

ALL SAINTS CHURCH GOSFORTH: AMNESTY LETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

Muhammad Idris Khattak is a human rights defender who was forcibly captured by men in plain clothes in November 2019. His family had no knowledge of his whereabouts until June 2020 when the authorities admitted that he is in state custody. They said that he will be charged under the 1923 Official Secrets Act and, if found guilty, could face up to 14 years in prison or even the death penalty. Idris, an independent researcher, has formerly been a consultant for Amnesty International and other NGOs, and has documented human rights violations faced by people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan. He is diabetic and requires daily medication. The conditions of his imprisonment are unknown and it is not known whether he is at risk of torture or imprisonment.

SPECIMEN LETTER (Please feel free to put into your own words, just a UK stamp needed)

His Excellency Mr Mohammad Nafees Zakaria
Pakistan High Commission
35-36 Lowndes Square
London SW1X 9JN

Your Excellency

Muhammad Idris Khattak

I am writing to you to express my concern at the disappearance of Muhammad Idris Khattak, who was captured by men in plain clothes on 13th November 2019. His family had no news of him until the authorities admitted in June 2020 that he is in state custody and said that he will be charged under the 1923 Official Secrets Act which provides for up to 14 years in prison and even the death penalty. Idris has documented human rights violations faced by people in Khyber Paktunkhwa and the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan.

I urge you to tell his family where he is and to release him immediately unless there is credible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognised crime. If this is the case, he should be remanded by an independent court and receive a fair trial. In the meantime, please will you ensure that he is held in humane conditions and that he receives the daily medication needed for his diabetes.

Yours sincerely