



14 March 2013  
Check against delivery

**UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-second session, 25 February - 22 March 2013**

**Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports**

**PAKISTAN**

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the substantive exchange that took place during the review of Pakistan. We welcome/we regret that Pakistan has endorsed only xx of the recommendations and encourage the government to provide regularly updates to civil society on their implementation.

Despite repeated promises, including during the 2008 review,<sup>1</sup> Pakistan has made little progress in determining the fate of thousands of people subjected to enforced disappearance. We strongly urge Pakistan to criminalize enforced disappearances in the Penal Code,<sup>2</sup> to investigate and prosecute those responsible for enforced disappearance,<sup>3</sup> and to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,<sup>4</sup> as recommended in this review.

Mr. President,

Urgent measures are needed to address the climate of vilification on the basis of religion that is increasingly leading to attacks on religious minorities. We call on Pakistan to act on recommendations to ensure the protection of religious minorities, to bring to justice those who commit religiously-motivated acts of violence,<sup>5</sup> and to

---

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/8/42, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Pakistan, 4 June 2008, Paragraph 104.

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/22/12: Paragraph 122.20 France.

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/22/12: Paragraph 122.111 Switzerland, Paragraph 122.114 Sweden, Paragraph 122.115 Belgium.

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/22/12: Paragraph 112.1. Spain, Paragraph 122.6 Uruguay, Paragraph 122.10 Argentina and Mexico.

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/22/12: Paragraph 122.38, Denmark, Paragraph 122.87 Iraq, Paragraph 122.113 Norway, Paragraph 122.121 Thailand, Paragraph 122.149 Germany, Paragraph 122.154 Argentina, Paragraph 122.155 Italy, Paragraph 122.156 Canada, Paragraph 122.157 Slovakia, Paragraph 122.158 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

reform or repeal the blasphemy laws, which are a profound threat to the rule of law and communal harmony.<sup>6</sup>

The Pakistani Taliban's attack on Malala Yousafzai in October last year underscored the serious risks faced by human rights defenders in the country. We urge Pakistan to develop a national policy for the protection of human rights defenders<sup>7</sup> and to prosecute those who perpetrate attacks on human rights defenders,<sup>8</sup> as recommended in the review.

The deteriorating human rights situation in Pakistan reveals a chronic need to address the state's persistent failure to bring perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice. Amnesty International therefore urges the Government of Pakistan to demonstrate to reviewing states, renewed action to fulfil its commitment to protect all people within its borders regardless of their ethnic, religious or other background or political affiliations.

Thank you Mr. President.

---

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/22/12: Paragraph 122.28 Switzerland, Austria and Netherlands, Paragraph 122.30 Spain, Paragraph 122.31 Belgium, Paragraph 122.32 Namibia and France, Paragraph 122.33 Holy See, Paragraph 122.121 Thailand, Paragraph 122.156 Canada.

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/22/12: Paragraph 122.56 Denmark

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/22/12: Paragraph 122.101 Australia, Paragraph 122.110 Spain, Paragraph 122.117 Canada.