

PUBLIC

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UA 35/05 Fear for Safety

PAKISTAN Dr Shazia Khalid (f), medical doctor

Dr Shazia Khalid, who has been the victim of rape, is reportedly being held at a house in Karachi under the "unofficial protection" of the police and army. She is not allowed access to doctors, lawyers or visitors of her choice. Amnesty International is concerned for her safety.

Dr Shazia Khalid is an employee of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL). She has been working at the company's hospital in the city of Sui, Baluchistan province, for the past 18 months and has lived in accommodation provided by PPL. On the night of 2 January, a masked intruder attacked and raped her. She has reportedly testified that she was severely injured by the rapist, blindfolded and left tied up with telephone wires. Dr Shazia Khalid's husband, who was out of the country around 2 January, has told the media that he feels his wife is being intimidated in an attempt to pass the incident off as an armed robbery. The local police were reportedly unable to obtain a testimony from Dr Shazia Khalid until 9 January and she was allegedly not given a medical examination for several days after the rape. There are concerns that she does not have proper access to medical care for physical injuries she sustained during the attack.

Following the rape, a "Judicial Tribunal", consisting of a single judge, was established to investigate the incident. Demonstrations have been held across the country calling for those responsible for the rape to be brought to justice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Women and girls in Pakistan continue to be subjected to acts of violence within the community, the home and in the custody of the state. Violations in the form of rape, assault, 'honour killing' and mutilation are amongst many concerns continually highlighted by Amnesty International. Impunity for such abuses persists and women continue to face obstacles when trying to gain justice for violations perpetrated against them. The case of Dr Shazia Khalid continues to demonstrate concerns faced by survivors of violence in Pakistan.

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

- calling for the authorities to explain why Dr Shazia Khalid is being kept in unofficial protective custody with no access to legal aid and medical care;
- calling on authorities to ensure that Dr Shazia Khalid is allowed access to legal counsel of her own choice immediately;
- calling on authorities to ensure that Dr Shazia Khalid is given proper medical treatment and has access to a doctor of her choice without further delay;
- calling on the authorities to ensure the safety of Dr Shazia Khalid and her family and that any reports of intimidation are investigated immediately by an independent and impartial body.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Sindh Province
Governor's House
Karachi
PABX 9201201-5

Pakistan

Fax: + 92 21 9201226 (you may need to ask them to switch on the fax machine)

Salutation: Dear Governor

Governor of Baluchistan

Governor House

Quetta

Pakistan

Fax: + 92 81 9202178 or + 92 81 9202992

Salutation: Dear Minister

Inspector General Police,

Sindh Police

Central Police Office

Karachi

Pakistan

Fax: +92 21 9212051

Salutation: Dear Officer

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 29 March 2005.