



Pakistan: Oral intervention at the 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council (25 February – 22 March 2013)

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Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances' report on its mission to Pakistan and urges Pakistan to fully implement all of its recommendations.

It is deeply concerning that accountability for enforced disappearances in Pakistan is non-existent. As far as Amnesty International is aware, no serving or retired member of Pakistan's Armed Forces, law enforcement authorities or intelligence services has been prosecuted for their alleged involvement in cases of enforced disappearance and other forms of unlawful detention.

The state has failed to systematically interview individuals who have been traced to determine patterns of enforced disappearance; to assist them or their families; or to investigate those accused of committing enforced disappearances.

The culture of impunity that permits enforced disappearances and other human rights violations has been further entrenched by the Actions (in Aid of Civil Power) Regulations that apply to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The Actions Regulations and the Frontier Crimes Regulation effectively allow the authorities to commit human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, anywhere in Pakistan with impunity. Amnesty International urges Pakistan to repeal the Actions Regulations, repeal or reform the Frontier Crimes Regulation and extend the jurisdiction of Pakistan's high courts and parliament to the Tribal Areas.¹

Mr de Frouville:

Did the Pakistani authorities – at any time during or after the visit – commit to investigate state security authorities and personnel for their alleged involvement in enforced disappearances?

¹ Amnesty International, 'The Hands of Cruelty' – Abuses by Armed Forces and Taliban in Pakistan's Tribal Areas, December 2012 (ASA 33/019/2012).

Did they provide information of any personnel who are under investigation or have been prosecuted for their alleged involvement in enforced disappearances or other violations relating to unlawful arrests or detentions?

How have the authorities responded to the allegations that some of the persons the Working Group met with during its visit had been threatened or intimidated?

Thank you Mr. President.