

URGENT ACTION

AUTHORITIES EXECUTE AJMAL KASAB

Indian authorities executed Ajmal Kasab, a 25 year old Pakistani national, in Maharashtra, India on 21 November. This is the first execution in India since 2004.

Ajmal Kasab was hanged in the prison where he was being held in Maharashtra, India. He was sentenced to death in 2010 by a special court for his involvement in the Mumbai attacks on 26 November 2008, and this sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court in August this year.

Ajmal Kasab's petition for mercy was rejected by the Maharashtra Ministry of Home Affairs and the governor of the State of Maharashtra in September this year. On 23 October the Union Ministry of Home Affairs recommended that the Indian President reject the petition as well which he reportedly did on 5 November. However, state authorities did not make this public and also kept the date and time of his execution a secret.

This is the first execution in India since 2004, and marks a turn away from India's trend towards abolition of the death penalty. Ajmal Kasab's petition was considered 'out of turn', as 11 mercy petitions from persons on death row were pending before the President when Ajmal Kasab filed his petition. A decision on Ajmal Kasab's petition was made in less than 3 months, making it one of the fastest decisions on mercy petitions in India in recent years.

A recent Amnesty International press release on this can be found here: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/kasab-execution-represents-indian-death-penalty-backslide-2012-11-21>

No further action is required by the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 323/12. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA20/037/2012/en>

Name: Ajmal Kasab
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 323/12 Index: ASA 20/039/2012 Issue Date: 21 November 2012

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

