

I am writing to express my grave concern on human rights activists in Pakistan including Samar Abbas who has been missing; his fate and whereabouts remain unknown. who headed the Civil Progressive Alliance Pakistan, had also gone missing from Islamabad on 7 January where he had travelled to for work. His whereabouts still remain unknown. I am also warring about Salman Haider, Waqas Goraya, Asim Saeed, and Ahmed Raza Naseer who had been once subjected to enforced disappearance in early January and has returned home between 27 – 29<sup>th</sup> January.

Since their disappearance, sections of the Pakistani media and the internet have accused the activists of “anti-state” activities, linking them with an allegedly blasphemous page on Facebook, and in some cases, instigating violence against them. This is extremely worrying given that a simple accusation of blasphemy can lead to death threats and often mob violence in Pakistan. Amnesty International's recent report ‘As Good as Dead: The Misuse of the Blasphemy laws in Pakistan’ details a number of cases that illustrate the potentially fatal consequences of a blasphemy allegation.

I am therefore urging the Pakistani authorities to immediately disclose Samar Abbas's fate and whereabouts if he is in their custody.

I am also calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of the activists and that of their families', in light of the threats they have received, and urging them to conduct an independent and transparent investigation into their abduction, and hold all those suspected of criminal responsibility to account in trials before ordinary civilian courts that meet international standards and without recourse to the death penalty.

I should urge the government to take immediate action to investigate all those who have incited violence against the five activists and other human rights defenders and journalists.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,