

Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi
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Your Excellency Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi,

I write to you out of extreme concern for the life and safety of Muhammad Idris Khattak, a 56-year-old human rights defender and a former consultant with Amnesty International, who is believed to have been forcibly disappeared more than half a year ago by men in plain clothes on 13 November.

Mr. Khattak is a human rights defender and independent researcher, who has documented human rights violations faced by people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

I found it distressing to learn that Mr. Khattak is a patient of diabetes, who requires daily medication. As the conditions of his detention remain unknown, and in light of the current global COVID-19 pandemic, I fear that his health and wellbeing are at even greater risk.

Few punishments are as cruel as enforced disappearances and not knowing the whereabouts and fate of their loved one is a source of immense pain and anguish for Mr. Khattak's family. Enforced disappearances have long been a stain on Pakistan's human rights record. As of 30 June 2019, Pakistan government's Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance has 2,141 cases unresolved.

I call upon your government to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Idris Khattak to his family, and either immediately release him or ensure that he is brought promptly before a judge in a civilian court to rule on the lawfulness of his arrest or detention.

Yours sincerely,