

**International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**  
**Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)**

**Oral Statement on the Adoption of the Outcome Report of the Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**  
**March 14, 2013**

Speaker: Mr. Glenn PAYOT

Mister President,

FIDH and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) urge Pakistan to implement into domestic law all international instruments it ratified since its first universal periodic review in 2008. While welcoming Pakistan's recent cooperation with the UN system, we call on the Government to extend invitations to key special procedures including the Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief.

The Government of Pakistan must step up its efforts to protect religious minorities from physical attacks, forced conversion and socio-economic discrimination, especially in light of the recent outburst of violence against Shia communities. In addition, it should urgently amend discriminatory laws which strongly contribute to the persecution of minorities, in particular provisions declaring illegal for Ahmadis to act or look like Muslims, to practice or propagate their faith and to call their worship place a "mosque". FIDH and HRCP are relieved that 14-year old Rimsha Masih was cleared of all charges a few weeks after her arrest on blasphemy charges. Her security and the one of the Christian community she belongs to must be guaranteed.

HRCP and FIDH are extremely concerned by the insecurity of human rights defenders and journalists investigating human rights violations in Pakistan. HRCP has lost three district coordinators in 2011, namely Siddique Eido, who was abducted by men in security agencies uniform, Naeem Sabir and Zarteef Afridi. On 2 February 2013, Malik Jarar, HRCP's council member, was shot dead by unknown assailants, most probably for sectarian reasons. Sixteen journalists were killed in 2011, nine in 2012, which ranks Pakistan third as most dangerous country for journalists.

The hanging of Mohammed Hussain by military authorities on 15 November 2012 brought to an end the de facto moratorium in place since December 2008, contradicting the positive remarks by several member States in their interactive dialogue with Pakistan in the previous months. The number of death sentences has remained high and there were 7,046 death row inmates in Pakistani jails by the end of February 2013. This trend must be reversed and an official moratorium immediately implemented.

Last but not least, the Government of Pakistan must reinvigorate genuine efforts to build a tolerant and cohesive society, and break the impression that there is "organized intolerance toward religious minorities in Pakistan" as was denied by the Government during the interactive dialogue.

I thank you.