

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/005/2003

27 March 2003

Further Information on UA 82/03 (ASA 33/004/2003, 25 MARCH 2003) Fear for Safety

PAKISTAN Akhtar Baloch (m) local coordinator of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)

At around midnight on 25 March, Akhtar Baloch, a prominent member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan [HRCP] was released outside the Gulfshan Marriage Hall in the Latifabad -7 area of Hyderabad in the Pakistani Province of Sindh. He had been abducted by armed men two days earlier, as he returned from the annual general meeting of the HRCP.

While Akhtar Baloch was missing, members of the HRCP had made widespread inquiries about his whereabouts to the authorities, including the police, the Home Minister and the Governor of Sindh. However they were unable to find out which agency was holding him.

Akhtar Baloch reports that during his captivity he was constantly blindfolded and handcuffed. He was also repeatedly asked questions about the work and funding of the HRCP. He does not know exactly who was holding him, but believes he was held by one of the Pakistani intelligence agencies.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals on behalf of Akhtar Baloch. If possible please send a final round of appeals in English or your own language:

- welcoming the release of Akhtar Baloch, but expressing concern that he was abducted and held captive, whilst blindfolded and handcuffed for two days;
- urging the authorities to order a full, transparent and timely investigation into his abduction and for those found responsible to be arrested and tried in accordance with international legal standards for a fair trial.

APPEALS TO: (The fax numbers may be difficult to get through to, but please keep trying)

President Pervez Musharraf
Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad
Pakistan

Telegram: President Musharraf, Islamabad, Pakistan
Fax: + 92 51 920 1051
Salutation: Dear President

Syed Kamal Shah
Inspector General of Police
Police Headquarters
Karashi
Sindh
Pakistan

Telegram: Inspector General of Police, Karashi, Sindh, Pakistan
Fax: + 92 21 921 2051
Email: igp@sindhpolice.gov.pk
Salutation: Dear Inspector General

COPIES TO:

Dr. Ishratul Ebad
The Governor of Sindh
Governor of Sindh Province
Governor's House
Karachi
Pakistan

Fax: + 92 21 920 1218 / 920 1226

Salutation: Dear Governor

and to diplomatic representatives of Pakistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 May 2003.