

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 297/02 (AMR 51/155/2002, 1 October 2002) - Death penalty/Legal concern

USA (Virginia) Mir Aimal Kasi (m), Pakistan national, aged 38

Mir Aimal Kasi was executed in Virginia on the evening of 14 November. He was tried in 1997 for the murder of Frank Darling in 1993.

Frank Darling and his colleague Lansing Bennett were shot and killed outside the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Fairfax County, Virginia, in January 1993. They were both CIA employees. Mir Aimal Kasi was not taken into custody until 1997, when he was forcibly abducted from a hotel room in Pakistan by agents of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He confessed to the crime on the flight back to the USA and was handed over to the Virginia authorities. Mir Aimal Kasi was subsequently tried in late 1997 and sentenced to death.

In a recent interview from his cell, he told the British Broadcasting Corporation: "Yes, I did kill two people outside the CIA headquarters and I said so in my confession to the FBI. I told them I wanted to register my objection to their foreign policy - their Middle East policy, specifically their pro-Israel policy, their anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian policy."

On 6 November, the US State Department issued a warning that the "potential exists for retaliatory acts against US or other foreign interests in response to the execution". In interviews, Mir Aimal Kasi said that he wanted there to be no acts of retaliation. His family also pleaded for calm. His older brother said: "We want peaceful solutions to every problem. We do not want the Kasi name to be used to harm anybody." Some Pakistan politicians reportedly called for clemency, stating that commutation could "win the hearts of millions".

The US Supreme Court denied Mir Aimal Kasi's final legal appeal on 14 November. Shortly afterwards, in a statement denying clemency, the Governor of Virginia said: "Mr Kasi has admitted to the crimes for which he was convicted and shown absolutely no remorse for his actions. After a thorough review of Mr Kasi's petition for clemency and the judicial opinions regarding this case, I have concluded that the death penalty is appropriate in this instance. I will not intervene."

Amnesty International remains concerned that the 1997 abduction of Mir Aimal Kasi circumvented human rights safeguards, and amounted to an arbitrary detention in violation of international law. The organization fears that such violations may be repeated in other cases. See *Pakistan: Imminent execution of Mir Aimal Kasi raises fears for others taken into US custody without human rights safeguards* (ASA 33/034/2002, 1 November 2002).

Mir Aimal Kasi becomes the 58th person to be put to death in the USA this year, and the 807th since executions resumed there in 1977. Virginia accounts for 87 of these executions.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.