharif Shaheed shared with the narrator that public resistance against the regime change had been underestimated, and the authorities were resorting to false accusations, arrests, and humiliations to suppress dissent.

In response to Arshad's harassment petition, Justice Athar Minallah ordered the Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) to cease harassing Arshad. Yet, an attempt was made by an officer visiting Arshad's residence to persuade him to adjust the tone of his TV programs and social media content against the regime change operation. The officer reportedly represented 'top leadership,' and his message was somewhat threatening. Arshad refused to comply, maintaining his stance, and said that the situation had reached "a point of no return."

By the third week of May 2022, Arshad had received word of filed FIRs (First Information Reports) against him and his impending arrest. There were fears that he could be tortured, humiliated, or even poisoned in custody. Suggestions were made for him to seek refuge in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa or leave the country.

The narrator arranged an urgent evacuation for Arshad, taking him to Peshawar from his residence. Arrangements were made for his stay and a secure location for conducting his TV programs. Arshad managed to secure a UAE visa, but encouragement from his mother led him to stay and fight.

During this time, Arshad changed his contact details for safety. He was called to appear in person before Chief Justice Athar Minallah regarding his petition against state institution harassment. In his TV show, Arshad mentioned he had shown Justice Minallah some evidence of the threats he was receiving.

The narrator and others suggested to Arshad Sharif Shaheed that he should apply for visas from multiple countries to keep his options open. However, Arshad was clear about his commitment to stay in Pakistan and advocate for what he thought was beneficial for his country. The only thing that made him consider leaving was the fear of intense humiliation and potential sexual abuse.

During this period, Arshad conducted his renowned "Wo Kaun Tha" program, after which he was warned that he had "crossed the line". Despite having protective bail from Islamabad High Court, he was continually harassed and followed, a fact confirmed by his family.

Throughout June and July, Arshad altered his appearance, switched vehicles, and frequently changed his hideouts. He wrote a detailed letter to the President of Pakistan and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court regarding the threats and harassment he was facing from state institutions. This letter was also sent to various other authorities, including the Prime Minister, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Chief of Army Staff, and DG ISI. However, after his murder, these same individuals denied any knowledge of threats to his life.

Arshad had trustworthy sources inside the country's security agencies who kept him informed about threats and arrest plans, enabling him to evade attempts to intimidate him. On August 15, Arshad informed the narrator that a bounty had been placed on his life by 'friends'. Although shocked, the narrator confirmed the credibility of this information with Arshad.

In August, Arshad Sharif Shaheed had to leave the ARY News studio without recording his program due to suspicious activity around the studio. On August 9th, the narrator received multiple missed calls from Arshad, signaling an immediate threat to his life. Arrangements were made for a bulletproof car to transport Arshad to Peshawar, from where he flew to Dubai the next morning. His photo from the FIA's immigration counter was leaked to a 'WhatsApp group' leading to a coordinated campaign against him. ARY News Director News, Ammad Yousaf, was arrested, tortured, and humiliated by law enforcement agencies the same evening. This only confirmed Arshad's fears, causing him to leave the country.

For the next few days, Arshad sounded content and satisfied. However, he mentioned in a conversation that the former Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, was in Dubai, suggesting a potential for new developments. Soon, Arshad called the narrator to inform that the hotel management had alerted him about visitors from Dubai authorities. He requested the narrator to find him a new place to stay. Before any arrangements could be made, Arshad called again and asked the narrator to stay on the call while he met the visitors in the hotel lobby. The conversation was not clear due to the background noise.

Arshad Sharif Shaheed was told by Dubai authorities to leave the country within 48 hours due to pressure from Pakistani authorities. They advised him against returning to Pakistan due to threats to his life and recommended that he relocate to a country that doesn't maintain a good relationship with Pakistan. They specifically suggested avoiding Gulf countries. This forced the narrator to contact friends in Dubai to find possible refuge options and facilitate the acquisition of visas. Given the weekend timing, Arshad's options were reduced, and Gulf countries were ruled out.

Later, Arshad informed the narrator that the authorities had withdrawn their 48-hour notice and asked him to leave immediately. This was the first time the narrator sensed distress in Arshad's voice. Arshad said he would inform the narrator of his destination once he had reached it. It was later revealed that Arshad had relocated to Kenya.

While in Kenya, Arshad communicated regularly with the narrator about his activities, mainly reading and occasional shooting practice. He also shared videos that the narrator promptly deleted due to the numerous FIRs filed against them and the risk of arrest. The narrator also had to change multiple phones due to security threats.

On August 31, Arshad's employer, the ARY Network, was forced to fire him and publicly announce the decision. Arshad had previously suggested in his vlogs that DG ISPR was the individual pressuring ARY News to fire and disassociate with him. Similar claims were made regarding ARY News' Bureau Chief Sabir Shakir, who is also in self-exile due to threats to his life and wellbeing in Pakistan.

In the first week of September, Arshad started logging on his YouTube channel.

While Arshad Sharif Shaheed was in Kenya, he started logging onto his YouTube channel. He was advised to be careful about revealing his location, as the public impression was that he was in the UK. Despite being generally satisfied with his living conditions in Kenya, he seemed frustrated by being away from his family and homeland. He also faced consistent visa rejections from multiple countries, including the UK and Dubai, which added to his worries.

Given these challenges, he was considering moving elsewhere, but his options were limited. The most feasible plan was to wait until November, with the change of command in the military, and then return to Pakistan hoping that things would improve.

Arshad was deeply concerned about his safety, frequently saying, "The king (Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa) has gone insane and is after my life". He was also warned about the content of his vlogs in his last days, that he had crossed a line. He had been discussing the records of Toshakhana gifts received by military heads and various government officials. He was also gathering information about Dubai-based businessman 'Umar Farooq Zahoor' and had tweeted about him on the day of his murder.

After Arshad's murder, there were dubious attempts to mislead about the circumstances of his death. While friends were preparing to inform Arshad's family of his death, ISPR officers reportedly called his former employer (ARY News) and possibly other news outlets, urging them to report his death as a car accident. Thereafter, questionable statements came from Kenya, which even Kenyan media didn't endorse. However, Pakistani government functionaries insisted that the nation should believe these accounts.

The author points out some additional facts and observations that contradict claims made by government officials after Arshad Sharif Shaheed's death. The assertion made by many that Arshad faced no threats to his life is contradicted by the fact that Arshad himself communicated these threats to higher authorities in his letters. Despite this, senior government officials denied the existence of any such threats after his death.

Rana Sanaullah, the Federal Minister for Interior, admitted in a TV interview that he had a telephonic conversation with Arshad about the threats he faced. However, this admission contrasts with the government's denial of any threat to Arshad's life in Pakistan. The author finds this denial baffling, especially given that Arshad had detailed these threats in a letter to the President of Pakistan and the Chief Justice, a letter that was also copied to the Minister of Interior, among others.

Despite Arshad having a valid visa, he was forced to leave Dubai. This fact has been verified by a government-formed report. However, both the DG ISPR and Minister for Interior have claimed on multiple occasions that Arshad's visa had expired, forcing him to leave Dubai. The author views this as a deliberate effort to mislead the public.

Furthermore, Rana Sanaullah is also on record stating that a fact-finding committee established by the Pakistani government regarding Arshad's murder will investigate charges of gold smuggling. Subsequently, just before the committee's report was submitted to the Supreme Court, the Interior Minister suggested that Arshad might have been murdered due to a personal feud with his hosts in Kenya. The author believes that these are deliberate attempts to create ambiguity about Arshad's death.

In the aftermath of Arshad Sharif Shaheed's death, a press conference was held on the night his body arrived in Pakistan, in which unknown details about Arshad's murder were shared. The author questions the motive behind this press conference and the source of the information, suggesting that the person providing the details may have a previously unseen relevance to the case.

Recently, a government official in a meeting with a member of Arshad's family questioned Arshad's mental health, mentioning his quotation of the Hollywood movie 'Joker' in his office. This official also informally warned Arshad's friends that the family's demand for a suo moto (independent) investigation by the Supreme Court might be granted, but they should be prepared for 'personal connotations' surrounding his murder, hinting at possible character assassination attempts.

These actions suggest that even after his death, there are efforts from the government and its functionaries to defame Arshad and obstruct the justice he had sought from the Chief Justice of Pakistan and the President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

The author expresses hope that the above information will aid the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) in identifying those who persecuted Arshad for his commitment to his profession of journalism, and for standing by what he believed to be a stance beneficial to the country to which he remained sincere in life and death.