

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 137/94 (ASA 33/02/94, 6 April 1994) - Political Killing / fear for safety

PAKISTAN Manzoor Masih (aged 35)
 Rehmat Masih (aged 37)
 Salamat Masih (aged 13)
 John Joseph

Amnesty International has received reports that three people have been arrested and jailed in connection with the shooting in Lahore on 5 April 1994 in which a Christian, Manzoor Masih, was killed, and three other Christians, Rehmat Masih, Salamat Masih and John Joseph were seriously injured. The police investigation is believed to be continuing.

Intimidation of the Christian community has continued. Since their release on bail, Salamat and Rehmat Masih have been in hiding for fear of attack from Islamic fundamentalists. Human rights activist John Joseph has been threatened and subsequently suffered an arson attack on his house. The families of Salamat, Rehmat and Manzoor Masih continue to receive threats.

Amnesty International has not received any response from the government regarding the shooting although the Foreign Minister reportedly issued a public statement that Manzoor Masih had been shot by Indian agents. While welcoming the reports that the authorities have taken measures to bring those responsible for the shooting to justice, Amnesty International believes that the Foreign Minister's statement makes no attempt to clarify the situation and hence does nothing to diminish the danger faced by the Christian minority.

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

- welcoming the news that the government has taken measures to bring those responsible for the shooting of the four Christians in Lahore on 5 April 1994 to justice;
- expressing concern at reports that members of the Christian community continue to be under threat of attack, and urging the authorities to take steps to ensure their safety;
- calling on the authorities to make public the results of the police investigation into the shooting.

APPEALS TO

1. President Farooq Ahmad Leghari
Office of the President
Islamabad
Pakistan
Faxes: +92 51 811390
Telegrams: President Leghari, Islamabad, Pakistan
Salutation: Dear President

2. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto
Office of the Prime Minister
Islamabad
Pakistan

Telexes: 5742

Faxes: as for President, but for attention of Prime Minister Bhutto

Telegrams: Prime Minister Bhutto, Islamabad, Pakistan

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

3. Mr Mian Ahmad Manzoor Wattoo

Punjab Chief Minister

Lahore

Pakistan

Telegrams: Chief Minister Wattoo, Lahore, Pakistan

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

4. Iqbal Haider

Minister of Law

Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs

Pakistan Secretariat, Blocks R & S

Islamabad

Pakistan

Telegrams: Minister of Law, Islamabad, Pakistan

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES 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 20 July 1994.