

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: ASA 33/005/2006**

**16 February 2006**

**UA 38/06**            **Medical concern/ possible prisoner of conscience**

**PAKISTAN**        **Amanullah Khan (m), aged 77, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)**

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Amanullah Khan, aged 77, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) political party, is reportedly ill in detention with complications related to high blood pressure (hypertension). He is not receiving adequate medical care. He may be a prisoner of conscience, detained for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of association and freedom of expression.

Amanullah Khan was detained with other protesters on 2 February, during a peaceful demonstration in the city of Rawalpindi against the construction of the Basha Dam in the Gilgit region of the Northern Areas. He is being held at Adyala Prison in Rawalpindi, alongside convicted prisoners. Amnesty International has received information that he is being held under preventive detention legislation (the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance) that allows the authorities to detain people for up to three months without charge. He has not been permitted to receive visitors. Since his detention, his health has deteriorated, and he is thought to need specialist medical care outside the prison. His health may deteriorate further if he does not receive treatment for his condition.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The JKLF are resisting the construction of the Basha Dam as they believe that the government is denying them their constitutional rights by ignoring their concerns over its construction. Local leaders claim that the dam would displace 30,000 people and flood thousands of acres of land. They have called the plan a "conspiracy to destroy the area". On 1 February thousands of protesters took part in a demonstration in the Diamer district, 122km south of Gilgit, against the proposed construction of the Basha Dam.

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

- expressing concern for the health of Amanullah Khan, who is reportedly detained under preventative detention legislation at Adyala Prison in Rawalpindi;
- expressing concern that Amanullah Khan has reportedly developed complications as a result of high blood pressure, and urgently needs medical care;
- calling on the authorities to grant him immediate access to all necessary medical care, and to his relatives and legal representatives;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience if he was arrested solely for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of association and freedom of expression;
- expressing concern at reports that Amanullah Khan was among several people arrested on 2 February in Rawalpindi, and calling for the authorities to reveal the reason for these arrests;
- calling for the authorities to release these detainees immediately, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

#### **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, Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan

**Fax: + 92 51 920 2628**

**E-Mail: minister@molaw.gov.pk**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Mr. Chaudhary Pervez Elahi  
Chief Minister of the Punjab  
7 Club Road, G.O.R.I, Lahore, Pakistan

**E-mail: governor.sectt@punjab.gov.pk**

**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 30 March 2006.