

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 35/05 (ASA 33/002/2005, 15 February 2005) - Fear for Safety

PAKISTAN Dr Shazia Khalid (f), medical doctor

Dr Shazia Khalid, who was raped by a masked intruder at her home in Sui, Balochistan on 2 January, fled to London with her husband on 18 March.

A "Judicial Tribunal," consisting of a single judge, was set up to investigate the rape, but failed to identify any suspects. The case was covered extensively in local newspapers, and many human rights organisations held public demonstrations calling for justice. However, Shazia reportedly did not believe that justice would be done, as those behind the attack are thought to have connections to high-ranking army officials. Her case has also further inflamed relations between the tribal chiefs in Balochistan, who see this rape as an attack on their honour, and the government of Pakistan, who have been accused of covering up details of the case.

In February President Musharraf publicly declared that an army officer alleged to have committed the crime was innocent. Dr Shazia did not want to relive the rape amidst media and political controversy, and decided to leave the country as soon as she had permission from the government. The police enquiry into the rape is continuing.

No further action is requested from the UA Network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.