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Your Excellency Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi;

I write to you out of extreme concern for the life and safety of Professor Muhammad Ismail, a 64-year-old teacher and human rights defender. The father of Gulalai Ismail, his family have been the subject of an intense surveillance and harassment campaign, designed to intimidate them into silence and create a sense of fear among Pakistan's already threatened human rights community.

Professor Ismail's abduction and trumped up charges under Pakistan's draconian Anti-Terrorism Act and Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act put him at risk of a lengthy prison sentence which, considering his age, will further endanger his health. He must not be punished for his political expression and for defending his daughter – who was also forced to flee her home country.

We call upon your government to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges against Professor Ismail, an Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience, and order his release without delay, and put a stop to the invasive surveillance of him and his family.

Yours sincerely