

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Media Advisory

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### **Pakistan urged to address enforced disappearances**

Thursday 30 August is the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances. To mark the day, Amnesty International has written an open letter urging the Pakistan government to demonstrate the political will to resolve Pakistan's crisis of enforced disappearances once and for all.

Despite its repeated promises since being elected into office in March 2008, Pakistan's government has made little progress in determining the fate of thousands of "missing persons" – enforced disappearances have even increased in Balochistan and Sindh provinces over the past four years. Pakistan's armed forces, including their intelligence services and paramilitary forces officially under the authority of the executive, are the primary organ of the state accused of committing enforced disappearances.

In the open letter to Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf, Amnesty International Secretary General Salil Shetty calls on the Pakistani government to end the practice of secret and arbitrary detentions, immediately release anyone who has been subject to enforced disappearance, and take other concrete steps to address this human rights crisis.

Amnesty International staff are available for further comment.