

PUBLIC

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09 May 2006

UA 127/06 **Imminent Execution**

PAKISTAN **Ilyas (m)**
Ghulam Abbas (m)
Muhammad Asif (m)

The three men named above are scheduled for execution on 19 May; they were sentenced to death for murder. The victims' families are known to be negotiating with the convicted men's families, and it is possible that they will agree to accept payment of compensation in exchange for allowing the men's sentences to be commuted. Even if the negotiations fail, President Musharraf has the power to commute the men's death sentences

Ilyas, Ghulam Abbas and Muhammad Asif were convicted of the murder of five people near the town of Rahwali, in the province of Punjab. It is not known when they were sentenced to death, but they were originally scheduled for execution on 9 May 2006. The Lahore High Court postponed the execution until 19 May to allow time for the negotiations over blood money.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2005 at least 241 people in Pakistan were sentenced to death and at least 31 were executed, the majority for murder. Many well-off convicts were able to escape punishment under provisions of the Qisas and Diyat Ordinance, which allows relatives of murder victims to accept compensation and pardon the offender.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases. The death penalty is a symptom of a culture of violence, and not a solution to it. It has not been shown to have any more deterrent effect than other punishments and carries the risk of irrevocable error. The death penalty is the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and a violation of the right to life, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

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

- calling on President Musharraf to use his powers under article 45 of the Constitution of Pakistan to commute the death sentences of Ilyas, Ghulam Abbas and Muhammad Asif immediately;
- calling for an immediate moratorium on all executions in the country, in line with worldwide trends to abolish the death penalty with a view to an eventual abolition of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

General Pervez Musharraf
Pakistan Secretariat,
Islamabad,
Pakistan

Fax: **+ 92 51 9221422**

E-mail: **CE@pak.gov.pk**

Salutation: **Dear President Musharraf**

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 19 May 2006.