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Pakistan: Amnesty International urges Prime Minister to respect human rights in the fight against terrorism

(Davos) In a meeting with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Khan urged his government to respect human rights in his country's fight against terrorism.

Ms Khan called on the Government of Pakistan to:

take steps to investigate allegations of "disappearances" of terrorist suspects and to take the necessary steps to prevent future recurrences;

investigate killings by Pakistani military operations in the tribal areas.

Referring to Pakistan's role in the UN Human Rights Council, Ms Khan expressed her hope that Pakistan will play a constructive role in building consensus for a strong and effective UN human rights machinery.

The Secretary General welcomed the changes introduced by the Women's Protection Bill last November that improves the possibility for prosecution of rape and sexual violence.

"This is a step in the right direction that I hope will be followed by removing other forms of discrimination against women that encourage gender violence," said Ms Khan.

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