

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/024/2005

26 August 2005

Further Information on UA 111/05 (ASA 33/006/2005, 05 May 2005) and follow-ups (ASA 33/014/2005, 8 June 2005, and ASA 33/022/2005, 17 August 2005) - Fear for safety/ "Disappearance"/ Torture/ Medical concern

PAKISTAN Nawaz Ali (m)]
 Akhter Nadeem (m)] Members of the Baloch Students Organisation
 Dr Allah Nazar (m)]

Dr Allah Nazar has reportedly been held in solitary confinement in the Jail Ward of Sandeman Provincial Hospital (also known as Civil Hospital), in the city of Quetta, Balochistan, since 21 August. His lawyer, relatives and other visitors have been denied access to him. It is unclear whether he is receiving any medical treatment in the Jail Ward, even though he was reportedly in a critical condition when he was admitted to hospital.

On 17 August, the authorities in the city of Sadiq Abad, Punjab province handed Dr Allah Nazar, Akhter Nadeem and Nawaz Ali over to police in Balochistan. It is not known exactly where they were taken as they were not presented before a court and their families were not informed of their whereabouts. However, according to a local newspaper, they may have been detained in a police station in the town of Dera Murad, Balochistan. The current whereabouts of Akhter Nadeem and Nawaz Ali are unknown.

Several local press articles have reported claims made by Sadiq Umrani, the leader of the political group, the People's Party, that he met Dr Allah Nazar while he was detained at Dera Murad police station. Sadiq Umrani alleged that Dr Allah Nazar was forced to drink a 'salt-like' drug which burned his throat, causing him to feel ill, and he has since found it painful to eat. Dr Allah Nazar is also partially paralysed and reportedly unable to speak or recognize anyone as a result of being tortured, including with electric shocks.

On 20 August, the Baloch Students Organization received information that members of the security forces had taken Dr Allah Nazar to the Bolan Medical Complex Hospital in Quetta for a medical check-up. He was then examined by a senior neurosurgeon, who reportedly said that Dr Allah Nazar was in a critical condition, and should be admitted to hospital immediately. He was admitted to Sandeman Provincial Hospital on the same day. Relatives of other patients at the hospital have reported that the uniformed men who brought Dr Allah Nazar to the hospital threatened the doctor who was treating him, ordering him to make a report stating that Dr Allah Nazar did not need to be admitted to the hospital.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Baloch Students Organisation is a group that is active in highlighting the plight of the Baloch people. They have campaigned on issues including recent allegations of the unlawful killing of villagers by the military in Balochistan. They have also campaigned on the longer standing issue of access to resources such as gas. Balochistan hosts the country's primary gas installation yet the residents of this province have little access to this resource.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Dr Allah Nazar is reportedly being held in solitary confinement in the Jail Ward of Sandeman Provincial Hospital in Quetta;

- calling on the authorities to ensure that he is being given all necessary medical care, as he was reportedly in a critical condition when he was admitted to hospital;
- expressing concern for the safety of Nawaz Ali and Akhter Nadeem, and calling on the authorities to reveal their whereabouts immediately;
- calling on the authorities to grant all three men immediate access to their lawyers, families, and any medical treatment they may require;
- expressing concern at reports that all three men have been tortured and ill-treated while in custody;
- seeking assurances that they will not be subjected to further torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for an impartial investigation into the alleged torture and ill-treatment of all three men, including the reports that Dr Allah Nazar was forced to drink a 'salt-like' drug, and into the failure of the Pakistan authorities to disclose where these men were detained following their arrest on 25 March 2005, with the results of the investigation to be made public and those found to be responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President Pervez Musharraf
Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad, Pakistan

Fax: + 92 51 922 1422
E-mail: CE@pak.gov.pk
Salutation: Dear President

Mr. Muhammad Wasi Zafar
Minister of Law, Justice and Human Rights
S Block, Pak. Sect. Islamabad, Pakistan

Fax: + 92 51 920 2628
E-Mail: minister@molaw.gov.pk
Salutation: Dear Minister

Governor of Balochistan
Awais Ghani
Governor House
Quetta, Balochistan, Pakistan

Fax: + 92 81 920 2178 / 2992
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 7 October 2005.