

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/036/2005

23 December 2005

Further Information on UA 314/05 (ASA 33/033/2005, 14 December 2005) Imminent execution/ legal concern

PAKISTAN

**Shahzad (m)
Muhammad Ashraf (m)
Umer Hayat (m)
Mubarak Ali (m)**

The execution of the four men named above, which was scheduled to take place on 21 December, has been stayed indefinitely.

Shahzad, Muhammad Ashraf, Umer Hayat and Mubarak Ali were sentenced to death for gang-raping a Christian girl in Faisalabad. The Federal Shariat Court, which judges whether laws are compatible with the teachings of Islam, stayed their execution while it hears a petition challenging the laws related to their case. It is not known how long the court will take to rule on the petition.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is required at present. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the case, and will take further action as necessary.