

**Question for written answer E-003398/2020/rev.1**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Ignazio Corrao (NI)**

**Subject:** Persecution of the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement in Pakistan

Amnesty International's 'Human Rights in Asia-Pacific: Review of 2019' highlights that authorities in Pakistan have stepped up the crackdown on the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), which campaigns against human rights abuses. Its supporters have been arrested, arbitrarily detained, and subjected to surveillance, intimidation, prosecution and threats of violence.

Gulalai Ismail, a woman human rights defender who campaigned against violence against women and forced disappearances, was charged with sedition, terrorism and defamation in May 2019. In August, she fled to the USA. Her family has faced serious intimidation by the law enforcement authorities.

On 2 May 2020, PTM leader Arif Wazir died after being shot outside his house the day before. He is the 18th member of his family to have been murdered.

Can the Vice-President / High representative confirm that during its bilateral contacts with Pakistan, in its Joint Commission, Subgroups on Governance and Human Rights and on Trade, it has raised concerns about the treatment of the PTM and the enforced disappearances and human rights abuses taking place in Balochistan?

As Pakistan has failed to meet its international obligations on enforced disappearances, what action will the Vice-President / High representative now take?