

PUBLIC

AI Index: MDE 23/08/98

30 July 1998

Further information on UA 170/98 (MDE 23/04/98, 8 June 1998) - Fear of ill-treatment / Health concerns / Possible prisoners of conscience

SAUDI ARABIA Farzana Kauzar, Pakistani mother aged 33 and her three children:
Mohamed Assad Ijaz, son, aged 3
Fakeyha Ijaz, daughter, aged 6
Mohamed Saad, son, aged 9

Farzana Kauzar and her three children, Pakistani nationals, who it had recently been learnt were in secret detention or under restriction orders in Saudi Arabia, were released on 27 July 1998 and have returned to Pakistan.

The release is reportedly conditional upon Farzana Kauzar returning to Saudi Arabia in the near future to face alleged criminal charges.

Farzana Kauzar and her children were arrested on 8 October 1998, a day before they were reportedly scheduled to travel to Pakistan in order to join the father, Ahmed Mohamed Ijaz, also a Pakistani national.

It is likely that Farzana Kauzar and her children were prisoners of conscience being held as hostages in order to force the return to Saudi Arabia of Ahmed Mohamed Ijaz, who is reportedly sought by the authorities in connection with a business dispute.

The Urgent Action network will be informed of any more information concerning this case but no further action is requested at this stage. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.