

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Abduction

11 July 1991

**PAKISTAN: Abdul Rahim Chinzai, a former senior government official
in Afghanistan**

Amnesty International has learned that Abdul Rahim Chinzai, a former senior government official in Afghanistan who lived as a refugee in Peshawar, Pakistan, has been abducted by unknown men. The circumstances surrounding the abduction indicate that a Mujahideen group operating in Pakistan may have been responsible. The Mujahideen are the armed Afghan opposition which operate with the recognition and cooperation of the Pakistan authorities.

According to Amnesty International's information, on 9 July 1991, at about 1.30 pm (local time), Abdul Rahim Chinzai was abducted while he was on his way to a Mosque in Gharib-abad area in Peshawar. According to eyewitness reports, three armed men driving a jeep stopped their vehicle next to him, jumped out, forced him into the jeep and drove away. Abdul Rahim Chinzai is believed to be diabetic and it is feared that he may be deprived of necessary medication.

Amnesty International is seriously concerned about this unlawful detention. In view of the fact that it has taken place on Pakistani territory, Amnesty International is calling upon the government of Pakistan to do everything in its power to ascertain the whereabouts of Abdul Rahim Chinzai and to ensure his well-being and release.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received frequent reports in recent years of the assassination and abduction of Afghan opposition personalities living as refugees in Pakistan. The victims are all educated Afghans who have voiced their opposition to the views and practices of some of the Mujahideen groups based in Peshawar. Furthermore, dozens of educated Afghan refugees in Peshawar and Quetta, several of whom are women, have been repeatedly threatened with death. The threats have usually been attributed to Hezb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, one of the seven main Islamic opposition groups fighting the government in Kabul.

One of the first prominent Afghan intellectuals to be killed in Pakistan after repeated death threats, reportedly from members of Hezb-e-Islami, was Professor Sayed Bhauddin Majrooh, a noted scholar who had repeatedly expressed his support for a political solution to the Afghan conflict based on the return of ex-King Zahir Shah. He was killed by gunmen who entered his home in Peshawar on 11 February 1988. The Pakistan police are reported to have shown reluctance to investigate the case thoroughly and speedily. Several other Afghan intellectuals have been assassinated in Pakistan after such death threats.

Amnesty International knows of several Afghans in Pakistan who have been abducted reportedly by Mujahideen groups. Among these are Abdul Fatah Wadoud, an agricultural expert with the United Nations World Food Programme in Peshawar who was unlawfully detained, reportedly by members of Hezb-e-Islami on 3 September 1989. John Tarzwell, a Canadian national who was the Office Manager in Peshawar of SERVE, an international humanitarian relief organization, "disappeared" on 1 November 1989. Amnesty International has not received any

reply to its enquiry from the Pakistani authorities about the whereabouts of these two men.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing serious concern about the unlawful detention of Abdul Rahim Chinzai on 9 July 1991 in Gharib-abad area in Peshawar by three gunmen;
- explaining that the circumstances of the incident suggest that a Mujahideen group based in Pakistan may have been responsible;
- expressing your concern that Abdul Rahim Chinzai is believed to be diabetic and may be deprived of necessary medication;
- calling upon the Pakistan authorities to do everything in their power to ascertain the whereabouts of Abdul Rahim Chinzai and to ensure his well-being and release.

APPEALS TO:

Mian Nawaz Sharif

(Salutation: Dear Prime Minister)

Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

Islamabad

Pakistan

Telegrams: Prime Minister Sharif, Islamabad, Pakistan

Telexes: 5742

Mir Afzal Khan Jadoon

(Salutation: Dear Chief Minister)

Chief Minister

Office of the Chief Minister

Peshawar

North West Frontier Province

Pakistan

Telegrams: Chief Minister NWFP, Peshawar, Pakistan

Telexes: 5800 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Chief of Army Staff

(Salutation: Dear Sir)

General Army HQ

Rawalpindi

Pakistan

Telegrams: Chief of Army Staff, General Army HQ

Rawalpindi, Pakistan

COPIES TO: to diplomatic representatives of Pakistan in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 August 1991.