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Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
R Block, Pak Secretariat
Islamabad
Pakistan

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Dear Minister Mohsin Naqvi,

**I am writing to express my grave concern about the pattern of disappearances of family members of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)’s party members.** Professors Mazhar-ul-Hassan and Zahoor-ul-Hassan were disappeared from their home in Lahore at approximately 2:45 am, on 6 June 2024. Both are brothers of Azhar Mashwani, social media focal person for former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, who is currently in self-exile outside the country. Subsequently, on 8 June 2024, Ghulam Shabbir, brother of Dr. Shahbaz Gill, former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for Imran Khan, also disappeared under similar circumstances. Despite their families’ effort to retrieve them, including police reports and appeals to the Lahore High Court, the whereabouts of all these three individuals remain unknown.

It is worrying that family members who have no affiliations with political parties are being targeted, seemingly to intimidate, harass, and silence critics of the government. Additionally, this is not the first time one of those targeted, Professor Zahoor, was abducted from his home. A previous incident occurred on 10 May 2023, during which he was held in solitary confinement in a 6 by 8 feet cell with no exposure to sunlight, for 145 days.

I am seriously concerned for the safety and well-being of all three forcibly disappeared individuals and fear that they may be subjected to torture while in illegal detention. I worry that this practice of enforced disappearance might escalate, to clampdown on the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in Pakistan.

**Therefore, I urge your Ministry to ensure:**

* **that the whereabouts of all three disappeared individuals are made known and that their immediate and safe return is guaranteed;**
* **an effective, independent, and impartial investigation into the disappearance of these individuals and that all those suspected of criminal responsibility for the disappearance are brought to justice in fair trials before an ordinary civilian court;**
* **an end to the practice of enforced disappearance and disclosure of the fate and/or whereabouts of all forcibly disappeared people;**
* **considering the prompt accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance without making any reservation and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of victim and other states parties.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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