

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Ann Linde
Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Government Offices
SE-103 33 Stockholm
Sweden

Sent via email and verified social media accounts

RE: DISAPPEARANCE OF PAKISTAN JOURNALIST SAJID HUSSAIN IN SWEDEN

Dear Minister Linde,

<http://www.freedomtalk.net/> monitors Freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and minority rights in Pakistan. We are fully independent and non-partisan, and writing to express our concerns about the disappearance of a Pakistani born journalist Sajid Hussain, self-exiled in Sweden and last seen boarding a train in Stockholm on March 2, 2020.

Mr. Hussain belongs to the troubled province of Balochistan, which has been the epicentre of insurgencies, political instability, and inequitable distribution of resources. He extensively reported the Enforced Disappearances and human rights violations in his province and repeatedly criticized powerful security agencies before fleeing Pakistan in 2012, but he continued to raise voice through his online newspaper *Balochistan Times*. Mr. Hussain has also worked for the newspaper Daily Times and the mainstream newspaper *The News*.

Law enforcement agencies use unchecked powers and arbitrary arrest people in Pakistan, an estimated 5,000 reported cases of enforced disappearances remain unresolved. Many journalists, social media activists, whistle-blowers, and right activists like Zeenat Shahzadi, Gul Bukhari, and Gulalai Ismail have been abducted and intimidated while Editor-in-Chief of Jang and Geo Group, Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman is behind bars for resisting censorship on press freedom. The government randomly use sedition and terrorism charges to strangulate free press.

Sweden is a country known for upholding free speech and defending press freedom. The disappearance of Mr. Hussain is shocking and disappointing.

We urge you to inform the public and the family of Mr. Hussain's whereabouts or efforts the Swedish authorities are making to find Mr. Hussain. Your immediate action will pull Mr. Hussain's tormented family out of emotional suffering and uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Naeem S. Uddin
Founder

<http://www.freedomtalk.net/>