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Title : The Minister of External Affairs made a statement regarding beheading of a Sikh in tribal area of Pakistan.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): Madam Speaker, I rise to strongly condemn the beheading of Sardar Jaspal Singh in the tribal areas of Pakistan. This barbaric and heinous crime is deplorable in the strongest possible terms. His abductors, reportedly the Taliban, committed the grave crime when his family was not able to pay ransom money to the abductors. We express our sincere condolences to the family of the victim.

This incident of kidnapping and killing of Sikhs in Pakistan is a matter of deep and serious concern to the Government, and is being taken up appropriately with the Government of Pakistan.

I also wish to inform this August House that the President of Pakistan has strongly condemned the incident and asked the authorities to investigate and take stern action against the kidnappers in accordance with the law. He has also directed that effective measures be taken to stop the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

The President of Pakistan has also directed the authorities in Pakistan to take swift action for the release of a Hindu, kidnapped on February 19, 2010 by unknown persons.

(Placed in Library See No. LT 1710/15/10)