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Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned about the enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention of human rights defender Idris Khattak.

Idris Khattak was subjected to enforced disappearance on 13 November 2019, when he was abducted by what appears to have been plainclothes officers and detained. It took seven months before Pakistani authorities, on 16 June 2020, admitted that he was in custody and announced that he would be charged under the 1923 Official Secrets Act.

To date, Idris Khattak has not been allowed any contact with his family, nor has he been granted access to a lawyer of his choice.

I appeal to you to make sure that Idris Khattak is released, unless there credible and admissible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognized crime, in which case he should be granted a prompt and fair trial in a civilian court, without recourse to the death penalty.

Furthermore, I urge you to take immediate steps to make enforced disappearance a crime under Pakistani law.

Yours sincerely,