

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/019/2001

10 July 2001

Further information on EXTRA 40/01 (ASA 33/017/01, 4 July 2001) - Death penalty/Imminent Execution

PAKISTAN Rubina Khan

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The Supreme Court has stayed the execution of Rubina Khan (also known as Rubina Begum) for three weeks.

According to a 9 July AFP report, a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Irshad Hassan Khan issued the stay of execution following a mercy petition by the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The commission called on President Pervez Musharraf to commute her sentence to life in prison.

A Human Rights Commission of Pakistan spokeswoman told AFP last week that the organisation had appealed to President Musharraf, pointing out that "although Rubina has been found guilty of committing a gruesome murder, the state would also be guilty of murder if it went ahead with the execution."

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- welcoming the stay of execution;
- appealing to the president to encourage the heirs of the victim to agree to the commutation of her sentence;
- expressing concern at reports that Rubina Khan was tortured during interrogation, a factor that may have seriously prejudiced the fairness of her trial;
- urging the authorities to abolish the death penalty, pointing out that this violated the right to life and the prohibition of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

**APPEALS TO:**

President & Chief Executive of Pakistan  
General Pervez Musharraf  
Pakistan Secretariat  
Islamabad  
Pakistan

**Telegrams: President, Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Faxes: + 92 51 922 4768**

**Email: CE@pak.gov.pk**

**Salutation: Dear President**

**COPIES TO:**

Newspapers

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**Email: editor@frontierpost.com.pk**

*The Nation*

**Email: editor@nawaiwaqt.com.pk**

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 14 August 2001.