

# URGENT ACTION

## PROFESSOR AT RISK OF ARREST REMAINS ON NO-FLY LIST

While Professor Muhammad Ismail was granted conditional bail on 25 November, he remains at risk of a lengthy prison sentence and re-arrest as the trumped-up charges against him have not been dropped. His family continues to face harassment and intrusive surveillance, while Professor Ismail and his wife remain on the country's no-fly list. Charged with "hate speech" and "cyber terrorism", he is being punished for his political expression and for defending his daughter, Gulalai Ismail, a well-known woman human rights defender in Pakistan. Amnesty International calls for all charges against Professor Ismail to be dropped unconditionally, without delay.

### TAKE ACTION:

1. Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
2. [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 148.19**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

#### Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi

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Pakistan  
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Email: [Spokesperson.office@mofa.gov.pk](mailto:Spokesperson.office@mofa.gov.pk)

#### Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan

Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
3517 International Ct NW, Washington DC 20008  
Phone: 202 243 6500 | Fax: 202 686 1534  
Email: [consularsection@embassyofpakistanusa.org](mailto:consularsection@embassyofpakistanusa.org)  
Twitter: [@PakEmbassyDC](https://twitter.com/PakEmbassyDC)  
Facebook: [@PakistanEmbassyDC](https://www.facebook.com/PakistanEmbassyDC)  
Contact Form: <https://bit.ly/2QicMnI>  
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

Your Excellency Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi

While I welcome the release of Professor Muhammad Ismail, I am concerned that he remains at risk of arrest and he and his family continue to be subjects of an intense surveillance and harassment campaign, designed to intimidate them into silence and create a sense of fear among Pakistan's already threatened human rights defenders.

The trumped-up charges against Professor Ismail under Pakistan's draconian Anti-Terrorism Act and Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act put him at risk of a lengthy prison sentence. If the charges against him are not dropped, he continues to face arrest and prosecution.

He must not be punished for exercising his right to freedom of expression, including in defense of his daughter, Gulalai Ismail – who was forced to flee her home country.

I call upon your government to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges against Professor Ismail, and to put a stop to the invasive surveillance of him and his family.

Yours Sincerely

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Professor Muhammad Ismail was released on conditional bail on 25 November 2019 by the Peshawar High Court, after having spent one month in pre-trial detention. He has paid two surety bonds of Rs 100,000 each and has also provided financial guarantees from two people, however the trumped-up charges have still not been dropped. Professor Ismail remains at risk of arrest and prosecution because all the charges against him have not been dropped.

A vocal critic of the country's armed forces and their treatment of his daughter, prominent woman human rights defender Gulalai Ismail, the Ismail family has endured invasive surveillance, threats and intimidation since May 2019 – with their home raided multiple times. Professor Ismail and his wife remain on the country's no-fly list.

The rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association have come under attack in Pakistan in recent years. Human rights defenders and journalists face restrictions in both online and offline spaces. The clampdown on civic space has intensified in 2019, through draconian laws that enable violations of human rights.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** [English]

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 13 January 2020

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Professor Muhammad Ismail [**He/Him**]

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/1348/2019/en/>